



TEXAS CASA LEGISLATIVE FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR THE 89TH SESSION

SUMMARY

Texas CASA and local CASA programs are fortunate to currently receive funding from the State of Texas through two different state agencies. During the 88th Legislative Session, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission received funding in the amount of \$31.9M for the CASA network for FY 24-25. The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) received funding for Family Finding/Collaborative Family Engagement in the amount of \$643,600 for FY 24-25.

In addition, Texas CASA and CASA programs receive funding from the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). In the past few years, there has been a federal shortfall of VOCA funds, and the Texas Legislature has supplemented that funding. During the 88th Legislative Session, the Legislature authorized \$115M to address that shortfall.

BACKGROUND

The vast majority of the funding provided by the Health and Human Services Commission is passed through to the local CASA programs across Texas, 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 in child welfare cases.

First funded by the Texas Legislature in 2015, Collaborative Family Engagement is a team-based approach involving CASA volunteers, CPS caseworkers, Community-Based Care providers and other community stakeholders to bring together family members and other committed adults into a child's permanency planning and care.



POLICY POSITION

Texas CASA supports continued funding for local CASA programs.

Texas CASA Supports:

1. Maintaining the current appropriation of \$31.9M in the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) bill pattern
2. Maintaining the current state appropriation for Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funds
3. Maintaining the current appropriation of \$643,600 for Family Finding/Collaborative Family Engagement in the Department of Family and Protective Services bill pattern

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

