ANNUAL REPORT FY 25-26

Our mission is to support and unite local CASA programs to promote volunteer advocacy on behalf of children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect.



PREPARED BY:
OREGON CASA NETWORK



SONJA SOMERVILLE
BOARD PRESIDENT



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STATE DIRECTOR

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT & STATE DIRECTOR

Of all the numbers in this annual report, the most exciting is 3,919. Exciting because it represents the children who were supported, championed, and cared for by a CASA volunteer in Oregon. CASA work is hard work that takes time and commitment. That is 3, 919 children who had a CASA show up for them again and again and invest in improving that individual life now and in the future.

The number 3,919 also serves as a reminder that CASAs only serve some of Oregon's children. The work not only takes time, it takes money for staff support, for training, for the costs associated with directly serving children. At this point, Oregon's investment in CASA leaves nearly half of children without this vital source of support and consistency as they navigate the daunting realities of the foster system.

Last year, two additional funders stepped up to help Oregon's CASA program deliver for more children. We hope that state, federal, and private funders will continue this trend and step up for vulnerable children in the coming years.

This is that kind of annual report. A celebration of amazing results. A time to share stories about the profound impact of CASA. And a time to highlight the opportunity to invest more and do more for Oregon's kids in care.

Please read and reflect on how you can be a part of CASA's next success story.

Sonja Somerville

Stephanie Brown

IN THE YEAR 2025, WE PROVIDED:

- Data from this section was pulled from sources on the fiscal year (July 2025-June 2026)



$3,121,108

In passthrough funding to local CASA programs



$1,031,000

Secured in first-ever federal Community Project Funds



32.5 HOURS

Of continuing education opportunities



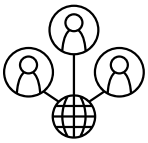
192

Legal case consultations



111 HOURS IN

meetings with state and national partners and stakeholders



130

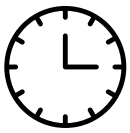
Network calls with our members

WHICH SUPPORTED, PROGRAM EFFORTS TO:

- Data from this section was pulled from sources on the calendar year January 2025-December 2025



Serve **3,919** children in their communities



Provide **157,548** hours of volunteer service by recruiting, training, and supervising **1,545** advocates

