

2023FY Annual Report



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY,
AND CAMDEN COUNTIES

22 Years of Service in southern New Jersey



CASA for Children and its trained volunteers speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in the foster care system and ensure these children are placed in safe permanent homes as quickly as possible.

Best-Interest Advocacy



New Child Wellbeing Assessments Launched in 2023FY

This year, CASA of New Jersey and the entire New Jersey CASA network worked with Child Trends, a non-profit research organization focused on improving services for children and families, to finalize a wellbeing assessment for the children and youth served by CASA programs in New Jersey.

This project was the work product of the statewide Wellbeing Survey Committee and is intended to increase our capacity to collect and process outcomes data. This step towards evidence informed practices is essential to measuring performance and demonstrating CASA program effectiveness.



“One of the most important things you can do on this Earth is to let people know they are **NOT ALONE.**” - Shannon L. Alder



CASA Volunteers Donated 6,062 hours



393 children and youth were served by
217 active volunteers



CASA Volunteers made 3,001
recommendations to the courts regarding
the overall well being of children – those
recommendations were ordered 98% of
the time by the family courts



146 children's cases closed, of those 53
children were reunited, 40 were adopted,
19 were placed with relatives or friends,
and 34 were living independently or the
case was dismissed



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ATLANTIC CARE MAY



“People sometimes think that being a CASA requires a lot but it really just requires that you are there for the child...that you are caring and committed to that role in the child’s life. You learn that you can offer stability and perspective in the best interests of the child yet sometimes you can’t solve every problem. That’s ok, you can still be there for that child during a time of transition.” - CASA Peggy

Wellbeing Results for Children and Youth with a CASA

"I have seen first hand the children in need and the efforts made to assist these children. No singular program does more in this regard than the CASA program." Family Court Judge



96% of the children (5-17) are current with medical well-visits or regular physicals



89% of children (5-17) with mental health needs, are currently receiving the necessary care



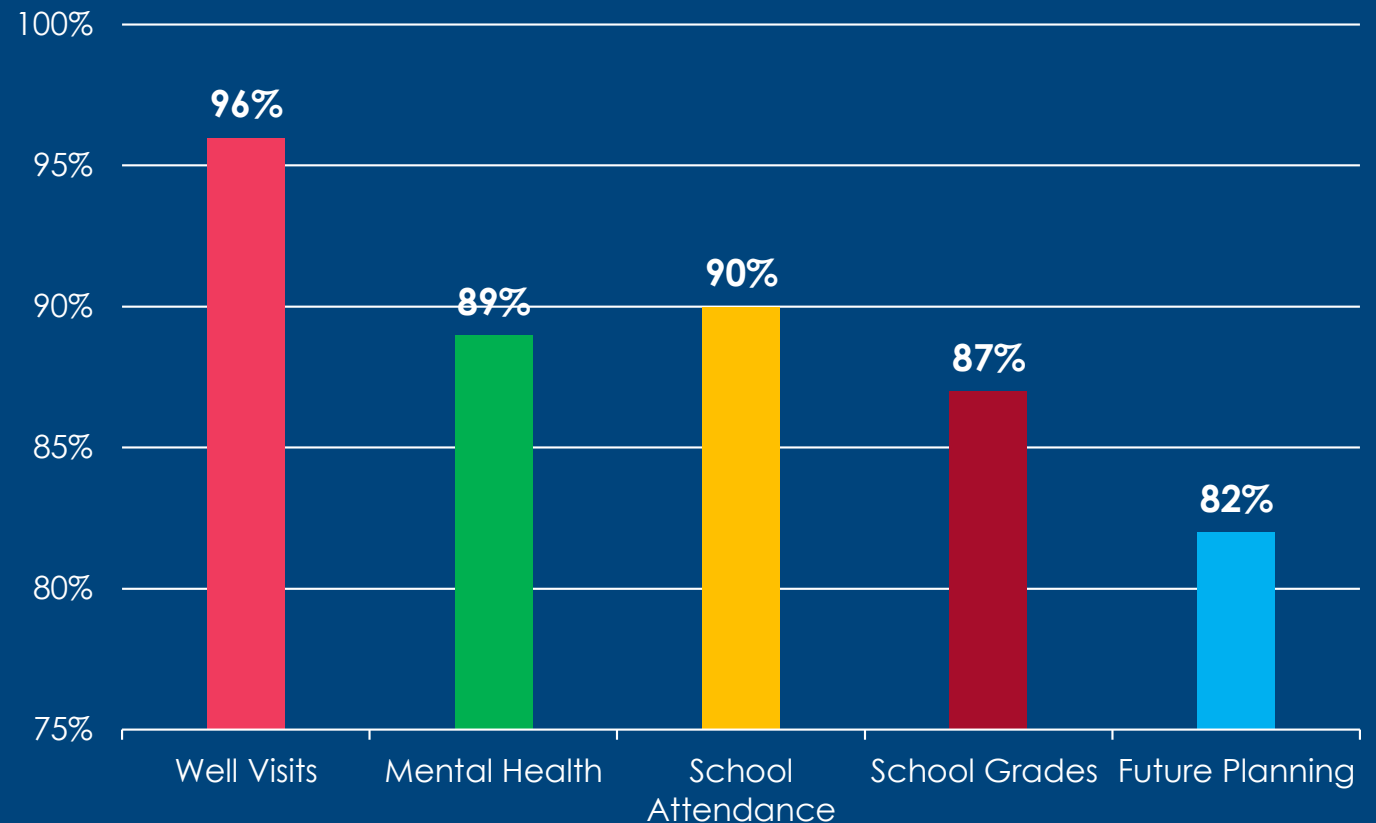
90% of children (5-17) had no reported school attendance problems



