



Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program Performance Measures Definitions and Questions

NATIONAL CASA OUTPUTS	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Training and Technical Assistance		
1. Number of training events held (OJJDP Overall)	<p>Training refers to in-person or virtual teaching and learning activities, including planning, curriculum development, and delivery, aimed to help individuals apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by a task, job, or organization.</p> <p>Training event(s) are planned activities that are delivered to help individuals apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by a task, job, or organization. Training events include both train-the-trainer and training of individuals.</p> <p>Training request(s) are any formal or informal inquiries for learning activities, curriculum development, and delivery, for a group of individuals or organizations.</p>	A. Number of training requests received B. Number of training events held
2. Number of individuals trained (population trained) (OJJDP Overall)	Number of individuals who attended a training event.	A. Number of individuals trained B. Population trained
3. Percentage of technical assistance requests delivered (OJJDP Overall)	Technical assistance refers to development, dissemination, and delivery of specialized knowledge or expertise to an organization or group of individuals to address a problem, for the purpose of informing policy, procedure, or practice.	A. Number of technical assistance requests accepted B. Number of technical assistance requests delivered by type
Program Outputs		
4. Number of active CASA programs (Program Specific)	<p>CASA programs provide and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy to abused or neglected children at the local level to help children stay safe, establish permanence, and have the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>Active means the CASA program is an established CASA program and is in operation during the activity period.</p>	A. Number of active local CASA programs B. Number of active state CASA programs

NATIONAL CASA OUTPUTS	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
<p>5. Number of new local CASA programs (Program Specific)</p>	<p>CASA programs provide and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy to abused or neglected children at the local level to help children stay safe, establish permanence, and have the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>A new local CASA program is a CASA program established during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of new local CASA programs</p>
<p>6. Percentage of new court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals (Program Specific)</p>	<p>Court-appointed special advocates are assigned by the court as an (unpaid) volunteer advocate to a child(ren) who is abused, neglected, or abandoned. Volunteers ensure that judges have all the information they need to make well-informed decisions for each child.</p> <p>New volunteer advocates are defined as those volunteers that completed training and became available to serve individuals during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of new court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals</p> <p>B. Number of CASA volunteers accepted into the program</p>

NATIONAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Training and Technical Assistance		
<p>7. Percentage of training participants who reported they applied training knowledge or skills within 3 months of attending a training (OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Number of individuals who reported they used the knowledge or skills learned at a training event within 3 months of attending the training, as determined by a post-survey.</p>	<p>A. Number of participants that used the skills or knowledge learned at a training within 3 months of attending the training</p>
<p>8. Percentage of organizations who employed a new evidence-based or promising service, policy, or practice recommended by a technical assistance provider (OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Number of organizations who reported employing a new evidence-based or promising service, policy, or practice as a result of receiving technical assistance.</p> <p>A program is a specific set of activities carried out according to guidelines to achieve a defined purpose. The results apply to the exact set of activities and procedures used for that one program as it was implemented at the time of evaluation. A program profile can answer:</p>	<p>A. Number of organizations that received technical assistance</p> <p>B. Number of organizations that employed a new evidence-based or promising service, policy, or practice after receiving technical assistance</p> <p>C. Number of organizations that employed a new service, policy, or practice after receiving technical assistance</p>

NATIONAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
	<p>Did the ABC Mentoring Program in X Town, USA, achieve its goals?</p> <p>A practice is defined as evidence-based when meta-analyses of experimental or quasi-experimental designs assess the average effectiveness of the practice on various outcomes across several studies. The practice must have the highest quality of evidence with a statistically significant average effect size favoring the practice.</p> <p>A practice is a general category of programs, strategies, or procedures that share similar characteristics about the issues they address and how they address them. A single evidence rating is given for each outcome affected by the practice. A practice profile can answer: Does mentoring usually achieve its goals?</p> <p>Evidence-based programs can come from various valid sources (e.g., OJJDP Model Programs Guide, Blueprints for Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, Office of Justice Programs’ CrimeSolutions.gov, and state model program resources).</p>	
Program Outcomes		
<p>9. Number of quality assurance surveys conducted (Program Specific)</p>	<p>The quality assurance survey is a review process developed by the National CASA Board to assess state and local programs’ observation of quality standards.</p> <p>The National Standards Committee developed the standards self-assessment review process for local programs.</p> <p>Count the number of quality assurance surveys conducted during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of quality assurance surveys conducted during the activity period</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTPUTS	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Individuals Served		
<p>10. Number of individuals served (by population) (OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>To be “served” means a program, organization, or system admitted an individual and actively provided them services funded by OJJDP.</p> <p>Report individuals as served if an individual received services during the previous activity period and continued to receive services in the current activity period (carried over) or who began receiving services during the current activity period (new admission). To prevent duplications, count individuals once and only when they started receiving services, regardless of the number of times the individual may be served.</p> <p>A parent may be a child’s biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, stepparent through marriage, or a temporary adult caregiver. A legal guardian is appointed by a judge to take care of a minor child.</p> <p>Additional family members include siblings and extended family members such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins, or individuals identified by the youth as family.</p>	<p>A. Number of children (ages 0–10) served who were carried over</p> <p>B. Number of children (ages 0–10) served who were new admissions</p> <p>C. Number of youth (ages 11–17) served who were carried over</p> <p>D. Number of youth (ages 11–17) served who were new admissions</p> <p>E. Number of young adults (ages 18–24) served who were carried over</p> <p>F. Number of young adults (ages 18–24) served who were new admissions</p> <p>G. Number of parents/legal guardians served who were carried over</p> <p>H. Number of parents/legal guardians served who were new admissions</p> <p>I. Number of additional family members served who were carried over</p> <p>J. Number of additional family members served who were new admissions</p>
Training and Technical Assistance		
<p>11. Number of training events held (OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Training refers to in-person or virtual teaching and learning activities, including planning, curriculum development, and delivery, aimed to help individuals apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by a task, job, or organization.</p> <p>Training event(s) are planned activities that are delivered to help individuals apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by a task, job, or organization. Training events include both train-the-trainer and training of individuals.</p> <p>Training request(s) are any formal or informal inquiries for learning activities,</p>	<p>A. Number of training requests received</p> <p>B. Number of training events held</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTPUTS	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
	curriculum development, and delivery, for a group of individuals or organizations.	
12. Number of individuals trained (population trained) (OJJDP Overall)	Number of individuals who attended a training event.	A. Number of individuals trained B. Population trained
Program Outputs		
13. Number of individuals represented by a court-appointed special advocate (Program Specific)	<p>A court-appointed special advocate is assigned by the court as an (unpaid) volunteer advocate to a child(ren) who is abused, neglected, or abandoned. Volunteers ensure that judges have all the information they need to make well-informed decisions for each child.</p> <p>Count the number of individuals represented by a court-appointed special advocate during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of new individuals represented by new court-appointed special advocates during the activity period</p> <p>B. Number of existing individuals represented by new court-appointed special advocates during the activity period</p> <p>C. Number of new individuals represented by existing court-appointed special advocates during the activity period</p> <p>D. Number of existing individuals represented by existing court-appointed special advocates during the activity period</p>
14. Percentage of new court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals (Program Specific)	<p>A court-appointed special advocate is assigned by the court as an (unpaid) volunteer advocate to a child(ren) who is abused, neglected, or abandoned. Volunteers ensure that judges have all the information they need to make well-informed decisions for each child.</p> <p>Count the number of new court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of new court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals during the activity period</p> <p>B. Number of existing court-appointed special advocates trained and ready to serve individuals during the activity period</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Child Welfare System Outcomes		
<p>15. Number of individuals who experienced a substantiated or indicated case of maltreatment</p> <p>(Multi-Program)</p>	<p>Definitions of maltreatment vary by state, but four types are generally recognized: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect (including educational neglect, medical neglect, and other forms), and emotional maltreatment.</p> <p>Substantiated cases are when state law or policy supports an allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment. Indicated cases are when an allegation could not be substantiated, or authorities have reason to suspect maltreatment or the risk of maltreatment.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who experienced a first-time substantiated or indicated case of maltreatment</p> <p>B. Number of individuals who experienced a subsequent substantiated or indicated case of maltreatment</p>