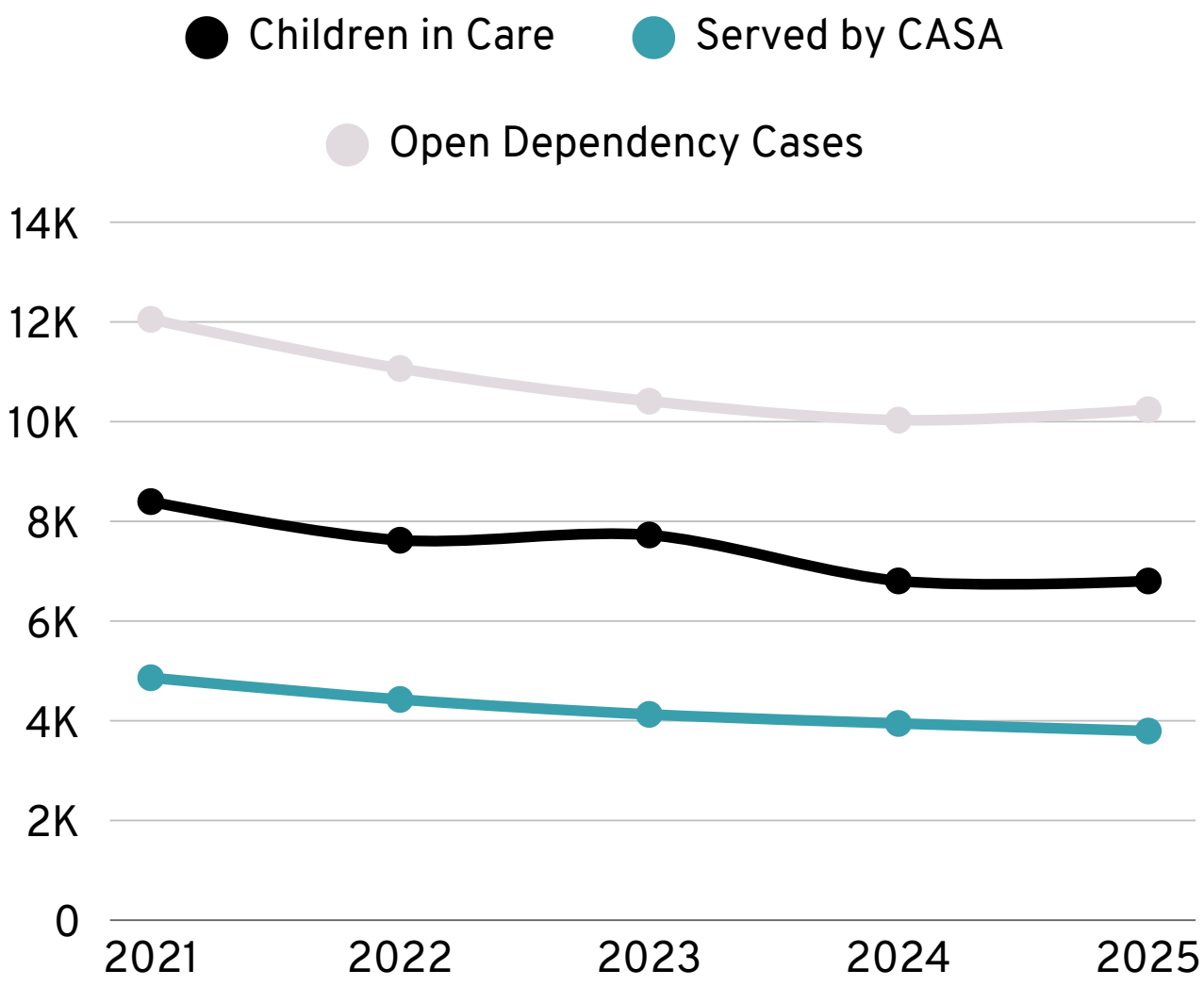


Generate **$11,002,889** in program revenue

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

OPTIMA CONVERSION	77% of programs now use the same data platform. This enhances data consistency, data communications, and reduces reporting burdens.
BENCH SURVEY 2026	Surveys local judges working with CASAs to identify opportunities for improved training, court communications, and advocacy outcomes.
ANNUAL MEETINGS	Annual in-person meetings offered twice a year allows for essential networking time for local program Directors to learn, problem-solve, and connect.
PRESS CONFERENCE	Our first press conference increased brand awareness and stakeholder connections.
CASA REPRESENTATION	OCN represented CASA on 11 statewide councils/committees. Elevating the CASA voice with leaders in children's advocacy.
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	Several resources were developed via network teams that leverage shared values and best practices for program management.
NEW FUNDERS	OCN secured two new funders. This funding increases sustainability of current services and exploration in meeting additional network needs.
AUDIT ARRANGEMENT	This arrangement provides lower rates for the programs required audits allowing more money to go towards direct service activities.
TESTIMONY	We provided testimonies on public policies that impact CASA service, child welfare, and non-profit governance.
POLICY UPDATES	By maintaining highly-effective standards in our state program, we can better support local program operations, strategies, and risk management.

