

TEXAS CASA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR THE 88TH SESSION

SUMMARY

Texas CASA and local CASA programs are fortunate to receive funding from the State of Texas through two different state agencies. During the 87th Legislative Session, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provided funding in the amount of \$31.9M for FY 22-23. In addition, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) provided funds for Family Finding/Collaborative Family Engagement in the amount of \$643,600 for FY 22-23.

BACKGROUND

The majority of the funding provided by the Health and Human Services Commission is passed through to the local CASA programs, with Texas CASA retaining no more than 12% of the total funding. This funding is essential to the operations and administration of the local programs, including subsidizing supervisors to oversee the CASA volunteers who are appointed by the court to represent the best interest of children.

First funded by the Texas Legislature in 2015, Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) is a team-based approach involving CASA volunteers, CPS caseworkers, Community-Based Care (CBC) providers and other community stakeholders to bring together family members and other committed adults into a child's permanency planning and care. Thanks to ongoing the financial support from the 87th Legislature, Texas CASA plans to make this model available statewide in FY 2023.

POSITIONS

Texas CASA supports continued funding from HHSC of \$31.9M for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Texas CASA supports continued legislative funding for Family Finding/Collaborative Family Engagement under the Department of Family and Protective Services in the amount of \$643,600 for the 2024-2025 biennium.

Support the Office of the Governor's Trusteed Programs Exceptional Item request for \$120 million for Victim Assistance Funding to offset any decrease in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds.

If you have questions or concerns related to this or any other Texas CASA legislative priority, please email: publicpolicy@texascasa.org.