<p>16. Percentage of eligible individuals who entered out-of-home care</p> <p>(Multi-Program)</p>	<p>Out-of-home care is a court monitored process that encompasses the placements and services provided to children and families when children are removed from their home due to maltreatment.</p> <p>A group home is a community-based, long-term facility, which allows individuals extensive contact with the community.</p> <p>Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives, or in some jurisdictions, close family friends.</p> <p>Foster care is a temporary service provided by states for children who cannot live with their families. Foster care may be provided by a relative, unrelated foster parent, group home, residential care facility, emergency shelter, or supervised independent living.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who entered out-of-home care for the first time</p> <p>B. Number of individuals placed in a group home for the first time</p> <p>C. Number of individuals placed in kinship care for the first time</p> <p>D. Number of individuals placed in foster care for the first time</p>
<p>17. Percentage of eligible individuals who reentered out-of-home care</p> <p>(Multi-Program)</p>	<p>Out-of-home care is a court monitored process that encompasses the placements and services provided to children and families when children are removed from their home due to maltreatment. Reentered means to return to out-of-home care.</p> <p>A group home is a community-based, long-term facility, which allows individuals extensive contact with the community.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who reentered out-of-home care after exiting care</p> <p>B. Number of individuals who reentered a group home after exiting care</p> <p>C. Number of individuals who reentered kinship care after exiting care</p> <p>D. Number of individuals who reentered foster care after exiting care</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
	<p>Kinship care refers to the care of children by relatives, or in some jurisdictions, close family friends.</p> <p>Foster care is a temporary service provided by states for children who cannot live with their families. Foster care may be provided by a relative, unrelated foster parent, group home, residential care facility, emergency shelter, or supervised independent living.</p>	
<p>18. Percentage of eligible individuals who achieved permanency (Multi-Program)</p>	<p>Permanency for a child in out-of-home care refers to the child moving to live with an adult with whom the child has a continuous, reciprocal relationship.</p> <p>Reunification is when the court determines a child can safely return home after living in out-of-home care.</p> <p>Adoption is the social, emotional, and legal process in which children who will not be raised by their birth parents become full and permanent legal members of another family while maintaining genetic and psychological connections to their birth family.</p> <p>Legal guardianship is a judicially created relationship between a child and a caretaker, which is intended to be permanent and self-sustaining through the transfer to the caretaker of parental rights in respect to the child.</p> <p>Emancipation is when a minor has achieved independence from his or her parents.</p>	<p>A. Number of eligible individuals who achieved permanency</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals adopted</p> <p>C. Number of eligible individuals reunited with their family</p> <p>D. Number of eligible individuals who secured legal guardianship</p> <p>E. Number of eligible individuals emancipated</p>
Victimization Outcomes		
<p>19. Number of individuals who experienced a victimization (OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Victimization is defined as an individual impacted by either a violent or non-violent event directly or as a witness. A subsequent victimization includes an individual who experienced a new unrelated victimization or a new victimization similar in nature or circumstances to their first victimization.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who experienced a first-time victimization</p> <p>B. Number of individuals who experienced a subsequent victimization</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Protective Factors		
20. Percentage of eligible individuals who exhibited improved self-esteem (OJJDP Overall)	Self-esteem is perceiving oneself as worthy of esteem or respect. Examples of self-esteem and positive identity include having a sense of purpose, a positive view of personal future, and perception of personal power (an individual feels they have control over things that happen to them). The simplest evaluation design is pre- and post-test, defined as a before and after assessment to measure whether the expected changes took place in the participants in a program.	A. Number of individuals who received services to improve self-esteem B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited an improvement in self-esteem
21. Percentage of eligible individuals with improved parent/caregiver relationships (OJJDP Overall)	An improved parent/caregiver relationship is defined as increased positive interactions between a child and their parent/caregiver. Examples include improved positive communication, a strengthened bond, frequent shared activities, trust, and increased emotional and practical support provided by a parent/caregiver to a child. A parent may be a child’s biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, stepparent through marriage, or a temporary adult caregiver. A legal guardian is appointed by a judge to take care of a minor child. Additional family members include siblings and extended family members such as grandparents, aunts/uncles, and cousins, or individuals identified by the youth as family.	A. Number of individuals who received services to improve parent/caregiver relationships B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited improved parent/caregiver relationships
22. Percentage of eligible individuals who participated in positive leisure/recreational activities (OJJDP Overall)	Leisure/recreational activities are structured or unstructured activities that an individual chooses to refresh their mind and bodies. Examples of unstructured activities include walking, meditating, reading, swimming, playing games, and dancing. Examples of structured activities include art lessons, music practice, sports activities, clubs, and involvement in youth programs, or after-school programs.	A. Number of individuals who received services to promote participation in positive leisure/recreational activities B. Number of eligible individuals who participated in positive leisure/recreational activities