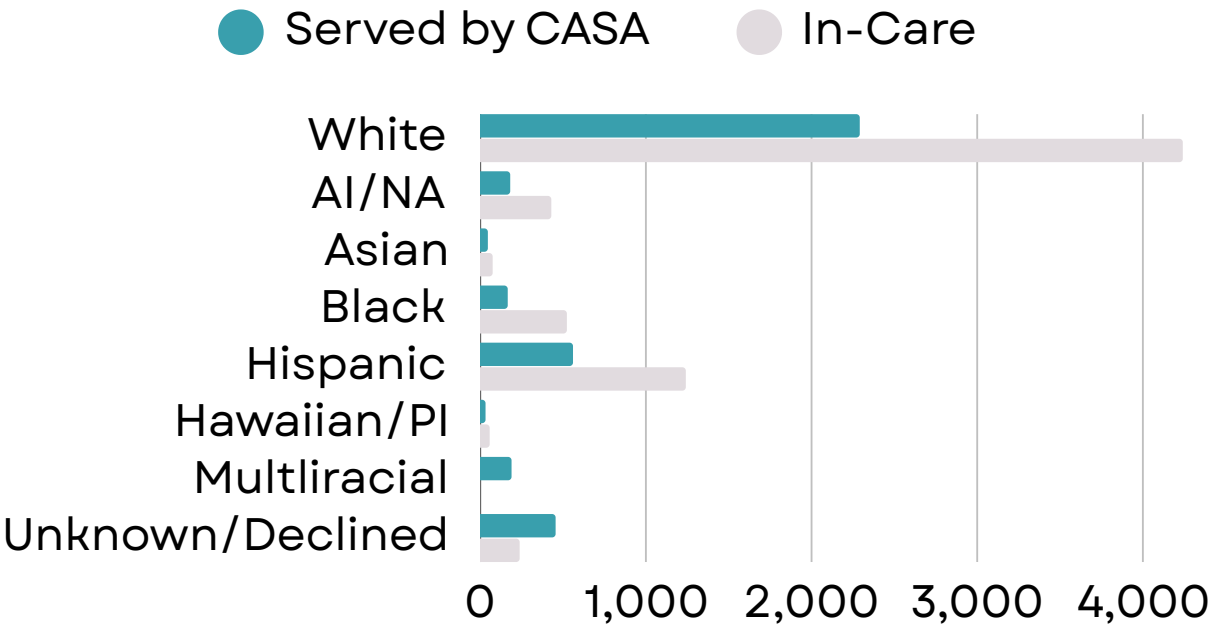




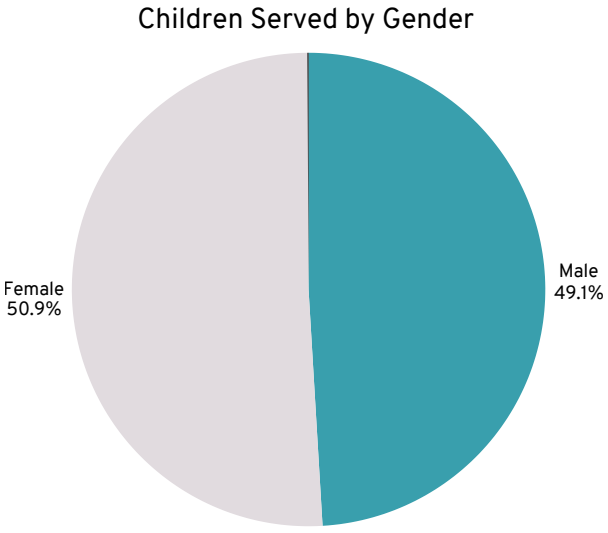
STATISTICS

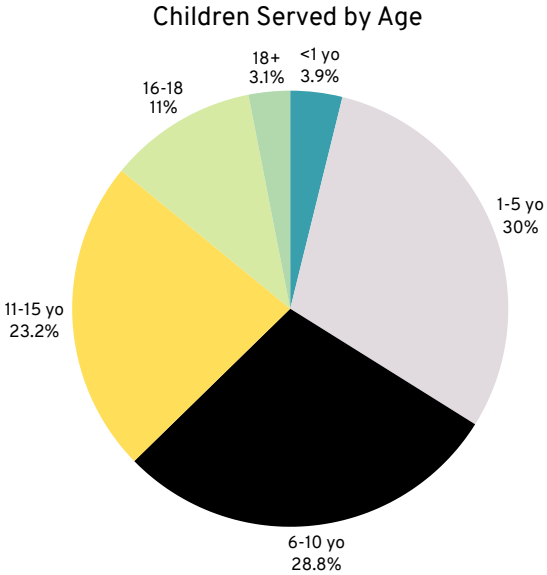
- Children in Foster Care as determined by the [ODHS Child Welfare Public Data Dashboard]
- Over the last 5 years, CASA has served between 53-58% of children experiencing substitute care.
- Data from the Oregon Judicial Department indicates that there are significantly more open dependency cases per year which are also eligible for CASA advocacy. Programs prioritize out-of-home placements and cases with higher needs (e.g. criminal cases, ICWA eligible, previous history with foster care, etc.)

