

Administrative Office of the Courts
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
NOFA #: N21-0003-25I



Juvenile & Family Services

Court-Appointed Special Advocate Grants

As part of its mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, the Maryland Judiciary receives state funds each year to support Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in Maryland. Grant funds are awarded and managed by Juvenile and Family Services (J&FS). CASA programs train and supervise volunteer advocates who are assigned to serve children who have been found to be Children in Need of Assistance (CINA). The CASA volunteer is considered a friend of the court and is appointed at the judge's discretion to represent the child's best interests.

The CASA Programs are authorized to operate in Maryland subject to approved Standards, and by [Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, §3-830](#).

Grant Purpose

CASA grants are being offered to support the responsibilities of CASA programs as outlined in §3-830. CASA programs train and support volunteer advocates who provide the court with information to aid the court in making decisions in the child's best interest and ensure that the child is provided appropriate case planning and services. These grants are intended to maintain current program services and encourage an increase in capacity in areas of highest need.

Eligible Applicants

Any government/government entities, non-profit organizations, or institutions of higher education administering a CASA program are eligible. In addition, the applicant must be a member in good standing of both the Maryland and the National CASA Association and in compliance with the MD Performance Standards and the [NCASAA standards](#).

Availability and Awards of Funds

The availability of funds is contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the Maryland General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2020. Applicants who are awarded funding will receive notice by the end of May 2020.

Funding Cycle: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Special Requirements

CASA grantees must provide a 100% match for their total grant award. Both cash (at least 75%) and in-kind (no more than 25%) may constitute match. *More details about this requirement are found in the Special Conditions for FY21 CASA Grants.*

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Due: March 27, 2020 (11:59pm)

Documents: Scanned PDF submitted by email only
Email - Subject Line: "CASA, Applicant Name"
(Please submit emails with the Subject Line as described.)

Delivery Address: DJFSGrants@mdcourts.gov

Grant Submission Checklist

The following documents must be submitted as one scanned file:

- Signed CASA Application
- Proposed Budget with Justification
- Support Letters* *CASA programs must provide a support letter from each court they serve.*

**Support Letters can be sent directly from the author. If so, they do not need to be included in the application file.*

Additional Terms & Requirements

[General Grant Conditions](#)
[Special Conditions for FY21 CASA Grants](#)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The application and funding formula have been revised. As a result, a mandatory technical meeting will be held. Applicants can attend in person or via web meeting.

Web Meeting: February 11th @ 1pm

In-Person: January 23rd @ 1pm

Maryland Judicial Center, RM 240

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway,

Annapolis, MD 21401

RSVP to DJFSGrants@mdcourts.gov.

Questions: DJFSGrants@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1262

**APPLICATION FORMS
AVAILABLE HERE**