

**Partner Agency Application for Funding
FY2016
FACE SHEET**

Agency Name: Rappahannock CASA Inc.	
<i>Has the City/ County Funded This Agency in Previous Years?</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Physical Address:	150 Olde Greenwich Drive, Suite 211
Mailing Address/PO Box:	150 Olde Greenwich Drive, Suite 211
City: Fredericksburg	State: VA Zip: 22408
Telephone Number: 540-710-6199	Fax Number: 540-710-6162
Federal Tax ID #:	54-1600702
Web Address:	www.rappahannockcasa.com
General Email Address:	rappcasa@gmail.com
Agency Main Contact: Janet Watkins	Title: Executive Director
Telephone Number:	540-710-6199
E-Mail Address:	rappcasa@gmail.com

Agency General Information

Agency Mission:	
<p>Rappahannock CASA Inc. (known as Rappahannock Area Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a non-profit organization that advocates for the best interests of abused, neglected and abandoned children in the 15th Judicial District of Virginia. We recruit, train, support and supervise citizen volunteers who are appointed by judges to speak up for the safety and needs of children involved in court proceedings due to parental abuse and neglect. We strive to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, permanent home. We also work to educate the community about the needs of abused and neglected children. Our program has served more than 4,000 local children since being founded in 1989.</p>	
Number of years agency has been in operation:	25 years
Localities Served:	Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford

Agency Financial Information

	List Programs	Personnel Expenses	Benefits	Operating Expenses	Total Program Budget
1.	Rappahannock Area CASA	136,948	10,477	45,454	192,879
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
Agency Administration:		20,542	1,571	6,818	28,931
Capital Outlay:					
Total Agency Budget:		136,948	10,477	45,454	192,879

If your application includes funding increases for personnel (to include new positions or merit / COLA increases), please check here and explain in detail the need for this type of increase under each program budget.

Submission Checklist: <i>(include 1 copies of each)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRS 501(c)(3) Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit Report <i>(In process)</i> <i>(with Audit Management Letter)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Financial statement <i>(In process; will be submitted ASAP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> IRS 990 <i>(In process)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountant Contact Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational Chart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Board Roster <i>(with contact information)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agency's Current Strategic Plan		

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
BUDGET EXPLANATIONS

Agency Administrative Expenses:

In the box below, provide an overview of the administrative costs detailed on the face sheet for the agency as a whole. Please provide justification for and specific amounts of administrative costs that are defrayed by locality funds. If your agency is requesting an increase or decrease in administrative funding, please describe, in detail, the reasons for these changes. (The description should not exceed 15 lines of text.)

Agency administrative costs represent a small percentage of our program's overall costs and include a fraction of our salaries, rent, postage, supplies, utilities and insurance costs, as well as the costs of our annual audit and other technological/professional fees. We have not yet received our FY2014 audit and financial statements, but in FY2013, our management & general expenses represented just less than 11% of our total budget, with another 4% linked to time the Executive Director spends seeking and maintaining grants. The very vast majority of our budget consistently goes toward direct program expenses. We expect overall administrative costs to remain at roughly 15% in FY16, or just less than \$29,000 of our \$192,879 overall budget.

We are not seeking locality funds to cover our administrative expenses. Theoretically, since locality funds amount to 19% of our budget and 15% of our budget involves administrative expenses, the localities' portion of our roughly \$29,000 in administrative costs would be about \$5,500. But our salary, benefits and rental costs are largely covered by other grants.

Capital Outlay:

In the box below, provide an overview of the capital expenses detailed on the face sheet for the agency as a whole. Please provide justification for and specific amounts of capital costs that are defrayed by locality funds. (The description should not exceed 10 lines of text.)

We have no capital outlay costs to report.

Personnel Expenses (General):

In the box below, provide an overview of any increases or decreases in general personnel expenses for the agency. This would include any planned or projected merit or COLA increases, or new positions being requested. Also include a description of any changes to agency benefits structure or cost. (The description should not exceed 10 lines of text.)

