

Regional Funding

Fiscal Year 2019 - Partner Funding Application

Rappahannock CASA Inc

Agency Information

General Information

Agency Name Rappahannock CASA Inc
Physical Address 509 C Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA, 22401, U.S.A.
Mailing Address 509 C Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22401
Agency Phone Number (540) 710-6199
Federal Tax ID # 54-1600702
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Agency Email Address rappcasa@gmail.com

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Rappahannock CASA is to advocate for abused and neglected children to grow up in safe, permanent homes where they have the opportunity to thrive.

CASA's vision is to speak up for the safety and well-being of children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by their parents. We pair traumatized children with trained volunteer advocates who examine the children's lives and help guide them to safe, permanent homes. CASA's involvement keeps children's health, safety and educational needs from being overlooked in the area's busy child welfare system and reduces the risk of the children languishing in foster care. Our program strives to ensure that every child in the Fredericksburg area grows up in a stable, violence-free home with a loving family.

Number of Years in Operation 27

Main Contact

Main Contact Janet Watkins, phone: (540) 710-6199, email: rappcasa@gmail.com
Job Title Executive Director

Localities Served

Please select any/all localities your agency serves.

Caroline
Fredericksburg
King George

Spotsylvania

Stafford

Collaborative Impact

Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your agency were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.

If our agency didn't exist, our community's most vulnerable children wouldn't have an advocate whose sole purpose is to keep them safe. CASA is the only local agency that advocates exclusively for the safety and best interests of children who have been harmed by their parents. Without CASA, judges would make big decisions about children's lives without receiving the child-centered, fact-based, common-sense perspective CASA provides. CASA's vital and unique role offers traumatized children an incredible level of protection. Unlike social workers and Guardians ad litem, who typically juggle a multitude of cases, each CASA volunteer serves just 1-2 sibling groups at a time. This small caseload means CASAs can develop deep knowledge of children's situations and can closely scrutinize their potential homes. Time and again, CASA's involvement means judges making life-altering decisions about children's lives receive information from CASA that they don't get from anyone else. Additionally, CASA provides children with a consistent, kind, adult presence. Our advocates offer support and a listening ear; help foster teens transition to adulthood; monitor parents' compliance with court orders; and help other case professionals stay informed about children's needs. In a legalistic child welfare system that prioritizes parents' rights, and where rules and regulations can conflict with children's needs, CASA's crucial role is to always promote what's best for children. Our advocacy provides an extremely cost-effective way to protect vulnerable children, guide them toward healthier childhoods and enhance their potential to become productive citizens. The holistic, health- and safety-minded advocacy CASA provides is vital to children's well-being. Children with a CASA (according to National CASA and our own experience), are less likely to be expelled from school, more likely to receive more helpful services and less likely to bounce from home to home.

Community Impact

Please provide at least 2 examples of how your services have impacted members of our community.

Example 1

One of our CASA advocates realized that the children she was serving were being mistreated while in foster care. Because of her diligent attention to the children, she gathered information about situations in which the children -- who were unable to speak up for themselves -- were poorly treated. She shared the information with the social worker, who expressed appreciation for CASA's involvement and did her own investigating. The children were living in a foster home outside of our local area, and the CASA was making frequent trips to see them despite the long drive. She also made important follow-up calls to medical providers and others with information about the kids. CASA's information-gathering helped lead to the children being moved to a new home, which proved to be very nurturing and beneficial for the kids.

Example 2

Another CASA has methodically, meticulously fact-checked everything the parents in her case have told her they've done to improve their parenting skills and household stability. As a result, she's documented a multitude of ways in which the parents have either lied about or exaggerated their supposed progress

toward fixing the problems that brought their children into the court system. CASA's close attention to their behavior and careful fact-checking of what the parents reported, coupled with her relentless attentiveness and kindness toward the children, has reduced the risk of these children returning home until and unless the parents make meaningful changes in their lives. The CASA has reached out to myriad service providers to assess the parent's (and children's) participation in court-ordered and recommended services. She's made regular visits to the children in a variety of settings (home, school, etc.) She has encouraged the parents to succeed, while at the same time making it clear that her priority will always be the children's safety and best interests. Her careful attention to the children's and parent's circumstances has provided the judge and other case professionals with clear, current and nuanced information crucial to keeping the children safe.