87% of children (5-17) had C or the equivalent grades for the majority of their classes/subjects

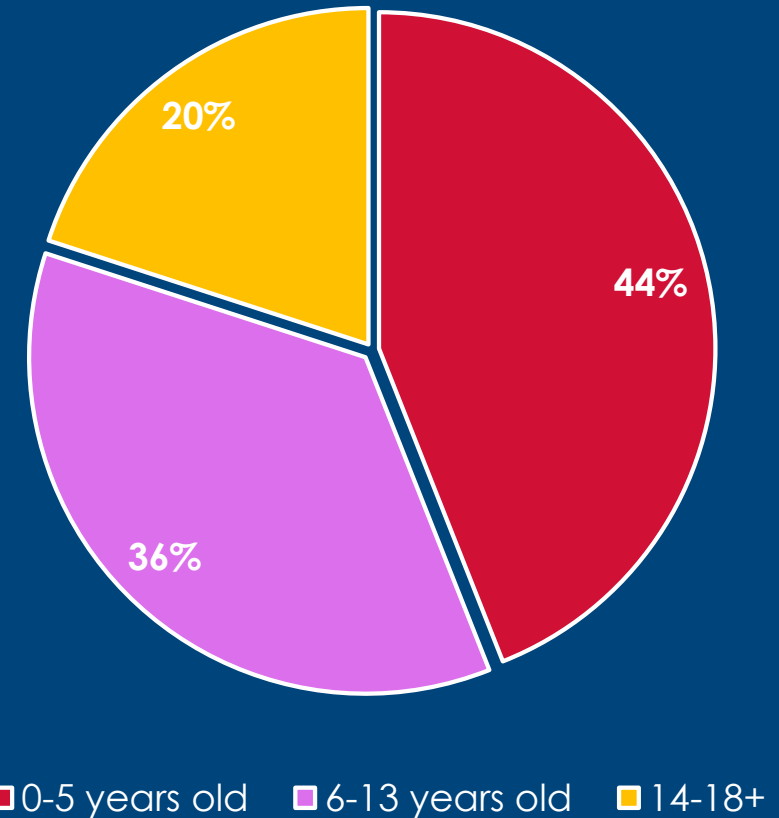
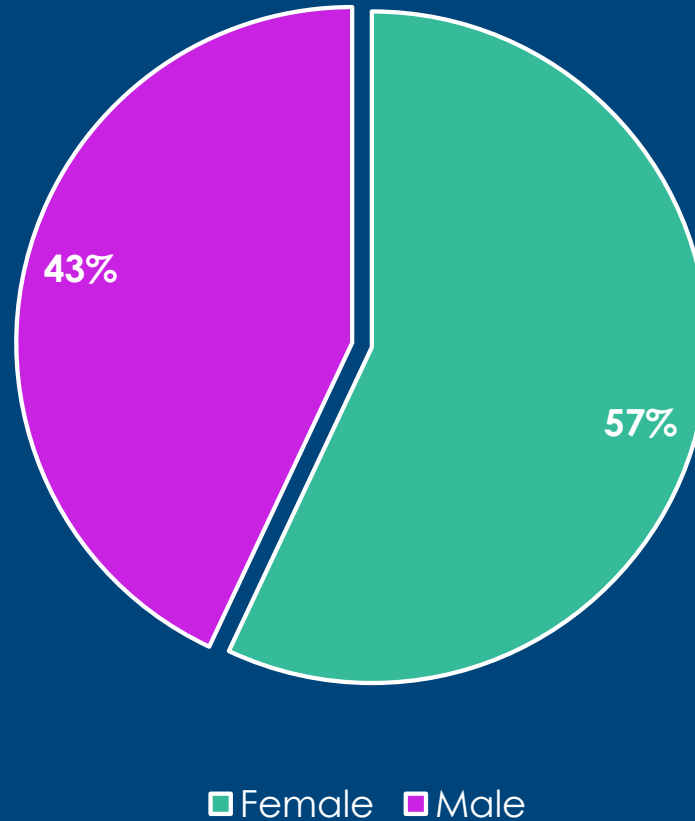