We do not intend to add any new positions in FY 2016. We would like to give a small cost-of-living increase but that will be dependent upon on our revenues. We do not offer health insurance or other benefits beyond sick and vacation leave.

Our personnel costs and overall budget increased from FY2014 to FY2015 because we hired a full-time Case Manager in mid-FY2014 to comply with staff-to-volunteer ratios required by our regulatory agencies (the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the National CASA Association). At the time we hired that full-time Case Manager, we had two part-time Case Managers, plus the Executive Director, on staff. One of our part-time Case Managers has since departed, and we do not intend to replace that position.

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
BUDGET EXPLANATIONS

Rappahannock Area CASA

Budget Information

Please complete the following chart with the financial information for the agency as a whole. In each area include the budget specifically allocated to your agency from each locality/entity listed below.

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Budgeted	FY2016 Projected
Caroline	0	0	0
Fredericksburg	4,250	8,000	11,000
King George	3,260	3,260	4,500
Spotsylvania	20,000	20,000	23,000
Stafford	6,450	5,810	4,500
United Way	30,000	35,000	35,000
Grants	73,909	98,064	77,486
Client Fees	0	0	0
Fundraising	7,417	7,500	10,000
Other (explain below)	26,696	15,245	27,393
Total Agency Budget for PD16	171,982	192,879	192,879

Detail below what is included in the category 'Other':

The other category includes individual and corporate donations, small miscellaneous income such as refunds, plus withdrawals from our fund balance.

I'd also like to note that we will submit our audit, financial statement and 990 forms as an addendum because our auditing firm, PBMares, is still working on those documents for us. We expect to receive them in early November.

Please detail below any legislative initiatives or issues that may impact the agency for the upcoming year and how you are planning for them. This could include new legislation that may increase or decrease projected funding at any level (Federal/State/Local), or could affect grants or designated funds as they are currently received. If you are aware of "outside" funding sources that will expire or be reduced on a set cycle or date, please note those below and how you are planning for them.

- 1) We have been cautioned by the legislative committee of our Virginia CASA Network to be prepared for as much as a 15% reduction in state funding to CASA programs in the coming fiscal year because of a massive shortfall in the state budget. Our state funding is already significantly less than it used to be -- in FY2010, we received \$71,161 from the state; that amount has steadily declined and now stands at \$43,708. Because state funding has decreased significantly already, we are bracing for another reduction in FY 2016, though we hope it won't be as large as 15%. We are budgeting for a 7.5% percent decrease so we aren't completely caught off guard if our funding is cut. We also are working with our CASA Network to promote the need for steady funding of CASA in Virginia. We can't help but fear that the state's financial challenges may trickle down to the local level.
- 2) Also notable: \$20,000 in our FY 2015 budget is a one-year grant from the National CASA Association that we acquired to help us afford to hire a full-time Case Manager. We may be able to apply for a second-year grant of \$15,000 and will seek that funding if we're able. However, National CASA grants can be narrowly crafted so that programs must meet very specific requirements to apply. Therefore, since we are uncertain of whether we'll qualify to apply, we aren't counting on that funding in FY2016.

Our efforts to remain financially secure include pursuing small grants from the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region and actively trying to expand our Board of Directors -- and thus, expand our fundraising capabilities.

Please detail below any identified agency needs or areas of concern that are currently not being addressed in your funding request. This could include training or technical assistance for specific areas, administrative support for a program or service, evaluation of current programs, or consultation for strategic planning, board support, or fundraising.

Our unaddressed areas of concern include:

- A larger training budget so that we could bring in outside speakers -- and send our staff and volunteers to outside trainings -- with less regard to cost.
- An office with a larger training/conference room. We would like to have the option of moving to an office with a larger conference room because our room gets extremely tight during training sessions -- to the point that we have to borrow space from a neighboring office to complete one of our classes for new volunteers. We also limit our new volunteer training classes to no more than 8 people at a time because of space. And, we have to rearrange/remove furniture to squeeze in the larger number of veteran volunteers who attend our in-service trainings. Even at that, we can squeeze in only about a third of our volunteer corps at a time.

