



Kentucky CASA Network

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Andrea Bruns, State Director

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COVID-19 Crisis Response Grant Helped Ensure CASA Advocacy in KY

The Kentucky CASA Network, Inc. (KCN) received a \$190,000 COVID-19 Crisis Response Grant from the [James Graham Brown Foundation](#) for fiscal year 2020-2021. This grant has provided emergency support to local CASA programs across the Commonwealth as they have worked diligently to continue delivering CASA advocacy services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since June 2020, KCN has facilitated and supported a cohort of local CASA program directors serving on a COVID-19 working group. The workgroup initially convened to address the immediate crisis, has continued to meet monthly to formulate guidance about program operations to ensure that there was not a disruption of CASA advocacy throughout the pandemic, and is now focused on the longer-term impact and challenges resulting from the pandemic.

“Local CASA programs found creative ways to maintain services and continue operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that CASA volunteers could continue meeting with abused and neglected children in a safe environment. In many cases, CASA volunteers were the only people visiting in-person with these children,” said Andrea Bruns, KCN State Director. “The funds provided by the James Graham Brown Foundation provided stability across the entire network during an unstable and unpredictable time. We remain grateful for this investment and the continued support that the foundation has provided the KCN since first receiving grant funding in 2015.”

About the Kentucky CASA Network

The Kentucky CASA Network is the state association for Court Appointed Special Advocates, as recognized in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, with a mission to support the development, growth, and continuation of local CASA programs in Kentucky. CASA programs recruit and train volunteers to advocate on behalf of children who have come into the court system as a result of dependency, neglect, or abuse. In 2020, 1,275 CASA volunteers advocated for 3,574 abused and neglected children statewide. Kentucky currently has 23 local CASA programs that cover 70 counties. For more information, please visit www.kentuckycasanetwork.org.

Kentucky CASA Network Values

Collaboration * Service * Accountability * Gratitude * Transparency * Equity