

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT



Deidre McCormack Martin, Executive Director, and Verónica Quiñónez, 2023-2024 Board President.

Mission: Family Law CASA advocates for children in custody cases across King County so they have the best chance for a safe, more secure home life, advancing equity for low-income families and significantly reducing the risk of abuse and neglect.

To Our Community -

As we celebrate the end of another year of advocating for children in King County, we have so much gratitude for your partnership and belief in our mission.

We could not be here in our 22nd year as a non-profit without the collective passion and efforts of staff, volunteers, donors and community partners. Together, we are advancing equity for families with low-income and promoting the health and well-being for children so they can thrive!

As we look to our next ten years, staff and board have been discussing what we want our impact to be and who we are ultimately here to serve. Centering equity and the reduction of childhood trauma will continue to be our focus and we have lots of ideas for how we can increase our impact and create a brighter future for kids, families and our entire community.



Pictured: (L-R): Tyreese Johnson (Program Manager) , Deidre McCormack Martin, Jacqueline Balinbin (Event Committee Chair), Malou Chávez (Keynote Speaker and Executive Director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project), and Verónica Quiñónez.

Excitingly, we are about to launch a community advisory board to ensure we have the voices of those most impacted by our work at the table as we determine our future strategy. The group is a cross-section of people with lived experience as people of color, in the justice, family law or child welfare system or who have been doing work with families similar to those involved in our cases.

We look forward to sharing our collective vision and direction with you all later this year and we welcome any thoughts or ideas that you all have.

With Gratitude,

Deidre McCormack Martin, Executive Director

Verónica Quiñónez, Board President

FAMILY LAW CASA VALUES

ADAPTABILITY • COLLABORATION • COMPASSION • EQUITY • GRATITUDE • INTEGRITY • LEVITY • QUALITY

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Key Metrics



168

Children



57

Cases Closed



227

Households

Highlights



90

Reports
Submitted



27

Litigated Trials



175

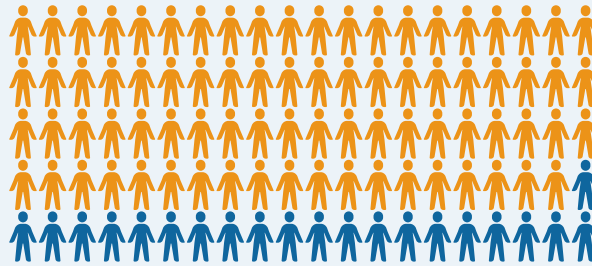
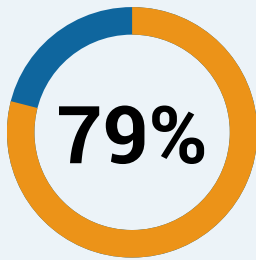
Court Hearing
Appearances



33

Mediation
Contributions

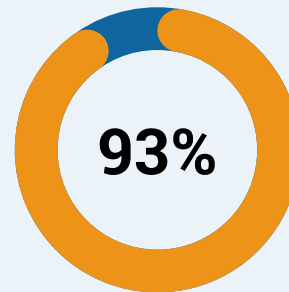




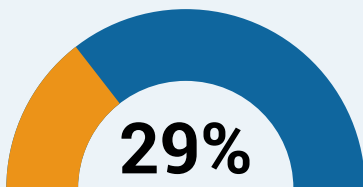
Of the 168 children assigned an advocate, 79% of them were 11 years old or younger.



Over half of the families in Family Law CASA cases couldn't afford attorneys and represented themselves in court pro-se. Our program team assisted with court administration to ensure each child had a final parenting plan focused on their safety.