We aren't seeking locality funding for these areas of concern because we know that difficult economic times may lie ahead. We would like to make the leap to a larger and more appropriate office space, and our reserve funds may enable us to make that move at some point. However, we have been drawing down on those funds for several years now -- since experiencing a massive cut in state funding starting in 2011 and, the next year, losing a \$10,000 grant tied to state license plate revenues. Our reserve has helped us weather difficult economic times and remain financially secure. But given that our expenses have exceeded our revenues for several years now, and given the current economic climate and our desire to remain secure, we believe a hold-the-line budget is most prudent.

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
LOCALITY NOTES

Please use the area below to provide any locality specific notes or statements that may be relevant to your application.

City of Fredericksburg:

We are grateful for the city's current contribution of \$8,000, an increase over the previous year. For FY2016, we are requesting \$11,000 from the city. The request is based on our desire for each locality to contribute \$250 per child served. We've served an average of 44 city children each year for the past five years – and a high of 61 children in FY13 – and our request is based on the 5-year-average. (44 children x \$250/child = \$11,000.) We believe this amount is fair, equitable and would show strong support for the continuation of our vital services. The \$250-per child rate equals a quarter of the overall (roughly \$1,000) per-child cost of CASA service, and the money stays in the community, providing direct, important service to vulnerable local children. An \$11,000 contribution also would restore the city's funding of CASA to prior levels; Fredericksburg gave CASA \$11,000 until FY 2007.

Caroline County:

We do not serve children in Caroline County, as the county is served by the Hanover CASA program.

King George County:

We are requesting \$4,500 from King George County, an increase over the \$3,260 we received for FY15. Our request is based on our caseload in King George and our desire for each locality to contribute an equitable \$250 per child to CASA. Over the past five years, we've served an average of 18 King George children each year. (18 children x \$250 per child = \$4,500.) Our caseload the past two years has actually been much higher: We served 28 King George children in FY 2013 and 34 in FY 2014. At the \$250 per-child rate, that means we provided \$8,500 in service to King George during FY 2014 while receiving \$3,260 in funding from the county. Since we are basing our requests to each locality on a 5-year average, we believe \$4,500 would be a fair contribution from King George in support of our services to vulnerable children.

Spotsylvania County:

We are requesting \$23,000 -- a \$3,000 increase -- from Spotsylvania County this year based on our service numbers in Spotsylvania County over the past five years. (An average of 92 children served each year x \$250 per child = \$23,000) This increase would begin to restore our funding to prior years' levels; until FY 2013, we received at least \$25,142 in funding each year from Spotsylvania. Spotsylvania remains the jurisdiction in which we serve the most children. While our case numbers vary some from year to year (topping 120 one year and dipping into the high 70s another year), Spotsylvania judges regularly appoint us to serve. And some recent cases have involved such large sibling groups that we've assigned two CASAs to a single case to ensure that each child is well-served. CASA volunteers contributed \$245,267 in service to the community in FY2014, and half of our cases involved Spotsylvania County children.

Stafford County:

We are actually requesting a slight reduction in funding from Stafford this fiscal year in the interest of fairness. Because of a series of changes in judges handling abuse and neglect cases, our caseload has dipped in Stafford in the past two years. On average over the past five years, we've served 18 children in Stafford. At \$250 per child, that amounts to \$4,500, which is the amount we are requesting this year. We would, of course, be grateful if Stafford maintained its current level of CASA funding (\$5,810), as we anticipate serving more Stafford children in the coming years. A Stafford judge has indicated interest in appointing CASA more, and we know the potential for service is great, as there were 42 children in foster care in Stafford in September, according to Department of Social Services statistics.

Partner Agency Funding Application FY2016
PROGRAM INFORMATION

Rappahannock Area CASA

Each agency submitting a funding request must fill out the following pages for each program serving citizens within the region and for which funding is requested. Any incomplete applications or programs that do not have a full application will not be considered for funding. PLEASE do not include any unrequested information. Each locality reserves the right to request additional information once the application has been submitted.