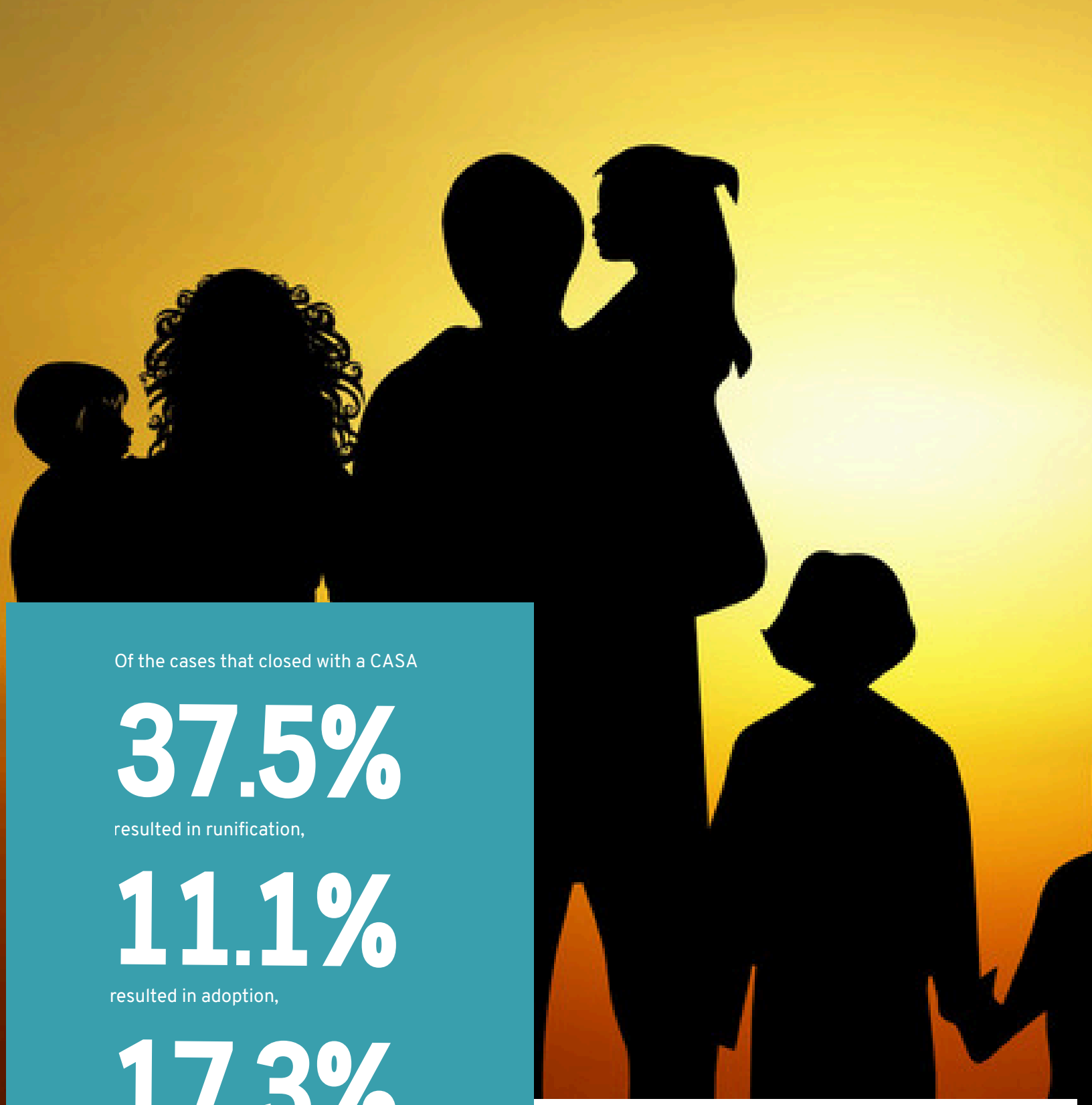
- ODHS Child Welfare Data & CASA Service Data sources provide data on the calendar year.
- OJD data source provides data on the fiscal year



**unknown race occurs when discovery data does not specify race, if 'prefer not to answer' is chosen, or when programs do not track demographic data.*







Of the cases that closed with a CASA

37.5%

resulted in runification,

11.1%

resulted in adoption,

17.3%

resulted in guardianship,

3.5%

aged-out of foster care.

Other placement outcomes include children living with parents through duration of a case, living with relatives, emancipation, child death, case transfer to another agency, youth runaway, and case closed with no determination.. These make up an additional 30.5% of case outcomes.



IMPACT STORIES

Three little boys moved from a local foster home to one in another area. They knew no one where they went. When the CASA showed up at the residence, one of the little boys was heard shouting to the others, “Look! Someone we know!” The same CASA showed up at a school ceremony, where one of the children was receiving a surprise award. Not only did the child not know he was getting an award, but he was extra excited to see his CASA there. The award the child received was for school attendance.

Our program collaborates with DHS to facilitate healthy relationships between foster parents, biological parents and the child’s CASA in hopes of forging stronger bonds within our community for the best interest of the children.