Example 3 (Optional)

Another success story involves siblings who came into foster care as a result of parental drug use and neglect, and who ended up blossoming in foster care despite having obvious trauma-related issues to work through. The children struggled some with the uncertainty of whether they would remain with their foster parents, return home or possibly move in with relatives, and for a while, it appeared that some relatives were determined to gain custody of them. The CASA invested a considerable amount of time talking with the relatives, assessing their challenging financial situation and discussing the parenting responsibilities they already had with their own children. The CASA's questions ultimately played a role in the relatives concluding that they weren't prepared to raise these children, which negated the need to conduct an out-of-state home study on the family -- a process that likely would've taken many months and left the children in limbo longer. The children instead got to settle into a nurturing pre-adoptive home where their needs are being met.

Rappahannock CASA Inc

Agency Budget Narrative

Administrative Expenses

Provide an overview of the administrative costs for your agency.

Our administrative costs represent a small portion of our overall expenses and include a fraction of our salaries, rent, postage, supplies, utilities, audit and insurance costs. Other grants -- chiefly state and some United Way funds -- cover most of these costs for us. The very vast majority of our budget -- 85-86% each year -- consistently goes toward direct program expenses. Our FY2017 audit and financial statements are not yet finalized, but we expect to see the administrative costs listed as no higher than 15%. Our admin costs include things that are critical to our ability to serve children -- such as a portion of our rent and of our director's time/salary spent acquiring and maintaining grants. In our breakdown of administrative vs. program funds, we consider 10% of each locality's contributions as helping with administrative costs and 90% used for direct program costs. Again, these admin costs are directly linked to our ability to serve children.

If your agency is requesting an increase or decrease in administrative funding, please describe in detail the reasons for these changes.

We are not seeking an increase or decrease specifically tied to administrative funding. We are seeking modest funding increases from three of the four localities we serve to support our service to a larger number of children.

Please provide justification for and specific amounts of administrative costs that are defrayed by locality funds.

Our biggest expenses -- salaries/benefits and rent -- are largely covered by state funding and some United Way funding. We attribute 10% of locality funds to help defray administrative costs. We believe this is reasonable. The amount of locality funding used to offset administrative costs is low, and those costs themselves represent just 14-15% of our overall budget. We spend the vast majority (85-86%) of our overall revenues each year on direct program costs, and the small amount spent on items identified as administrative is vital to conduct our business professionally; to comply with state and national regulations; and to provide effective service to children. It is impossible to run an effective, functioning non-profit without some administrative costs, such as salary costs linked to grant writing, and a portion of rent and other costs. But we keep our administrative costs low, and our focus, financially and in every other way, is on fulfilling our program mission.

Capital Expenses

Please provide an overview of the capital costs for your agency.

We have no capital costs.

Please provide justification for and specific amounts of capital costs that are defrayed by locality funds.

We have no capital costs.

Salary & Benefit Expenses

Please provide an overview of any increases or decreases in general personnel expenses for your agency.

We do not intend to offer raises next year unless we receive a windfall or our state and/or federal funding are significantly higher than we expect -- and we won't know that until late spring 2018. We have no plans to add staff. Our personnel costs rose in mid-FY17 when we hired a new part-time staffer in late November 2016. We did this because our caseload was rising and our other part-timer needed to cut back on hours (some of which have since been restored) for personal reasons. We had not planned to hire a new part-timer during FY17, as we were trying to be frugal despite knowing additional staff would be helpful. But the new hire was necessary to maintain compliance with staff-to-volunteer ratios required by our state and national regulatory agencies. Now that we've made the leap and hired the second part-timer -- we now have 2 FT and 2 PT -- we don't intend to expand our staff any farther. Our total staffing hours, after some fluctuation in part-time hours in FY17, is now set.