Program Name:	Rappahannock Area CASA	Is this a new program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Program Contact:	Janet Watkins	Title:	Executive Director
Telephone Number:	540-710-6199		
E-Mail Address:	rappcasa@gmail.com		

1. Program Purpose/Description: *(the following description should not exceed 10 lines of text)*

Rappahannock Area CASA trains and supervises volunteers who advocate for children involved in court proceedings because of parental abuse or neglect. Judges appoint CASA volunteers to research the children's situations and provide written recommendations about how to protect the children and ensure that they grow up in safe homes. CASA volunteers serve no more than two sibling sets at a time. This small caseload (compared to that of social workers and others in the child welfare system) enables CASA volunteers to thoroughly investigate the children's lives and keep them from falling through the cracks in the area's busy child welfare system. CASA volunteers talk regularly with the children, relatives, foster parents, social workers and others and report their findings to judges. They also monitor court orders involving the children and help children understand and participate in the court process. CASA's goal is to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, permanent home, free from further abuse or neglect.

2. Justification of Need: *(Please state clearly why this service should be provided to the citizens of the region and why the localities should consider this funding request. If this is a new program, be sure to include the benefit to the region for funding a new request. The following should not exceed 10 lines of text, and should include the most recent data available.)*

Children who have suffered from parental abuse or neglect deserve strong, steady advocacy, and they deserve to know that someone will speak up for their best interests. Unfortunately, high social worker caseloads, shifts from foster home to foster home, and even changes in judges or therapists can make it difficult for the children – already suffering from loss and instability -- to count on anyone to be there for them. This is where CASA plays a critical role. CASA volunteers have low caseloads, and they stay on each case for the duration – until the children are placed in safe, permanent homes. That steady presence gives children someone to count on. CASA volunteers develop a holistic grasp of the children's situations; facilitate communication among the various professionals in children's cases; and ensure that key decision-makers have the most current information about what the children need to be safe and do well. **Over the last five years, we've advocated for an average of 172 children per year (total) in Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. We served 166 children in 2013-2014.**

3. Program Collaboration: *(The following should describe, in detail, examples of collaborative efforts and key partnerships between your program and other programs or agencies in the area, and should not exceed 10 lines of text.)*

During our casework, we collaborate most closely with departments of social services and guardians ad litem. We also speak regularly with court personnel, teachers, counselors and others. And we collaborate each year with the Fredericksburg Best Practice Court Team to hold an Adoption Day event. Our collaborations with nonprofit agencies chiefly involve training and idea-sharing. For example, we've taken part in trainings with the Rappahannock Council Against Sexual Assault and Empowerhouse because of overlapping issues faced by some of our clients. In addition, the CASA Executive Director discusses shared challenges and collaborative opportunities with other agency directors at monthly Council of Executives meetings. Very recently, our director drafted a guidebook for teens approaching adulthood and circulated that book to other agency directors for feedback and use. The book is geared toward foster teens but could serve as a resource for any agency working with teens.

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
PROGRAM INFORMATION

Rappahannock Area CASA

4. Program Audience and Service Delivery: *(The following should describe the program's intended audience or client base and how those clients are served. This should include the location of the service and what geographic areas are served or targeted for service. If your program has specific entry or application criteria, please describe it below. Please do not exceed 10 lines of text.)*

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court judges appoint CASA to serve children ages 0-18 who are involved in court cases because of parental abuse, neglect or abandonment. Most children we serve are in foster care; some are under protective orders or Child In Need Of Services (CHINS) petitions. We can keep serving children until they reach 21. We serve in Fredericksburg, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford, an area spanning nearly 900 square miles. Our volunteers sometimes drive outside the region to meet with children who have been placed in facilities or foster homes elsewhere in Virginia. CASA volunteers meet face-to-face with the children they serve at least once a month. CASAs also speak regularly with social workers, teachers, foster parents, therapists and others. Volunteers attend all court hearings involving the children and also attend Permanency Planning Meetings, Family Partnership Meetings and other meetings. CASA volunteers continue their advocacy until the children are placed in safe, permanent homes. **In FY 14, CASA volunteers donated 9,954 hours of service -- valued at \$245,267 according to the Virginia volunteer rate.**

5. Client Fees: *(Please describe the fees clients must pay for the services provided in this program, and how those fees are determined.)*

We charge no fees.

