



**THEIR FUTURE
NEEDS YOU NOW**

About Us

Since 1985, Voices for Children, CASA of Boulder County (VFC) has been a steadfast advocate for children who have experienced abuse, neglect, or instability. Through the recruitment, training, and support of dedicated Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers, VFC ensures that each child involved in Dependency and Neglect or Truancy court proceedings has a consistent adult advocating for their best interests. These volunteers serve as a vital bridge between the child and the court system, helping to secure safe, permanent, and nurturing homes. VFC remains rooted in the belief that every child deserves a future filled with stability and hope.



275

**Children
Served**

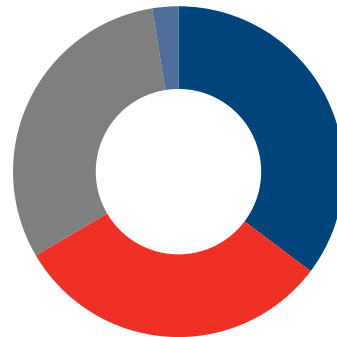


192

**Active
Volunteers**

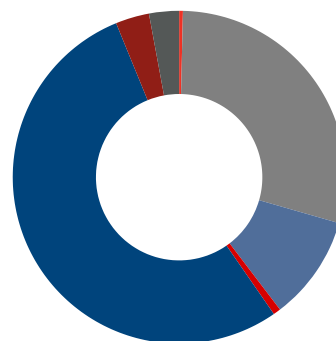
Who We Serve

AGE



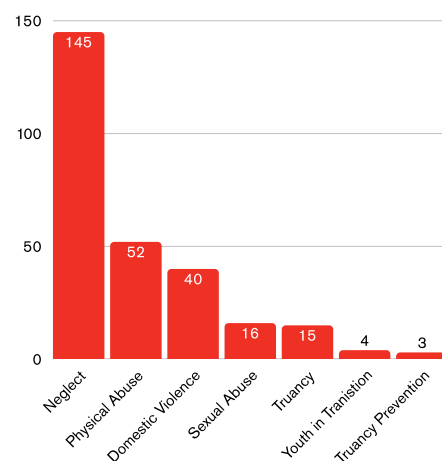
0-5: 35.3%
6-12: 31.3%
13-18: 30.9%
18+: 2.5%

RACE/ETHNICITY



White, 53.5%
Hispanic/Latino, 29.1%
Two or more races, 10.2%
American Indian, 3.33%
Black or African American, 2.9%
Other/Unknown, 0.7%
Asian, 0.4%

VICTIMIZATION TYPE



Community Impact

Child Welfare System Costs

Children without a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) spend an average of eight months longer in foster care compared to those with a CASA volunteer supporting their case (CASA of the Pikes Peak Region). **Each additional month in foster care costs Colorado approximately \$2,000 per child**, meaning that the absence of CASA advocacy creates an added taxpayer burden of roughly \$24,000 per year, per child (CarePortal). These figures underscore not only the profound human impact of CASA's work but also the significant financial value to the community when children achieve permanency more quickly.

The absence of CASA
advocacy creates an added
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\$24,000
per year, per child.



Education & Mental Health

Children without consistent advocates often face frequent school changes, absenteeism, and greater educational disruption, which increases their likelihood of needing special education services, costs that can reach as high as \$25,000 per student annually (NCBI; CT General Assembly; Child Welfare Information Gateway). By contrast, **CASA involvement has been shown to improve school engagement, reduce behavioral incidents, and support more stable educational outcomes.**

This not only helps children succeed academically but also lowers long-term community costs by reducing the need for intensive mental health interventions and decreasing the likelihood of future involvement in the juvenile justice system where costs can exceed \$66,000 per youth annually (National CASA Impact Research 2014; OJJDP).

