

THE CHALLENGE

- In 2017, **11,645 Oregon children** were placed in our state's care because they had been abused or neglected.
- The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is the only person on a case whose **sole responsibility is the child's best interest**. An Oregon child usually has one volunteer CASA for the entire length of the case – even when there are multiple caseworkers, attorneys, teachers, foster parents, etc. involved.
- **55% of Oregon foster children need – and don't currently have – a CASA**, despite the state statutory (ORS 419B.112) mandate of a CASA for every child in state care. Local CASA programs simply lack the funding to meet this goal.
- **State funding currently provides only 17% of total funding for CASA programs.**



THE SOLUTION

CASA is a critical component in Oregon's fight against child abuse. Children with CASAs are less likely to suffer re-abuse and are more likely to find a permanent home, spend an average of five months less time in foster care, and do better in school.

- 2,050 CASAs provided 250,000+ hours of volunteer advocacy last year for 5,286 Oregon children.
- **New CASA volunteers are waiting to be trained by local CASA programs across Oregon – only held back by insufficient staffing capacity due to inadequate funding.**

LONG-TERM GOAL: Sustainable resources for local CASA programs to recruit, train, supervise, and support enough volunteers to provide a CASA for every foster child in Oregon.

2019-21 BIENNIUM GOAL: Invest **\$8,337,637 in state funding** to both maintain current CASAs and to recruit, train, and supervise a larger and more diverse group of new CASAs **to serve at least 7,032 total Oregon children in foster care in 2019-21.**

HB 2570

IS SUPPORTED BY:



Catholic Community Services



CONNECT + LEARN MORE

Debra Gilmore, CEO
Oregon CASA Network
971.301.2998
debra.gilmore@oregoncasanetwork.org

Dave Hunt
Strategies 360
503.810.8387
daveh@strategies360.com

Elisabeth Swarttouw
Strategies 360
949.439.1112
elisabeths@strategies360.com