



# Standing with Children & Families during COVID-19

While its impact is universal, there is widespread evidence to show that the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting the most vulnerable among us the hardest. For children who have experienced abuse or neglect or for those who are at-risk of maltreatment, social isolation and economic uncertainty brought on by COVID-19 has had far-reaching consequences. This includes the disruption of support networks, the suspension of critically important services and foster homes in short supply. For children and families inching closer to reunification and those working to avoid removal altogether, many are facing new obstacles like unemployment and homelessness.

At this unprecedented time, court appointed special advocate (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers have been a critical lifeline for children and families. Having a caring, consistent adult—someone who checks in, follows up, holds the system accountable and puts the child’s best interests before all others’—can make all the difference and help change a child’s story.



## 948

state and local programs serving children and families during the pandemic



## 96,929

CASA and GAL volunteers providing support during these difficult times



## 276,809

children who have experienced abuse or neglect who have had the support of a volunteer during COVID-19

“ Our volunteers are needed to advocate for children and families now more than ever. ”

### TARA LISA PERRY

Chief Executive Officer  
National Court Appointed Special Advocate / Guardian Ad Litem Association For Children

# COVID-19 Impact Snapshot

Throughout the pandemic, the National CASA/GAL Association has provided critical support to programs and volunteers so they can practice effective socially distant best-interest advocacy for children and families.

## EMERGENCY FUNDING



**\$249,350**

in emergency grants to  
42 programs



**\$38,376**

in PPE grants to  
18 programs



**\$23,754**

in technology grants to  
111 programs

## TRAINING



**3,694**

staff trained  
since March



**5,246**

volunteers trained  
since March



**800%**

increase in participants  
per training

## Bright Spot

When COVID-19 hit, many courts went virtual. Now, parents fighting to restore their families aren't having to take an entire day off of work, potentially jeopardizing their job, for their 15 minutes in court. That's progress.

“The situation with COVID-19 has only given us energy to do this work. It has pushed us to use our imagination to continue to advocate for children and families.”

**LOUISE, CASA VOLUNTEER**  
Vancouver, WA



NATIONAL CASA/GAL ASSOCIATION

[nationalcasagal.org/covid-19](https://nationalcasagal.org/covid-19)