Please provide a description of any changes to agency benefits structure or cost.

Our benefits structure hasn't and won't change. We don't offer health insurance, retirement benefits, nor other benefits because we don't have the financial resources to do so. We offer paid sick and annual leave only.

Budget Issues

Provide any legislative initiatives or issues that may impact the agency for the upcoming year.

Our state and federal funding often fluctuates from year to year. Some federal funds that were available in FY17 are not available to us in FY18, for example. We're always somewhat at the mercy of legislators for large chunks of our funding, though CASA programs throughout Virginia were fortunate to see, starting in FY17, a rise in state funding after suffering a large recession-related decline dating back to 2010. We hope our state funding in FY19 will rise by several thousand dollars because state funding is based partly on our caseload from two fiscal year's prior. So, our FY19 funding should reflect an increase over FY18 funding because our caseload was higher in FY17 than it was in FY16. (State funding includes a base amount plus a small dollar amount for each child served over a certain number, so when caseloads rise, state funding should rise, too, so long as the funding formula stays the same.) Our FY19 state and federal funding levels won't be set until spring 2018.

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.

We lost The Community Give in 2017, which was a significant blow, and we're trying to compensate for that by working harder to make our annual summertime fundraiser more lucrative. We have a Rappahannock United Way grant on a 3-year cycle, the last year of which is FY19, but we sincerely hope for continued support from the United Way, which has been a bedrock of support for CASA over the years. We had hoped to apply for a National CASA grant for next year but recently learned that National CASA is prioritizing financial support for CASA programs that haven't had an NCASA grant for several years, and we had one in FY16.

Please detail any identified agency needs or areas of concern that are currently not being addressed in your funding request.

Our request is vital to keeping us financially stable during a time of enormous demand for our services. After moving to a larger office and hiring an additional part-timer in 2016, we currently face the challenge of not having enough revenue to pay our bills without dipping into reserve funds. Losing The Community Give in 2017 hit us hard; we had expected it would help cover our higher rent costs after we moved in

March 2016. Losing that fundraiser while adding costs created a big swing in our budget. Our reserve fund helped us handle it, but best practice is to have 6-12 months of reserves, and while we once had more than 12 months, we're down to 8. Meanwhile, our caseload is way up-- we served 184 kids in FY17, up from 153 in FY16, and if the current pace of new case appointments continued, we'd be faced with trying to serve 250+ children this year. We need to train more new advocates and need more funds to help offset the roughly \$1,150 per child cost of service.

Rappahannock CASA Inc

Agency Total Budget

In the boxes below provide an overview of the administrative costs associated with your total agency budget.

Expenses

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Budgeted	FY 2019
Salary	148,667.35	156,028.00	156,028.00
Benefits	12,403.00	12,997.00	12,997.00
Operating Expenses	48,883.82	45,017.00	45,017.00
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	209,954.17	214,042.00	214,042.00

Revenues

Please include revenue associated with your entire organization. This section represents the TOTAL revenue your organization is receiving. The revenue associated with specific programs will be listed within your program budgets; this section represents total revenues. (For example if your organization requests funding for multiple programs the total amount requested from each locality or other entities goes within this section)

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Budgeted	FY 2019
Caroline	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fredericksburg	8,000.00	8,000.00	10,000.00
King George	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Spotsylvania	20,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00
Stafford	4,500.00	1,900.00	3,000.00
United Way	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
Grants	106,324.00	110,759.00	113,342.00
Client Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	6,680.15	11,000.00	11,000.00
Other (Click to itemize)	24,950.02	22,883.00	12,200.00
Total	209,954.17	214,042.00	214,042.00

Surplus / Deficit

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Budgeted	FY 2019
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Surplus or Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Rappahannock CASA Inc

Locality Information

Locality Notes

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

Caroline County

We do not serve children in Caroline County.