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
<p>23. Percentage of eligible individuals who exhibited improved social competencies</p> <p>(OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Social competence is the ability to achieve personal goals in social interactions while simultaneously maintaining positive relationships with others over time and across situations. Examples of social competencies include planning, decisionmaking, empathy, sensitivity, cultural competence, and peaceful conflict resolution. The simplest evaluation design is pre- and post-test, defined as a before and after assessment to measure whether the expected changes took place in the participants in a program.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services to improve social competencies</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited social competencies</p>
<p>24. Percentage of eligible individuals who actively engaged with school</p> <p>(OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Active engagement with school is multifaceted and includes a student who demonstrated behavioral engagement (i.e., class preparation, good attendance, participation in school activities); emotional engagement (i.e., liked school, interested in school); and cognitive engagement (i.e., self-regulated, exerted extra effort to do well, set academic goals). Engagement also includes student connectedness (feeling a sense of belonging) and bonding (strong relationships with teachers and other students).</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services to improve school engagement</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited active engagement with school</p>
<p>25. Percentage of eligible individuals who exhibited improved mental health</p> <p>(OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>A mental health disorder is defined as any clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome characterized by the presence of distressing symptoms, impairment of functioning, or significantly increased risk of suffering death, pain, disability, or loss of freedom. The definition does not include deviant behavior, disturbances that are essentially conflicts between the individual and society, or expected and culturally sanctioned responses to events.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services to improve mental health</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited improved mental health</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
<p>26. Percentage of eligible individuals who abstained from or reduced substance misuse</p> <p>(OJJDP Overall)</p>	<p>Substance misuse is defined as the risky use of substances without addiction, including heavy or excessive use of alcohol, underage drinking, any use of illicit substances, and use of prescription medications without medical justification. Use of illegal substances includes, but is not limited to, illegal drugs (e.g., heroin), prescription and nonprescription drugs, and alcohol, depending on the legal age to use a substance in local, state, or federal statute. Abstinence is defined as not misusing substances.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services for substance misuse</p> <p>B. Number of individuals who abstained from illegal substance use</p> <p>C. Number of individuals who abstained from legal substance use</p> <p>D. Number of individuals who reduced illegal substance misuse</p> <p>E. Number of individuals who reduced legal substance misuse</p>
<p>27. Percentage of eligible individuals who met age-appropriate academic capabilities</p> <p>(Multi-Program)</p>	<p>Individuals demonstrate academic knowledge and skills appropriate for their age such as reading at their grade level and understanding and applying grade appropriate math concepts, as defined by assessment tools used by the child’s school.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services to improve academic capabilities</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals who exhibited age-appropriate academic capabilities</p>
<p>28. Percentage of eligible individuals who met school attendance expectations</p> <p>(Multi-Program)</p>	<p>A student met attendance expectations if they attended school for the required number of days as defined by the school district’s policies where the student is enrolled. Unmet attendance expectations include students who received a greater number of unexcused absences as allowed under school policy.</p>	<p>A. Number of individuals who received services to improve school attendance</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals who met school attendance expectations</p>
<p>Program Quality</p>		
<p>29. Percentage of eligible individuals matched with a court-appointed special advocate volunteer</p> <p>(Program Specific)</p>	<p>A court-appointed special advocate is assigned by the court as an (unpaid) volunteer advocate to a child(ren) who is abused, neglected, or abandoned. Volunteers ensure that judges have all the information they need to make well-informed decisions for each child. Count the number of eligible individuals matched with a court-appointed special advocate and who received advocacy services during the activity period.</p>	<p>A. Number of eligible individuals matched with a court-appointed special advocate volunteer</p> <p>B. Number of eligible individuals matched with a court-appointed special advocate volunteer and who received services</p>

LOCAL CASA OUTCOMES	DEFINITIONS	QUESTIONS
Program Outcomes		
<p>30. Percentage of programs that implemented CASA National Standards</p> <p>(Program Specific)</p>	<p>The CASA National Standards are a mandatory condition of National CASA Association membership. The standards provide a framework for quality program management. The primary goal of implementing the standards within the national CASA network is to strengthen programs and support their efforts to provide high-quality child advocacy and achieve the maximum level of excellence.</p> <p>Count the number of programs that successfully implemented the CASA National Standards based on feedback received from the returned quality assurance surveys.</p>	<p>A. Number of programs that returned quality assurance surveys</p> <p>B. Number of programs that indicated they successfully implemented the CASA National Standards</p>