Community Impact

Court and Case Management

CASA volunteers play a critical role in reducing court workload by providing judges with timely, well-informed reports that help cases move forward more efficiently (Juvenile Law Center). This efficiency not only eases strain on the judicial system but also improves outcomes for children. Research shows that **children with CASA advocacy are more likely to achieve permanency, whether through reunification, guardianship, or adoption, than children without a CASA**. Permanency means children spend less time in foster care, reducing long-term dependency on the child welfare system and generating significant savings in legal and social service costs (National CASA/GAL Association; NCJFCJ CASA Practice Paper).



Each youth who leaves foster care without adequate support represents a lifetime public cost of

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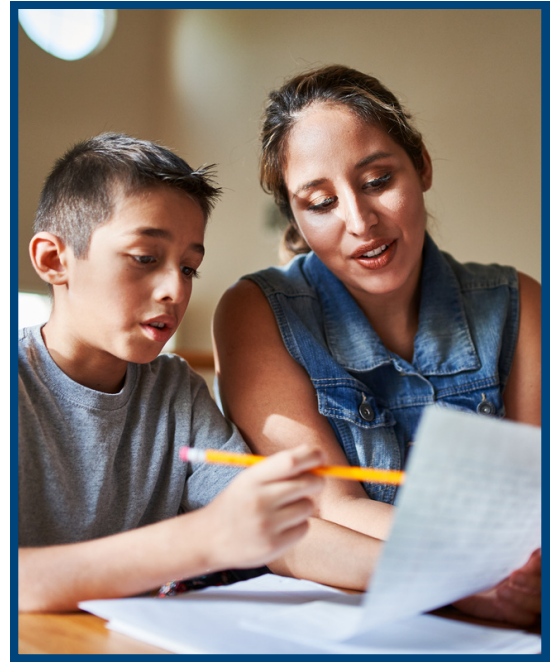
Long-Term Human Impact

Without early intervention, children who experience abuse or neglect and enter foster care are far more likely to face significant challenges as adults, including homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment (Child Welfare Information Gateway). These poor outcomes don't just impact the individual child. They also carry a heavy cost for the broader community. Research from the Common Sense Institute of Colorado estimates that **each youth who leaves foster care without adequate support represents a lifetime public cost of \$309,000 to \$343,000**, spanning expenses in public assistance, criminal justice, health care, and lost economic productivity (Common Sense Institute). This means that every child left unserved today could ultimately cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime, while timely advocacy and support can change that trajectory toward stability and self-sufficiency.

VFC as the Solution in Boulder County

Child Welfare System Costs

Because **CASA is appointed to 100% of children referred**, every child receives the support of a consistent advocate. This not only changes lives, it also saves money. Research shows that children without CASA spend an average of eight months longer in foster care, at a cost of roughly **\$2,000 per month per child**. By ensuring that all children in Boulder County have access to a CASA, **our community is avoiding up to \$24,000 in additional costs per child, per year**, while also helping children reach permanency more quickly.



In Boulder County, a CASA volunteer is appointed to

100%
of children referred.

Education & Mental Health

CASA volunteers are deeply engaged in children's education and well-being. In the past year, **87% of CASA volunteers were informed about their child's education**, and **76% of children received direct educational advocacy** to help stabilize and support their learning. Beyond academics, CASA also plays a crucial role in health and mental health: in FY25 alone, **30 volunteers submitted court recommendations concerning a child's health**. This advocacy reduces school disruption, supports consistent services, and prevents costly long-term challenges in mental health and special education.

VFC as the Solution in Boulder County

Permanency

CASA volunteers provide the courts with timely, detailed reports that lighten judicial workload and improve case efficiency. In Boulder County, **96% of volunteers were informed and aware of the child's safety and permanency**, ensuring that judges and caseworkers have accurate, up-to-date information. As a result, **94% of children served by CASA experienced one placement move or fewer**, a critical factor in reducing trauma and helping children achieve stability. Each court report submitted by a volunteer brings cases closer to resolution, saving time for the courts and reducing long-term system costs.



94%

of youth served by VFC
received developmental
advocacy.