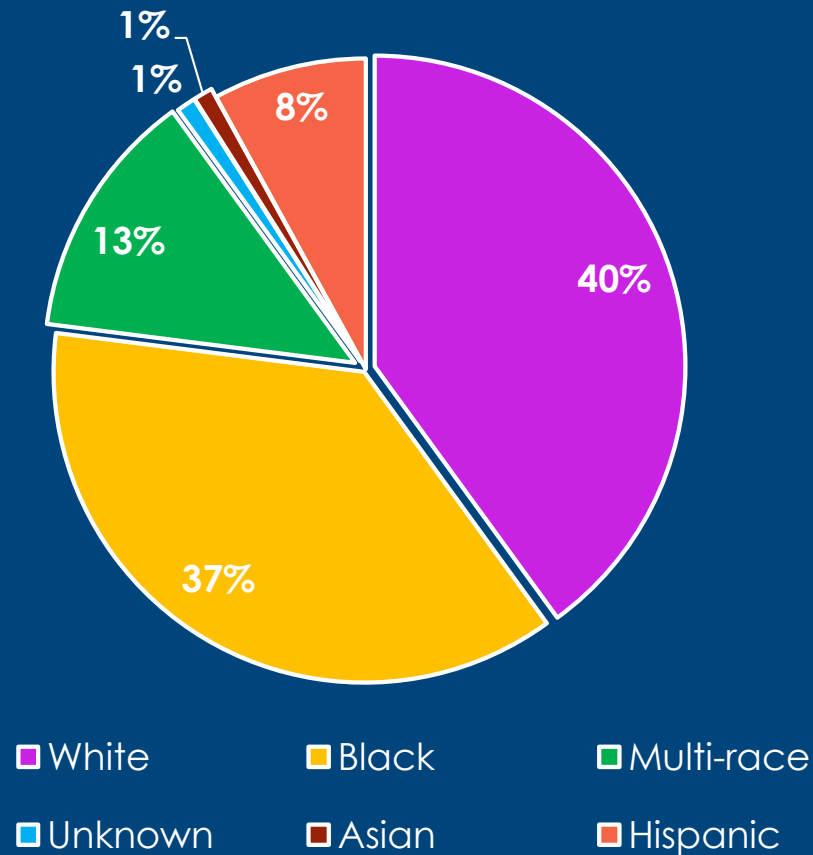


82% of youth (14-18+) were engaged in discussions with an adult (e.g., professional, caregiver, or CASA) about planning for future education/employment