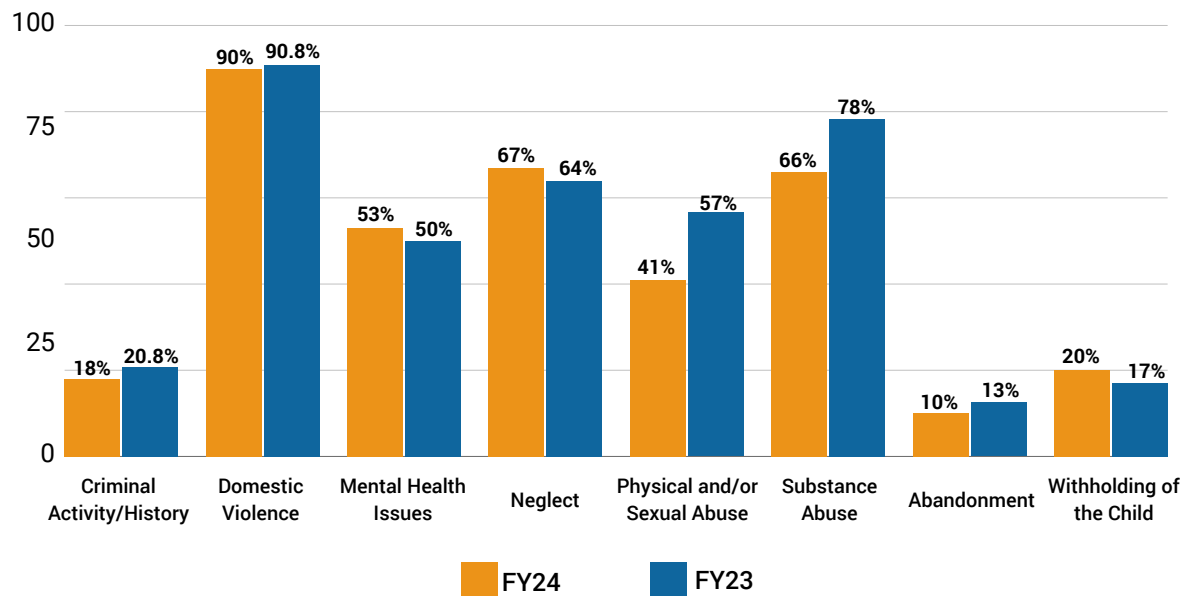
93% of the recommendations made by Family Law CASA were adopted by the court.



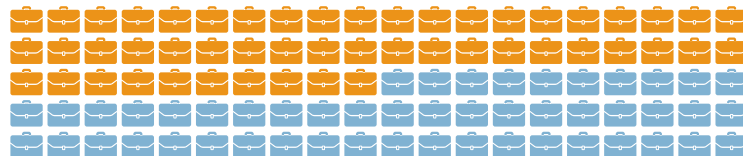
Family Law CASA reports and recommendations helped 29% of assigned families settle their case out of court - avoiding trauma and saving the courts a substantial amount of time and resources.



RISK FACTORS IN CASES ASSIGNED TO FAMILY LAW CASA



The Program Team navigated tough and complicated cases this year, 90% of which involved allegations of domestic violence, 67% neglect, 66% included substance abuse, and 53% mental health issues among other high-risk factors. Most cases involved more than one high-risk factor.



57 OUT OF 114

Family Law CASA managed a caseload of 114 cases, with 57 cases closed during the year.

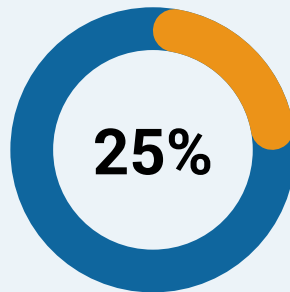


4,910

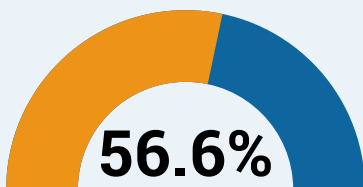
4,910 hours were donated by volunteer advocates to support the cases assigned to Family Law CASA in King County Superior Court.



All of the children in Family Law CASA cases were from low-income households.



Of the 133 active advocates, 25% were BIPOC volunteers. BIPOC advocates are assigned to cases first when possible.



56.6% of families were from communities of color including 15.48% Black/African American, 9.52% Latinx/Hispanic, 5.35% Asian/Pacific Islander, 25% two or more races, and 1.2% Native American/Indigenous.