One story that continues to stay with me is about a child who had already experienced more loss and change than any child should. They had moved to a new community, but one thing we knew they desperately needed was consistency. Their CASA volunteer wasn’t willing to become another adult who disappeared. Even after the child moved 5 hours away, we were able to provide the funding and support for that volunteer to continue traveling long distances for regular visits. Not only did she travel, she brought this youth's dog for each visit! The volunteer continued showing up at visits, attending court, checking in with teachers and caregivers, and making sure the child’s voice was heard. Sometimes people think advocacy is only about speaking in a courtroom. It certainly includes that, but often it’s much simpler—and much more powerful. It’s about being the one person who keeps their promise. It’s about showing a child they matter enough that someone will drive across counties just to spend time with them--and even bring their dog!

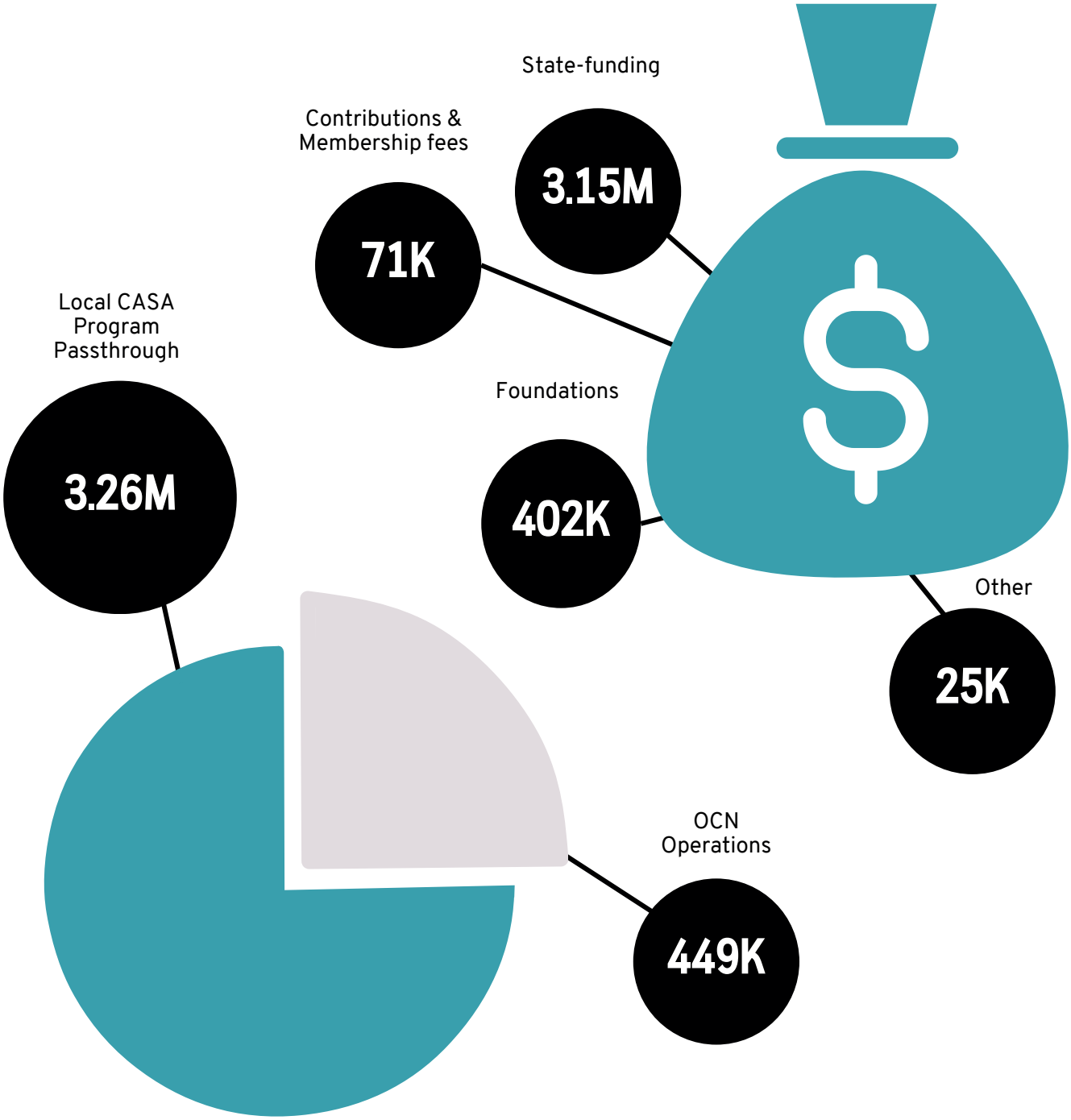
When a 13-year-old boy entered foster care in December 2024, he had already experienced years of instability. His mother had relapsed into methamphetamine use and was struggling with housing instability. She left him with an aunt who also had a history of substance use and criminal involvement. After entering care, the youth tested positive for methamphetamine exposure, highlighting the unsafe circumstances he had been living in. By the summer of 2025, the teen no longer felt safe visiting his mother. However, despite his wishes, reunification remained as the permanency goal. Recognizing that his voice needed to be heard, the resource (foster) family requested that a CASA volunteer be appointed.

