



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

OREGON

Oregon CASA Network

www.oregoncasanetwork.org

September 23, 2024

CASA GAL
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Guardians ad Litem
FOR CHILDREN

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

We advocate for the health, safety, well-being and education of abused and neglected children in foster care.

Oregon CASA Network (OCN)

- Training & Technical Assistance
- Legal support
- Network convening
- Statewide fiscal coordinating entity

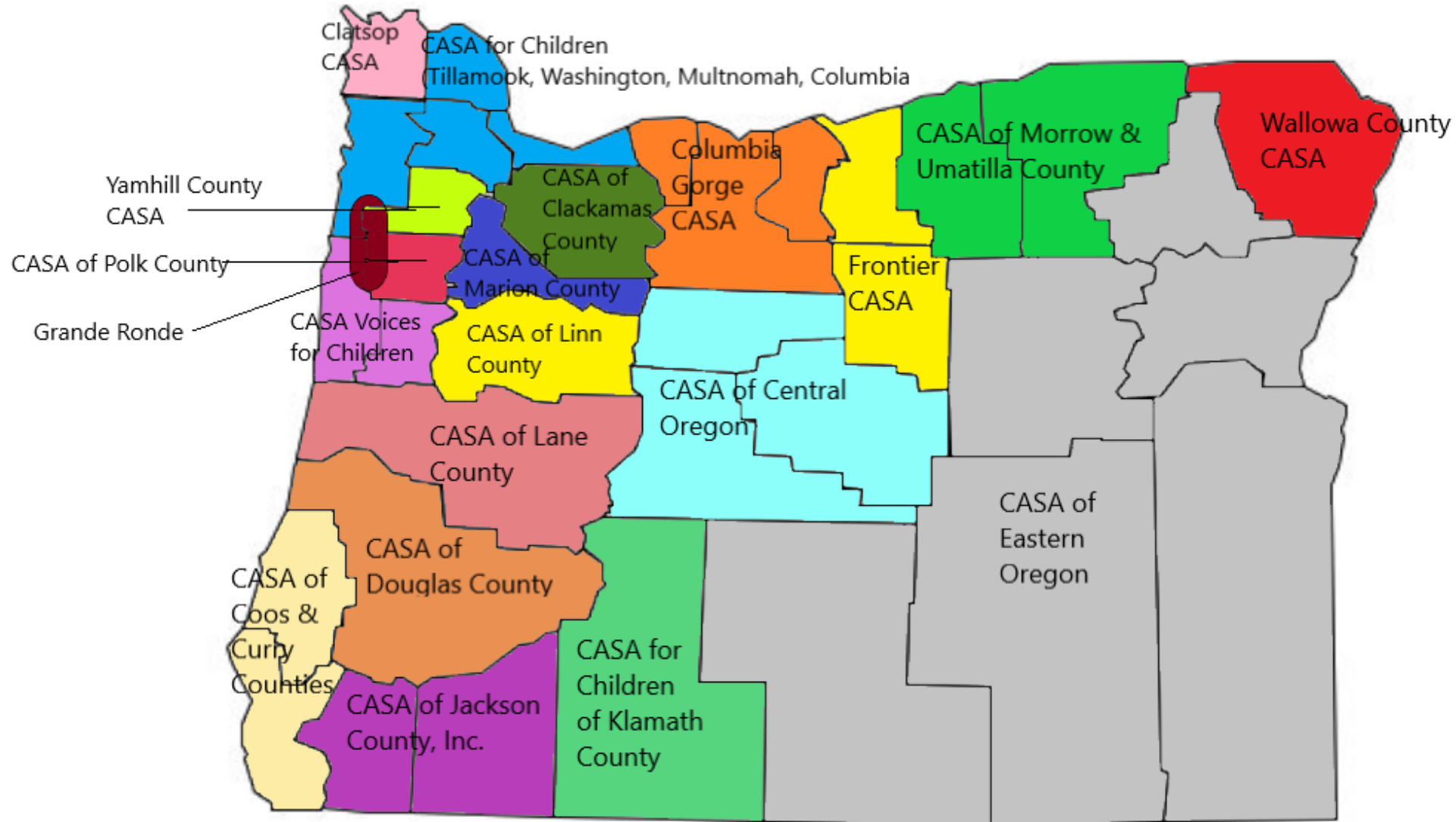


Local CASA Programs



- State mandated services (ORS 419B.12)
- Every child in foster care is supposed to have a CASA to advocate for their best interest in the court system and beyond.
- Currently 56% of children in foster care have a CASA.
- 20 local programs implement these services in their communities.

Map of 20 Local CASA Programs



What do CASAs Do?

- Gather information from the child's family, teachers, doctors, foster parents, and other people involved in the child's life
- Advocate for the child's best interests in court, making independent recommendations to the judge
- Get to know the child and spend time with them
- CASAs are required to complete an intensive pre-service training and continuing education

Oregon Foster Care Outcomes by Age 21

- More likely to enter the juvenile justice system
- 49% received a high school or GED
- 42% had part-time or full-time employment
- 23% incarcerated
- > 12% enrolled in employment programs/vocational training

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation 2023 Oregon Profile Transition-Age Youth in Foster Care

CASA Helps Foster Youth Succeed in the Classroom

Research shows that children assigned to CASA volunteers do better in school*:

Things a CASA can do:

- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Review report cards and attendance
- Facilitate summer school, tutoring, and other academic supports
- ***Empower youth***

***Source:** University of Houston and Child Advocates, Inc., Making a Difference in the Lives of Abused and Neglected Children: Research on the Effectiveness of a Court Appointed Special Advocate Program



Case Study: CASA of Marion County (2024)

- 87% (7 out of 8) Marion CASA teens graduated on time
- 37% (3 out of 8) Marion CASA teens starting college
- Two CASA teens starting at Western Oregon University
- One CASA teen starting at Linfield University



The CASA Multiplier Effect

In the year 2023 in Marion County:

- 3 staff supervised 88 volunteers
- 88 volunteers represented 166 kids
- 1 staff = 55 kids served