City of Fredericksburg

We served 45 children in Fredericksburg in FY17 and predict, based on current case trends and the impact of the opiate epidemic on families, that we'll serve 49 in FY19. (Our 5-year-average is 43 children, and already this fiscal year we have more than 37 city kids on our caseload.) We typically base our funding requests to localities on the same per-child funding rate -- \$250 per child. 49 children x \$250 = \$12,250. However, we're asking the city not for \$12,250, but for \$10,000, which we feel would be a fair, incremental increase over the \$8,000 the city has given us for several years now. The city's support for CASA has varied over the years, from a low of \$4,250 to a high of \$11,000, and we've been grateful for steady, \$8,000 funding in recent years. But to support our service to a rising number of children who have been traumatized by parental abuse or neglect, we're requesting a contribution of \$10,000 for FY19.

King George County

We're requesting steady funding in the amount of \$4,500 from King George County for FY19. Our caseload in King George County, as elsewhere, has fluctuated some over the years; last year we served 12 King George children, and we predict we'll serve 16 in FY19; our five-year average is 21 children per year. Given that range, we'd appreciate steady funding in the amount of \$4,500 from King George. Steady funding helps our budgeting purposes and financial stability, and we believe it also shows the county's support for ensuring that abused and neglected children in King George have a strong, child-centered advocate visiting them, assessing their circumstances, communicating with their social workers and others and speaking up for their individual needs.

Spotsylvania County

We served 121 Spotsylvania children in FY17 and estimate we'll serve a least 121 again in FY19. We served more Spotsy children in FY17 than we've served since 2010, and so far in FY18, the rise in cases shows no signs of slowing. Because of the size of our caseload and depth of our involvement in Spotsy's child welfare system, we're requesting \$25,000 for FY19. We believe, and hope the county will agree, that an increase in support to CASA is warranted. From FY05-FY13, Spotsylvania provided CASA will no less than \$25,000 each year. We hope the county will consider bumping CASA funding to that level now. The court & social services system are swamped with child abuse and neglect cases, and CASA is serving a vital role, focusing deeply on the children's needs and safety, and communicating/collaborating with busy child welfare professionals to promote the children's best interests and make sure their needs aren't overlooked. CASA is a cost-effective way to help vulnerable kids.

Stafford County

We served 6 Stafford children in FY17 and predict we'll serve at least 12 in FY19. 12 x \$250 = \$3,000, and that is the amount of our funding request to Stafford. After years of effort to convince judges and social workers in Stafford that CASA's presence would benefit children and the court, we began forging stronger

relationships and establishing a stronger presence in Stafford during FY17. We're grateful to now be providing more of Stafford's abused/neglected children with the same strong advocacy services that children throughout the region have received for years. Stafford understandably cut our funding for FY18 based on low FY16 service numbers -- our FY18 funding amount is \$1,900, down from \$4,500 the year before. We believe it's reasonable to bump our funding to \$3,000 for FY19 based on our more recent, stronger involvement in Stafford children's lives, and we hope the county will agree.

Rappahannock CASA Inc - Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Program Overview

You may save your work at any time by clicking on the "Save My Work" link/icon at the bottom or top of the page.

When you have completed all questions on the form, select the "Save My Work and Mark as Completed" link/icon at the bottom or top of this page.

You may also SWITCH between forms in this application by using the SWITCH FORMS feature in the upper right corner. When switching forms, any updates to the existing form will automatically be saved.

General Information

Program Name Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Is this a new program? No

Program Contact

Name Janet Watkins

Title Executive Director

Email rappcasa@gmail.com

Phone (540) 710-6199

Program Purpose / Description

Provide an overview of this program

Rappahannock Area CASA is the sole program of Rappahannock CASA Inc., a non-profit whose mission is to advocate for abused and neglected children. CASA recruits, trains, supervises and supports volunteer advocates who are appointed by local judges to speak up for the safety and well-being of children who have been harmed by their parents. Most children we serve are in foster care; some live at home under protective orders. Our child advocates examine the children's lives and make recommendations to judges about where the children can safely live -- with parents, relatives or adoptive families -- and what services can help combat the adverse experiences they've endured. Our program, which was founded by a judge, strives to ensure that no child's needs are overlooked; that no child lingers in foster care; and that judges have the most in-depth information possible before making life-altering decisions about where children grow up. Because CASA volunteers serve no more than two sibling sets at a time, they can thoroughly examine children's lives and promote safe home placements and helpful services. CASAs regularly talk with the children, foster parents, social workers, teachers and others. CASAs also monitor court orders and provide judges with fact-based reports. CASA adheres to high standards set by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and the National CASA Association. Our goal is to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, permanent home.