6. Budget Information: *(Please complete the following chart with the financial information for this program. In each area include the dollars specifically allocated/requested for this program.)*

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Budgeted	FY2016 Projected
Caroline	0	0	0
Fredericksburg	4,250	8,000	11,000
King George	3,260	3,260	4,500
Spotsylvania	20,000	20,000	23,000
Stafford	6,450	5,810	4,500
United Way	30,000	35,000	35,000
Grants	73,909	98,064	77,486
Client Fees	0	0	0
Fundraising	7,417	7,500	10,000
Other	26,696	15,245	27,393
Total Program Budget for PD16	171,982	192,879	192,879

Please indicate, in detail, reasons for increases or decreases in the amounts requested for FY2016. Include whether these changes come from increases in personnel, benefits, or operating expenses. If an increase is being requested, please describe the impact not receiving an increase would have on the program. In particular, please describe in detail if any increase is sought for new positions or personnel.

We're seeking funding increases from Fredericksburg, King George and Spotsylvania because: 1) We seek equitable funding from each locality based on caseloads; 2) We're operating at a deficit; and 3) We need to maintain our current staffing level to keep providing effective service. We hired a full-time Case Manager in January 2014 because in 2013, we were under-staffed and nearly out of compliance with staff-to-volunteer ratios required by our regulatory agencies. We obtained a National CASA grant to help offset the new personnel costs. But it's a 1-year grant. And even with the grant, our expenses outpace our revenue. This has been the case for several years -- stemming from a huge decline in state funding starting in FY 2011. In FY 2012, we also lost a roughly \$10,000 grant that we had relied on for many years. In FY 2014, Spotsylvania cut our funding by 20%. And we're now bracing for the possibility of another state funding cut. So, our funding requests are based on a desire to stop operating at a deficit. We've coped with losses/deficits the past few years by withdrawing from our reserve funds, which we built up in prior years to weather economic downturns. But as that fund decreases, we seek to strengthen other funding sources. It costs roughly \$1,000 to serve one child, and we believe \$250-per child is a fair amount for localities to contribute to maintain our services.

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
PROGRAM INFORMATION

7. Goals, Objectives, & Evaluation: *(Please provide the following information regarding the goals and objectives for your program. Space has been provided for two goals, with two objectives per goal. If your agency is funded by the United Way, please include a copy of your Logic Model for this program as a supplemental attachment. Individual descriptions should not exceed 5 lines of text.)*

Program Goal 1:

Children who have been victims of abuse and neglect are placed in safe and permanent homes as quickly as possible, with a loving and connected family, and remain free from abuse.

Please see attached United Way Logic Model and Projected FY2015 Results, and 2013-2014 Measurement Plan Results. Please note that case figures in the Projected FY2015 Results are projections only and will not be equal to current projections for FY 2016 listed in this application. Also please note: CASA has one singular program goal, so all of our objectives are listed under one goal rather than two.

Objectives:

1a.	Children served by CASA will receive an increase in the number and follow-through of needed services. They will receive at least 4 child-centered recommendations for services.
1b.	Abused, neglected, and/or abandoned children will experience an increase in permanent case dispositions (reunification, placement with relatives, adoption) and a decrease in less permanent case dispositions (permanent foster care or "aging-out" of the foster care system.). 100% of children served by CASA will be placed in safe, permanent homes by case closure.
1c.	Abused, neglected, and/or abandoned children who are placed in foster care will be placed in safe, permanent and loving homes within 17.5 months of entering the foster care system. We aim for 100%.
1d.	Abused, neglected and/or abandoned children served by Court Appointed Special Advocates will remain in safe, permanent and loving homes six months after program closure. We aim for 100%.