Early Intervention

CASA's advocacy extends beyond immediate safety to shaping children's long-term outcomes. In the past year, **94% of youth served by VFC received developmental advocacy, and 36 children either received or were in the process of receiving early intervention services**. These services are proven to improve school readiness, reduce future special education needs, and lower the likelihood of later system involvement. By intervening early, CASA helps children build stronger futures while saving the community hundreds of thousands of dollars in future public assistance, justice, and health care costs.

Funding is At Risk

Voices for Children is facing a critical funding challenge. **VOCA distributions to Colorado have dropped by 76% since 2018**, and the ripple effects are being felt locally. For Voices for Children, this has meant a **35% reduction in VOCA funding** compared to the previous year.

The loss of government funding alone is destabilizing, but it is happening at the same time that economic uncertainty is reshaping philanthropy. Nationally, charitable giving by individuals has fallen by **\$65 billion since 2021**. Although Boulder County ranks 8th in the highest-earning counties in Colorado, **Boulder County ranks 44th out of 64 Colorado counties in charitable giving as a percentage of income**. Together, these trends highlight a shrinking pool of resources at the very time when the need for child advocacy is growing.

What This Means for VFC

For Voices for Children, the numbers are stark: in 2026, all government contributions made up 49% of Voices for Children donation. **The future of this funding has never been more at risk**. With an average **cost per child of \$3,145**, this funding reduction means we will be forced to serve **229 fewer youth**. The cost of those unserved children does not disappear. It shifts to the community. Children without CASA advocacy spend an average of eight additional months in foster care, at **an estimated \$2,000 per month per child**. This **adds up to nearly \$3,664,000 in additional taxpayer burden** annually for 229 children who would otherwise have the benefit of a CASA advocate.



229
Children
Without a
CASA



\$2,000
Per Month Per
Child



8
Additional
Months in
Foster Care

What Your Support Can Do

Enhance Program Quality

At the heart of CASA's impact is the quality of advocacy our trained volunteers provide. Each CASA serves as a **consistent adult voice** for a child navigating the child welfare system, ensuring they are seen, heard, and not overlooked. Volunteers prepare **child-focused court reports** that include vital information on safety, education, and well-being, giving judges the insights they need to make the best possible decisions. Our advocates are trained in **trauma-informed care**, which means their work prioritizes stability, permanency, and healing. This depth of support leads to better outcomes for children while strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire child welfare system.

Build Sustainability

To ensure that every child in Boulder County continues to benefit from this life-changing advocacy, Voices for Children is committed to building long-term sustainability. This means **offsetting the loss of federal funding with strong community support**, while also working to **retain and support more volunteers**—the very heart of our program. Looking forward, we are also expanding advocacy beyond dependency and neglect (D&N) cases to include **truancy and other high-risk situations**, utilizing Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) practices. These efforts not only broaden our reach but also deepen the quality of advocacy children receive, creating lasting impact across multiple systems.



Donate to Help Fund More Advocates

\$1,000 - Give a Child a Voice

Your gift can help ensure that one child has the steady, consistent support of a CASA volunteer for nearly six months. This covers court reporting, volunteer supervision, and trauma-informed advocacy that helps children find stability faster.

\$2,500 - Support a Case to Permanency

At this level, you can help provide the resources for a CASA volunteer to walk alongside a child from appointment to permanency. This gift supports volunteer training, case management, and ongoing advocacy that reduces time in foster care and improves long-term outcomes.

\$5,000 - Change a Child's Story

Your gift fully funds CASA advocacy for two children for an entire year. With CASA involvement, children are more likely to succeed in school, avoid multiple placements, and achieve permanency more quickly, saving both taxpayer dollars and young lives from instability.

\$10,000 - Strengthen Our Community

This leadership-level gift ensures that at least four children in Boulder County receive the life-changing advocacy of a CASA volunteer for a year. Beyond individual children, your investment offsets the loss of federal funding, expands CASA's reach into new areas like truancy prevention, and strengthens the sustainability of our program.

"They say it only takes one caring adult in a child's life to make a difference. To have someone who believes in them, encourages them, champions them, and honors them- I have seen how that can truly change the trajectory of their life. I've seen time and time again in my work with youth that when we elevate their voices, they change the world." - CASA Volunteer