Client Fees

Please describe the fees clients must pay for the services by this program.

Clients do not pay fees for our services. Our services are free to the children we serve.

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.

CASA provides an extremely cost-effective way of ensuring that abused and neglected children are protected from further harm and given the support and stability they need to heal and reach their potential. As caseloads rise, the opioid epidemic harms families and some social service agencies experience challenging turnover, CASA plays a pivotal role in keeping traumatized children's needs at the forefront. If a child you loved entered the court system because of parental abuse or neglect, you'd want the presiding judge to know as much as possible about whether it was safe for the child to return home. You'd want someone to carefully assess the child's needs to make sure nothing -- from academic concerns to dental care to counseling -- was left unaddressed. You'd want the child's best interests to be promoted in a system that prioritizes parents' rights. You'd want the child to have someone to rely on in a stressful, uncertain time. This is what CASA affordably & effectively provides.

If this is a new program, be sure to include the benefits to the region for funding a new request.

This is not a new program.

Target Audience and Service Delivery

Describe the program's intended audience or client base and how those clients are served.

CASA serves children/youths ages 0-21 in the city of Fredericksburg and counties of King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. We get involved in children's lives when a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge in one of the localities issues a CASA appointment order. We're appointed in foster care cases and those involving protective orders or Child in Need of Services petitions. Each case involves child abuse and/or neglect. We serve children by assigning a volunteer CASA to thoroughly assess their needs and where they can safely live. CASA's advocacy involves at least monthly visits with the children; frequent contact with teachers, counselors, foster parents and others with knowledge of the children's lives; frequent contact with the children's parents and any relatives interested in gaining custody; and frequent communication with social workers and Guardians ad litem. CASA's service includes submitting fact-based written reports to judges promoting the children's best interests.

If your program has specific entry or application criteria, please describe it here.

Our program can serve children only when a judge issues a CASA appointment order. Judges in our area routinely do this, and sometimes Guardians ad litem or social services attorneys specifically request that our program be appointed.

Rappahannock CASA Inc - Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Program Budget Narrative

Please indicate in detail reasons for increases or decreases in the amounts you are requesting.

We are requesting \$5,000 in increased funding from Spotsylvania; \$2,000 more from Fredericksburg and \$2,100 more from Stafford because of rising caseloads and subsequently higher costs. We believe we provide a valuable layer of protection for our area's most vulnerable children, and we do so on a small budget because our dedicated volunteers serve children for free. Our small staff (2 part-time, 2 full-time) trains and supervises these volunteers, and we're seeking small funding increases to ensure that we can cover all the costs associated with running our program. As noted elsewhere in this application, our costs have risen since we moved to a larger office in spring 2016 -- to have more room to train volunteers -- and since we hired a second part-timer in November 2016 to stay compliant with staff-to-volunteer ratios set by our state and national oversight agencies. We're seeking increases to help offset the higher costs of serving more kids and training/supervising more volunteers.

If an increase is being requested, please describe the impact not receiving an increase would have on the program.

Not receiving the increases will put greater pressure on us to identify new sources of funding because without the increases, we'll be at-risk of running a deficit in FY19. We have a long history of financial security at CASA, and we take pride in maintaining a reserve that helps us weather grant reductions, cost increases and other ups and downs. That reserve was key to our ability to move to a larger office and hire an additional part-timer, actions crucial to serving a rising number of children. But the reserve is declining, and we can't keep tapping into it if we want to stay strong and immune to crisis should we face any radical or unexpected funding reductions. Receiving increases from the localities will help protect us financially and let us keep our focus purely on helping vulnerable kids (not on fundraising). At this incredibly busy time, when we're swamped with cases and so many children are clearly suffering, we hope the localities will strengthen their support for CASA.