Rappahannock Area CASA

Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
PROGRAM INFORMATION

Evaluation Method: *(Please describe the method used to measure the above goals/objectives. Please do not exceed 10 lines of text.)*

By inputting case details and outcomes into our CASA Manager database, our staff is able to track:

- The number/percentage of child-centered services ordered by the court -- as reflected in court orders that adopt CASA recommendations for services. (Judges incorporate an average of about 85% of CASA's recommendations into their orders each year.)
- The number/percentage of children achieving permanency by being returned home, placed with family or adopted. The information is derived from court orders approving permanent placements for the children.
- The number/percentage of foster children who are in safe and permanent homes within 17.5 months of entering foster care.

Through the CASA database and follow-up contact with the Department of Social Services, our staff also tracks the number/percentage of children who experience reoccurrence of abuse and who re-enter the court system within 6 months of having their case closed.

8. Outcome Data: *(Please give the most recent outcome data for the objectives above. Indicate below what time period the data covers.)*

Data Collection Period: 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

Objective 1a.

100% (166 of 166) children served by CASA received at least 4 child-centered recommendations for services.

Objective 1b.

98% (103 of 105) of children whose cases closed during the FY2014 fiscal year were in a safe, permanent home when CASA closed their cases.

Objective 1c.

91% (83 of 91) of children were placed in safe, permanent homes within 19.5 months of case closure. *(Note: Our Objectives listed above target 17.5 months as the timeframe in which a child should achieve permanency. That's because starting July 1, 2014, the federal foster care timeline sets 17.5 months as the deadline for permanency. Previously, the timeframe was 19.5 months.)*

Objective 1d.

95% (93 of 98) children remained in safe, permanent homes six months after their cases were closed.

9. Program Goal Updates: *(Please provide a brief description of the current status of your program goal(s), given your outcome data. For example, if reported data was well below the stated outcome measure, please indicate why you feel that is the case. Also, include how your outcome data will influence or modify the program for the upcoming fiscal year. These descriptions should not exceed 20 lines of text.)*

Program Goal 1:

We aim for 100% success with all our goals because we believe every child should be expeditiously placed in a safe, permanent home. However, we know that a variety of factors can keep us from achieving 100% success. Cases can be delayed for several reasons, including the need for home study on a potential relative caregiver, the absence of a key player at a court hearing, or other procedural reasons. So, while we shoot for 100% success, our outcomes for the most recent fiscal year (from 91%-100% success) remain high and are in line with the percentages we often experience.

We will continue our effort to meet our goals and to provide excellent, sensitive service to area children. We will continue training our volunteers in how to facilitate timely services and placements. Already we've trained our volunteers on the expedited foster care timeline put in place at the start of this fiscal year. That federal timeline says children should be placed in permanent homes within 17.5 months of entering foster care, quicker than the previous requirement of 19.5 months.

Program Goal 2:

N/A. We have a single program goal.

10. Community Impact: (Please provide at least two examples of how your services have impacted members of our community. This description should not exceed 20 lines of text.)

We believe these examples help demonstrate how our services assist members of our community:

- 1) Our advocacy nudged a struggling teen to remain in foster care beyond her 18th birthday, which many foster teens opt not to do because they're eager to break free from the social services system. The risks of becoming independent without a stable home include poverty, homelessness and criminal activity. CASA's patient advocacy helped this teen resist the impulse to cut ties with the social services support system the day she turned 18. This teen wants to be independent and carries some resentment toward the social service system. But she can't yet support herself, feels "scared" about becoming an adult and hasn't had the benefit of a nurturing parent – all of which have made CASA's role in her life more important.
- 2) Another CASA volunteer is serving a young teen who is struggling with confusion, anger and uncertainty after being removed from the care of a dangerous parent. This child has experienced significant trauma and has grown up way too fast because of a multitude of parental failures. Our advocate has been there as the teen has adjusted (not entirely smoothly) to a new home placement and dealt with a series of disappointments involving her parents. CASA's steady presence is critical for this teen during such a rocky time.
- 3) In another case, CASA relentlessly advocated for two abused siblings to be freed for adoption by their loving foster parents. Changes in social workers and procedural issues delayed the children's path toward adoption despite the children's parents making no progress toward becoming safe, stable caregivers. The children's CASA continually provided the judge with thorough reports on the children – and the astounding progress they made in foster care – until the case was positively resolved. In yet another case, CASA discovered/documentated information that was pivotal in helping ensure that several siblings were not returned to a risky home.

