



STRENGTHENING THE VOICES OF CASA STATEWIDE

Request for Proposals CASA Advocacy for Justice Involved Youth

About Texas CASA:

Texas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is part of a national volunteer movement that began in 1977 in Seattle when a juvenile court judge conceived the idea of citizen volunteers speaking up for the best interests of children who are in foster care due to allegations of abuse or neglect. Today, the CASA movement has evolved into one of the largest volunteer organizations in the country. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for these children in court, school and other settings; with the goal of reuniting children with their families whenever safe and possible. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed with the goal of ensuring these children are kept safe and have the opportunity to thrive and grow.

In Texas, there are 74 local CASA volunteer advocacy programs with over 7,000 volunteers serving more than 17,000 children in 217 counties across the state. Texas CASA is the statewide organization that provides funding, resources, training and support to these local programs to ensure they can operate effectively and seek out the best possible volunteers who will advocate passionately for the children and families they serve. Texas CASA is a registered 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to support local CASA volunteer advocacy programs and to advocate for effective public policy for children and families in the child protection system.

Texas CASA is an inclusive, welcoming and affirming organization that values, celebrates and actively seeks out diverse candidates. We are an equal opportunity employer and do not discriminate against any individual, employee or applicant on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, sex, age, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or veteran or citizenship status. People of all identities, as well as those with lived experience relevant to this RFP, are encouraged to apply.

A. Scope of Request

This contract will require:

- Assistance to Texas CASA in creating network support and resources for Justice Involved Youth (JIY) cases where a CASA Volunteer is assigned for youth who have been adjudicated with the juvenile justice court by sharing policies, training, tools, assessments, and practices that will become part of network training.

The Contractor agrees to:

- Allow CASA programs to observe delinquency court, meet the judge and probation department (depending on availability)
- Share materials developed for JIY (MOU, Order of Appointment, Child Advocates Guide to Juvenile Justice) with other CASA programs joining this pilot
- Share training curriculum for volunteers developed specifically for JIY Cases
- Share changes to supervision and supervisory practices/policies for these JIY cases
- Share how TBRI is utilized to support families
- Share how these cases are tracked and reported
- Participate in meetings, as needed, with other CASA programs engaged in similar service and Texas CASA to discuss what training, resources, and tools are needed.

Service Title- Justice Involved Youth Mentor Program: Program experienced in providing CASA/GAL representation to Justice Involved Youth, as appointed by a Juvenile Justice Court.

Texas CASA is looking to contract with a program who will:

- Support other pilot CASA programs to engage in Justice Involved Youth work and efforts in their communities.
- Support Texas CASA to be a proactive statewide partner and leader in this field.

The Justice Involved Youth Mentor Program will be responsible for coordinating efforts at the statewide and local CASA network level to support juvenile justice centered CASA advocacy and training. The program will support resource sharing to inform advocacy specific for Justice Involved Youth.

B. Locations

This contract will be primarily conducted remotely but may include some in-person travel to Austin and other areas of the state (not to exceed 15% of total contract time). The program should be available by phone, virtually, and by email.

C. Deliverables and Duties

In collaboration with the Advocacy Initiatives and Implementation Manager and others at Texas CASA, the following deliverables will be completed during the contract duration include but are not limited to:

1. Partnering with other local CASA programs in a Justice Involved Youth (JIY) pilot program.
2. Work closely with Texas CASA's Advocacy Initiatives and Implementation Manager to coordinate efforts.
3. Be a resource for the CASA network as they become involved in JIY:
 - a. Meet with up to four (4) different local programs per quarter to discuss JIY.
 - b. Contribute ideas, resources, trainings, plans, documents, resources and tools to Texas CASA for a JIY toolkit.
 - c. Share expertise as programs encounter barriers to implementation.
 - d. Share data collected on outcomes for JIY.
4. Evaluate the transfer of learning from the JIY to determine needed changes and improvements.
5. If JIY grants are received during this contract period, support grant deliverables.
6. Identify and plan for programs who will participate in the JIY pilot to receive tips and "lessons learned".
7. Speak with the CASA network as requested and available on the JIY pilot, experience and outcomes.
8. Coordinate the TBRI approach with the JIY approach for trauma informed advocacy.

D. Minimum Qualifications

- Comfortable networking with other CASA programs
- Self-directed and autonomous in the completion of deliverables
- Public speaking skills, including for presentations, trainings, and facilitation of meetings
- Attention to detail and accuracy
- Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- Strong collaboration skills
- Provide positive program engagement
- Excellent and responsive verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and video conferencing software
- Knowledge of and experience with CASA and juvenile justice

E. Contract Term

This contract will begin as soon as possible, with a flexible start date, and will conclude on September 30, 2025.

F. How to Submit a Proposal

Please submit the following documents no later than close of business on Monday, February 10, 2025 to contracts@texascasa.org.

Please submit letter of interest outlining relevant experience; a proposal for achieving the scope of work; two visual samples of work (presentation, training, MOU, etc.) from within the last three years.

Fees and Quotation:

A firm estimate of the cost to complete the deliverables. Please provide a cost by hourly rate, noting that the total budget for this project and contract is up to \$5,000.

For questions regarding the contract or proposal please email Anna McDonnell, amcdonnell@texascasa.org.

Review of submissions will be completed the week of February 14, 2025, by a committee at Texas CASA. Responses will be reviewed and scored against the following criteria:

- CASA knowledge/experience- 15%
- Juvenile justice knowledge/experience- 20%
- Quality and feasibility of proposal of work- 30%
- Cost/Pricing proposal/within budget – 10%
- Quality of samples of work (x2)- 15%
- Overall quality of submission- 10%

Please note that Texas CASA may choose to schedule a video call with selected vendors for further or clarifying information, if needed.