In particular, please describe in detail if any increase is sought for new positions or personnel.

The increases will help ease the financial pain of already hiring a new part-time staff member in November 2016. The increases are not being sought for additional personnel.

Rappahannock CASA Inc - Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Program Specific Budget

Please provide your program specific budget below.

Expenses

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Budgeted	FY 2019
Personnel	126,367.25	132,623.80	132,623.80
Benefits	10,542.55	11,047.45	11,047.45
Operating Expenses	41,551.25	38,264.45	38,264.45
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	178,461.05	181,935.70	181,935.70

Revenues

This section represents revenue specifically associated with your program. Revenue that supports the implementation of your program and the services provided to the community.

	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Budgeted	FY 2019
Caroline	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fredericksburg	7,200.00	7,200.00	9,000.00
King George	4,050.00	4,050.00	4,050.00
Spotsylvania	18,000.00	18,000.00	22,500.00
Stafford	4,050.00	1,710.00	2,700.00
United Way	29,750.00	29,750.00	29,750.00
Grants	84,741.91	88,687.70	91,880.70
Client Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	6,346.14	10,450.00	10,450.00
Other (Click to itemize)	24,323.00	22,088.00	11,605.00
Total	178,461.05	181,935.70	181,935.70

Surplus / Deficit

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Surplus or Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00

[View Diagram](#) Goals and Objectives

Goals

Goal:

CASA will effectively convey children's circumstances to judges so children are placed in safe, permanent homes and get the services they need.

Objectives

70% of CASA's written recommendations will be incorporated into court orders. (We expect judges to consider but reject 5% of our recommendations and to not act on 25%. Some recommendations aren't meant to result in a court order, but rather are meant to highlight a concern or spur others to act.) **Note, under # of Clients Served, we'll in put #s of recommendations made, not # of clients, and # of recommendations successfully incorporated into court orders, not # of successful clients.

Objective Results	Year End	Baseline
Total # Clients Served	448	460
Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	293	322
% Achieved / Successful	65.40	70

100% of children served by CASA will receive individualized recommendations for helpful services.

Total # Clients Served	153	198
Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	153	198
% Achieved / Successful	100	100

Outcomes Narratives

Explanation & Overview

If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case

Our outcome related to recommendations was slightly less than our objective in FY16, with judges incorporating 65% of our recommendations into court orders rather than the 70% we shoot for. This was because judges didn't consider -- i.e., didn't discuss in court -- 31% of our recommendations, which was more than we expected. (They rejected 4% of our recommendations.) However, we don't consider this a failure, as we often make recommendations that we know aren't likely to result in a court order and that we sometimes even know can't be included in a court order. We make these recommendations because we're trying to call attention to an issue that we want to make all parties involved in the case aware of. It might be something that eventually requires action by a judge, or it

might be something we hope a social worker or Guardian ad litem will address. We feel it's important to make these recommendations even if they negatively skew our statistics.

Updates for FY2018

Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported

We will keep doing what we're doing -- making recommendations we feel are in the best interests of children and striving to fulfill our core goal of ensuring that all children are placed in safe, permanent homes when their cases close.

If you are restating the goals or objectives for FY 2018, please include those here

Goal:

Our top goal is for every child served by CASA to be in a safe, permanent home when his/her case ends. This means we want each child to either be successfully reunited with parents who have remedied the problems that brought the family into the court system; placed in the legal custody of a relative committed to providing the child a safe, permanent home; or adopted by a nurturing foster family.

Objectives

100% of children served by CASA will be in safe, permanent homes at the time of case closure. The # of clients measured will be those whose cases close during the fiscal year (as opposed to the total number of clients we serve throughout the year).