11. Collaborative Impact: (Please describe how the community would be impacted if your agency were dissolved or merged with another partner agency. This description should not exceed 20 lines of text.)

Individual children would suffer, and there would be ripple effects in the community. The children would have their village of supporters shrink and lose their chance to have an independent voice speaking up for them. CASA is the only local agency dedicated solely to advocating for the best interests of children suffering from parental abuse and neglect.

Almost without fail, CASA volunteers spend far more time with the children they serve than any other member of the child welfare team. Each CASA serves no more than two children (or sibling sets) at a time, giving them time to delve into the children's lives. Without CASA, children would miss out on having a reliable advocate by their side during a difficult time. And judges would miss out on hearing informed perspectives from trained lay people who speak freely and independently about the children's needs. One local judge recently praised CASA for providing extremely comprehensive and holistic reports on children whose painful situations are being addressed in court.

CASA's core goal of ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, permanent home has ramifications for the entire community. A 2007 study in the journal Pediatrics noted, "Research over the last two decades has demonstrated a strong association between frequent placement moves in foster care and poor outcomes." Foster children who turn 18 without a permanent home face greater risks of homelessness, criminal activity, poverty and early pregnancy. The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiatives reports that communities spend \$300,000 – on public assistance, incarceration and other costs-- on each child who ages out of foster care without permanency.

According to the National CASA Association, children with a CASA are 1) less likely to linger in foster care; 2) less likely to be expelled from school; 3) more likely to be adopted; 4) more likely to receive more helpful services; and 5) more likely to have a sense of acceptance, conventional models for behavior, and the ability to work out conflicts.

Abused and neglected children attend our schools and live in our neighborhoods. CASA's unique advocacy is critical to positively intervening in their lives to protect them and help them become productive members of our community.

**Partner Agency Funding Application FY 2016
SERVICE DATA**

Program Service Data: Service Period: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Locality Served	Total Served		Gender				Race					
	FY2014	FY2016*	Male	Female	Caucasian	African American	Asian	Hispanic	American Indian	Other		
Fredericksburg	46	46	26	20	22	21	0	0	0	3		
Caroline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
King George	34	32	18	16	25	5	0	0	0	4		
Spotsylvania	83	89	39	44	37	27	2	5	0	17		
Stafford	3	18	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-		
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	166	185	85	81	85	55	2	5	0	24		

*Please include the projected number to be served in each locality for the upcoming fiscal year.

Locality Served	Age Groups										Income Levels				
	0-4	5-10	11-13	14-18	19-25	26-40	41-60	60 +	Under \$10,000	\$10,000 - \$19,000	\$20,000 - \$39,000	\$40,000 - \$59,000	Over \$60,000		
Fredericksburg	24	15	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Caroline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
King George	12	11	8	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Spotsylvania	23	27	13	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Stafford	0	3	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	59	56	26	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Please describe below your data collection methodology and tracking measures. Indicate systems or processes that are used and responsible parties. Please also describe how your projections are determined for the upcoming year. If any of the above information is not available, please indicate why:

We collect data using the CASA Manager database that is used by all CASA programs throughout Virginia. Our Case Managers input details from each case into the database starting when a child is first assigned to our program and continuing throughout the duration of the child's case. Our Executive Director creates and analyzes reports based on the data. Our projections are based on a combination of historic caseloads, recent caseload trends and information from judges about their plans for assigning children to CASA. Information about our clients' income levels is not available because we do not collect that information. We have no information to report from Caroline because we don't serve in Caroline. And while we are able to serve children up to age 21, we primarily serve children ages 0-18 and were not appointed to serve any children over 18 last fiscal year; thus, the adult age categories are blank.