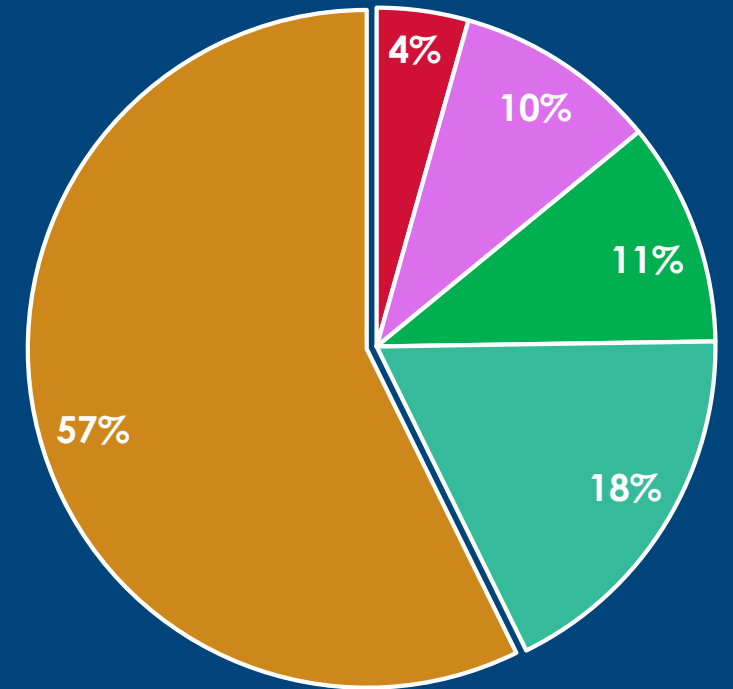
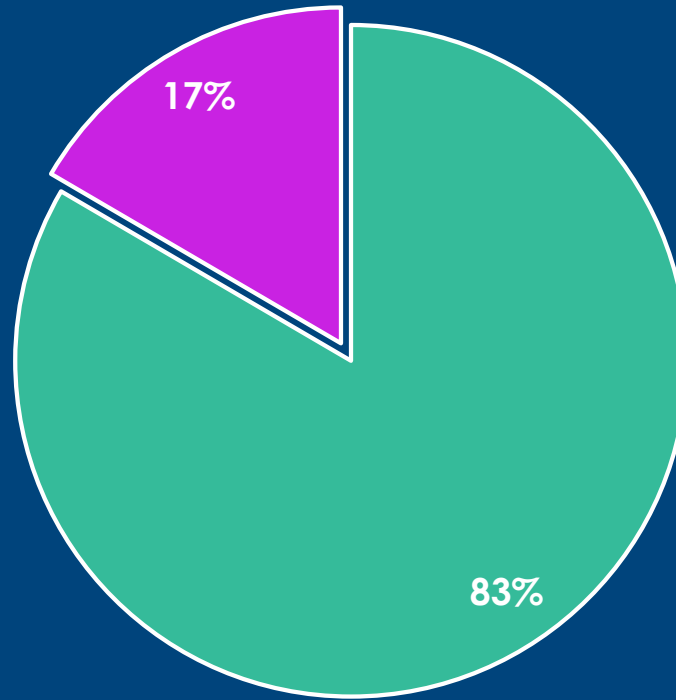
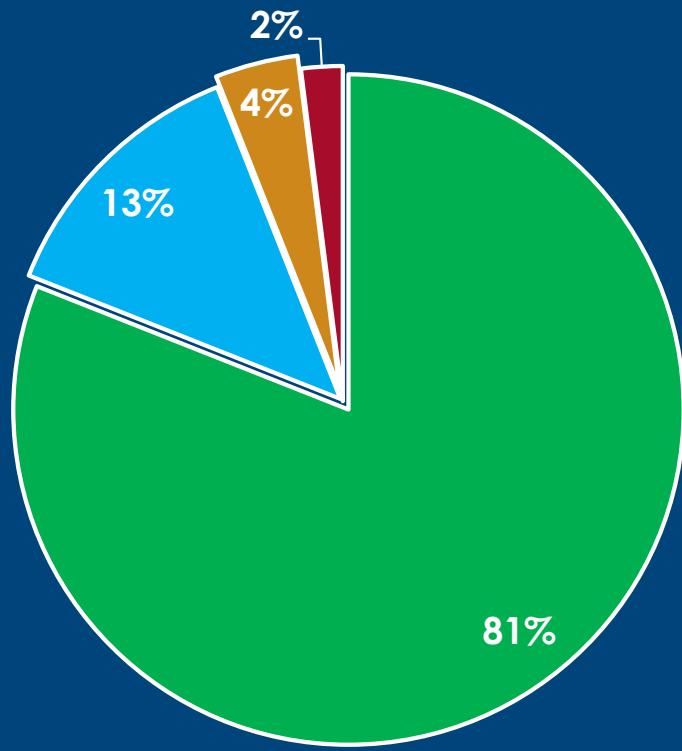
The Children CASA Serves