Objective Results	Year End	Baseline
Total # Clients Served	58	75
Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	52	75
% Achieved / Successful	89.66	100

100% of children served by CASA will REMAIN in safe, permanent homes after their cases close and will not re-enter the child welfare system because of subsequent abuse or neglect. (This outcome will be based on children who we've served who, 6 months after case closure, have not re-entered the local child welfare system.)

Total # Clients Served	58	75
Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	55	75
% Achieved / Successful	94.83	100

Outcomes Narratives

Explanation & Overview

If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case

Our outcomes were slightly lower than our objective in FY16 because several children were not in what we'd considered to be permanent homes when their cases closed. Three older children were living in residential facilities at case closure; they were safe and having specific needs met, but they didn't have relatives or an adoptive family they could live with. Two children returned home at case closure only to return to foster care when a previously non-abusive caregiver turned abusive. Another child went to live with a relative at case closure (which wasn't a placement CASA supported) only to bounce back into care when the family member decided she couldn't care for him. These situations reduced the percentage of children in safe, permanent homes at case closure to just shy of 90%, less than the 100% we strive for. About 95% of kids remained in safe homes after case closure.

Updates for FY2018

Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported

We'll continue to strive for 100% of children served by CASA to be in safe, permanent homes at case closure even though we know we may fall short for a variety of reasons. An example: Sometimes teens resist being adopted but can't return to relatives, so while they may be safely living with a foster family or in a facility or independent living apartment when their case closes, their home isn't truly permanent. We also know children will occasionally --though not frequently -- return to foster care after being placed with a relative or reunited with parents -- despite our best efforts to ensure that children are never placed in a home where that's likely to happen. The child welfare system prioritizes returning children home when parents have completed court-ordered requirements for remedying their problems. Unfortunately, sometimes parents make temporary changes but don't maintain them, which can jeopardize children's safety. We work diligently to make sure this doesn't happen.

If you are restating the goals or objectives for FY 2018, please include those here

Rappahannock CASA Inc - Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Number of Individuals Served

Localities

Please provide the actual numbers of individuals served in this program during FY2016 and the projected numbers of individuals to be served in FY2018.

Locality	FY2017 (Actual)	FY2019 (Projected)
Fredericksburg City	45	49
Caroline County	0	0
King George County	12	16
Spotsylvania County	121	121
Stafford County	6	12
Other Localities		
Total	184	198

Rappahannock CASA Inc - Rappahannock Area CASA Program

Collaborative Impact

Efforts and Partnerships

Describe in detail examples of collaborative efforts and key partnerships between your program and the other programs or agencies in the area.

CASA regularly collaborates with social workers, Guardians ad litem and others involved in children's lives to ensure that each case professional has accurate, up-to-date information about children's needs and safety. The team of people involved in children's lives often expands to include counselors, parenting coaches and therapeutic visitation supervisors, and CASA has frequent contact with each professional to assess children's needs and parents' progress. We also routinely talk with educators and with providers from the Rappahannock Community Services Board. We also sometimes speak with (and/or recommend people get services from) Empowerhouse if we know domestic violence is a factor in a case. We also sometimes make contact with Safe Harbor, if/when a child needs a forensic interview and could benefit from Safe Harbor's therapeutic services. While we often strongly collaborate with others, it's important to note that we maintain our independence and also maintain confidentiality.

Collaborative Impact

Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your program were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.

Children would suffer, and communities would likely face higher costs later on without strong, early intervention in traumatized children's lives. Research shows that people who suffer Adverse Childhood Experiences -- including child abuse, neglect, parental substance abuse and other challenges -- face higher risks for depression, substance abuse, criminal involvement, heart, lung and autoimmune diseases, and other problems. CASA helps steer child abuse/neglect victims to safer, healthier outcomes. Almost without fail, CASAs spend more time with the children they serve than any other case member can. Social workers and Guardians ad litem typically juggle a multitude of cases, while each CASA handles just 1-2 cases at a time, meaning CASAs can invest considerable time to making sure children's unique needs are identified and addressed. Judges consistently express gratitude for CASA's involvement, which gives children a powerful voice in an adult-centered court system.