The assigned CASA volunteer proved to be an ideal advocate. Although the child lived in a rural area —requiring nearly a 90-minute drive each way from the volunteer's home — she never allowed distance to become a barrier. Through consistent visits, she built a trusting relationship with the teen, creating a safe space where he could openly share about his concerns for his safety, his anxiety about returning to his mother's care, and the food insecurity he had experienced while living with her. The CASA volunteer ensured that the teen's perspective was not overlooked. She collaborated closely with his attorney and resource family to communicate his wishes to the child welfare agency and the court. His voice was amplified through the CASA's court reports and through a heartfelt letter the youth wrote to the judge.

As a direct result of strong advocacy centered on the child's best interests, the case plan changed from reunification to guardianship in November 2025. By March 2026, the teen achieved the stability and permanency he had long hoped for. He remained with relatives who met his physical, emotional, and educational needs, allowing him to move forward without the constant fear of being removed and returned to an unsafe environment.

This story demonstrates the life-changing impact a CASA volunteer can have. It also underscores why funding to support rural advocacy is so important. Children in rural communities often face additional barriers to receiving consistent advocacy because of distance and limited volunteer availability. Support from funding partners makes it possible to recruit, train, and support dedicated CASA volunteers who are are committed to helping each child, regardless of where they may live.





A BIRDS-EYE VIEW

Roughly 90% of all funding that comes to OCN is passed through to local CASA programs. The funding to programs is comprised of state funding and foundation grants. Operational costs for OCN supports three full-time staff, legislative and funding activities, annual membership meetings, training and resource development.

FIND YOUR LOCAL PROGRAM

To volunteer, donate, find events, be a business partner, or other CASA champion

CASA for Children of Klamath County	Serving Klamath County https://www.klamathfallscasa.org/
CASA for Children, Inc.	Serving Multnomah, Columbia, Washington, and Tillamook counties https://www.casahelpskids.org/
CASA of Central Oregon	Serving Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties https://casaofcentraloregon.org/
CASA of Clackamas County	Serving Clackamas county https://www.casa-cc.org/
CASA of Douglas County	Serving Douglas County https://www.casaofdouglascounty.org/
CASA of Eastern Oregon	Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa counties https://casaeo.org/
CASA of Jackson County	Serving Jackson and Josephine counties https://www.jacksoncountycasa.org/
CASA of Lane County	Serving Lane county https://www.casa-lane.org/
CASA of Linn County	Serving Linn County https://www.linncasa.org/
CASA of Marion County	Serving Marion county https://www.casamarionor.org/
CASA of Polk County	Serving Polk County https://www.casaofpolk.com/
Clatsop CASA	Serving Clatsop county https://www.clatsop-casa.org/
Columbia Gorge CASA	Serving Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco counties https://www.columbiagorgecasa.org/
CASA of Coos & Curry	Serving Coos and Curry counties https://www.facebook.com/cooscasa
Frontier CASA	Serving Gilliam and Wheeler counties https://www.gilliamcountyor.gov/services/frontier_casa.php
CASA of Umatilla-Morrow (Head Start)	Serving Umatilla an Morrow counties https://www.umchs.org/o/casa
Yamhill County CASA	Serving Yamhill county https://www.yccasa.org/

Our CASA program seems to provide the most accurate information about the needs/wishes of the children.

-JUDGE

When I first met this young person, she was quiet, withdrawn, and struggled to trust the adults around her. Over two years, I watched her find her voice and grow in confidence. She recently told me that without her CASA, she would not have had a voice. Today, she sees herself as a strong young woman.

-VOLUNTEER

"The support and care CASA provided played a meaningful role in my reunification journey and my family's healing. During some of the hardest moments of my life, I had someone who believed in me and encouraged me to keep moving forward. Because of that support, my daughter now has a stronger, healthier, and more stable mother."

-PARENT

THANK YOU

For supporting CASA work in Oregon.

"Being in foster care is living in a constant state of flux: homes, schools, families... everything is always changing, often suddenly and without warning. My only constant was my CASA advocate. Without her, I would have been lost in the system."

-FOSTER CARE ALUMNI