“We all have a responsibility to ensure that every youth living in foster care receives quality advocacy, access to services, and the guidance of a trained CASA volunteer,” Lauren Crenshaw, Executive Director



The CASA Volunteer Portrait

“In the past six years that I have served on the CASA Board, I have seen how CASA volunteers can, and do, change outcomes for children living in foster care. They help increase visits with family, ensure essential resources are delivered, and are a trusting, consistent guide in the child’s life,” Terri Schieder, Board President



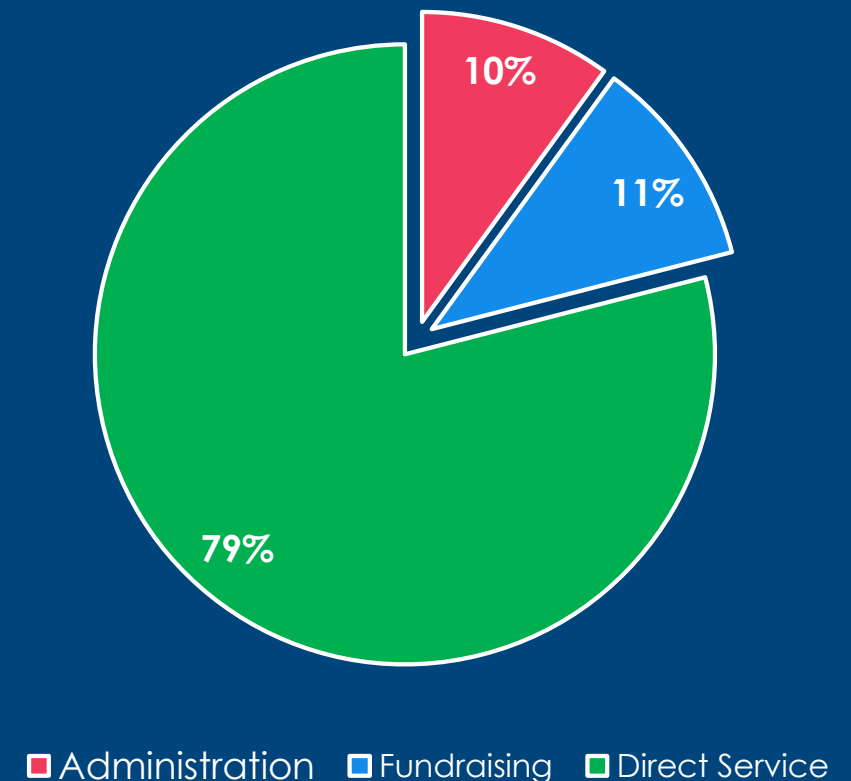
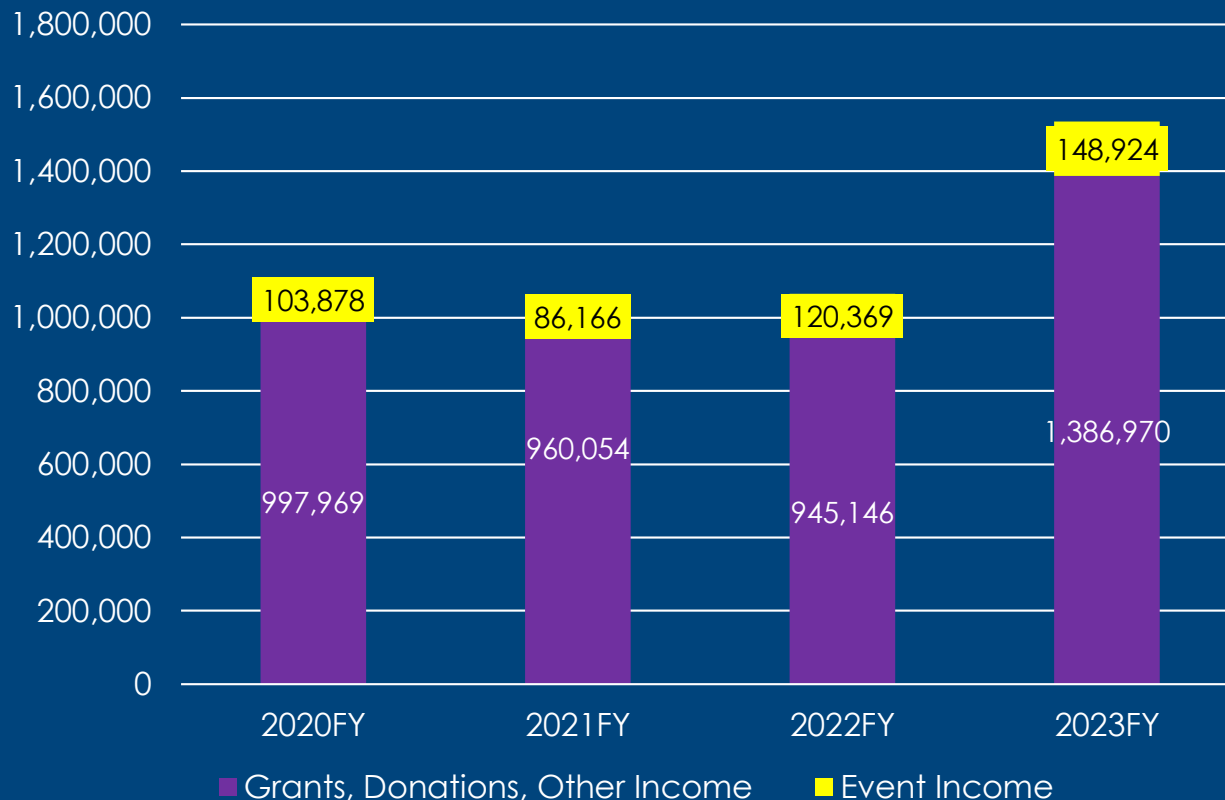
White Black Multi-race Asian

Female Male

21-29 year olds 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

Long-Term Financial Stability

CASA's strong fundraising capacity provides the confidence and stability to sustain our program every year. Consistent donors, a balanced income stream, and proactive, strategic leadership ensure that the organization can weather the toughest funding years. CASA's Board and staff leadership expect that our positive financial condition will continue into the 2024 fiscal year and are confident that staff and Board will overcome any future, unforeseen funding challenges. For a more detailed financial picture please view our current 990 available at <https://CASAacc.org/who-we-are/financials.html>



Overcoming Life Challenges

One-year-old Allison entered foster care under her grandmother's care, due to allegations of parental substance use. The courts appointed CASA Cathy the same month Allison was removed to help facilitate permanency.

CASA Cathy immediately established a great rapport with the child, mom and grandmother. She visited consistently and submitted reports for every hearing. CASA Cathy knew the importance of keeping the parents engaged and in treatment, she viewed the strong family ties, and supported the plan of reunification early in the case.

Allison progressed very well under her grandmother's care. She even started walking on her own at 13 months and was up to date with her doctor's visits and shots. Allison's mom and dad were doing well in their treatment plans, couples therapy, and were able to visit regularly with their daughter. CASA Cathy continued to encourage Allison's parents and support reunification.

Allison's mother and father progressed quickly with all court-ordered therapy, parenting classes, and evaluations. Both had submitted regular clean screens and were working. Most importantly, they were establishing a home for when their daughter could return. Eventually with the support of CASA Cathy, Allison's grandmother, and the supportive-care network, both parents completed their court-ordered services. Visits with her parents progressed to overnights and by the time Allison turned two-years-old, she was reunited with her parents.

CASA Cathy remained on the case until litigation was terminated and visited the young family in their home after reunification. CASA Cathy was pleased to see the positive interactions between Allison and her parents. The family had weathered a storm and are happy and healthy, together again.



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