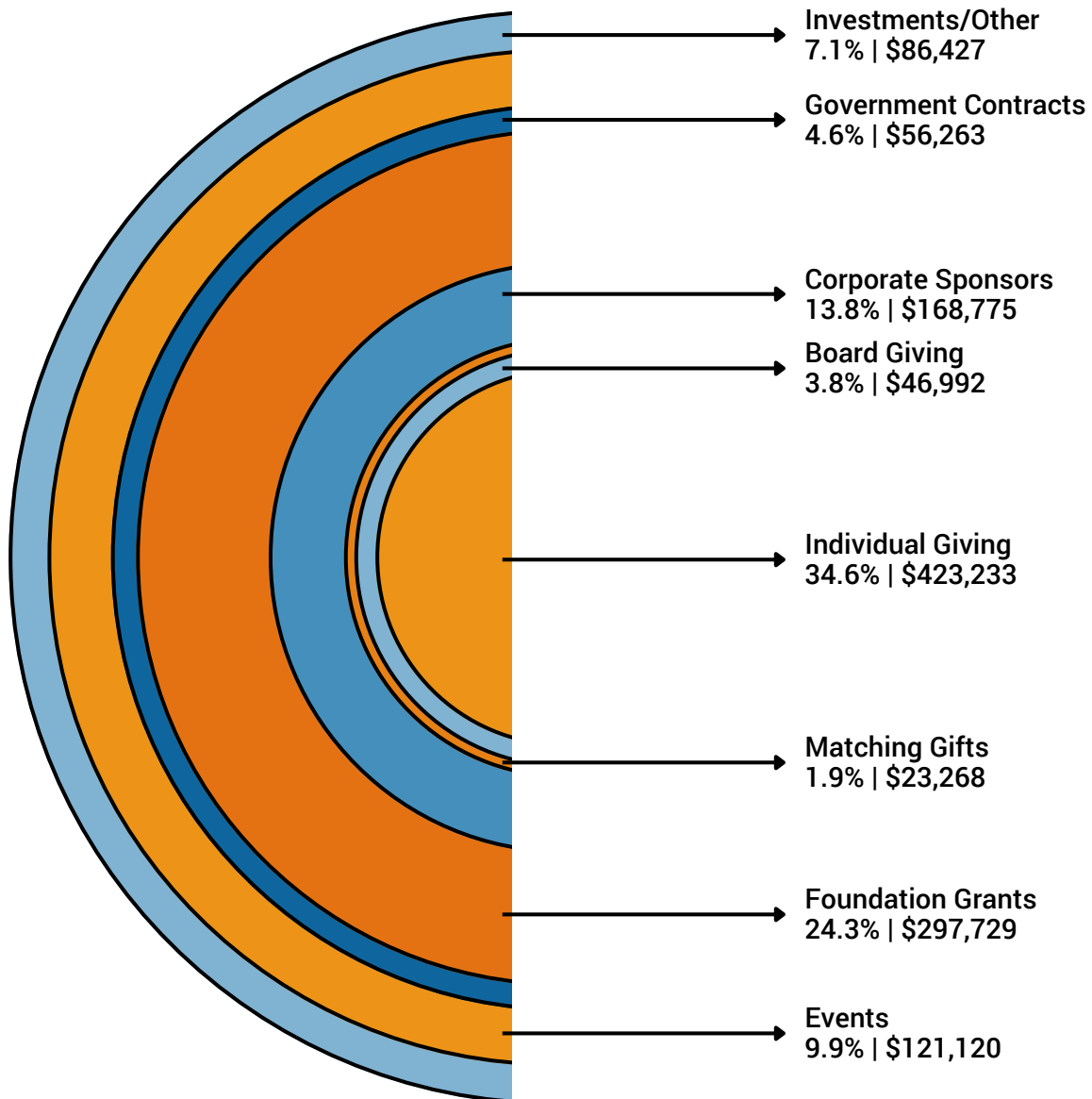
REVENUE



TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,223,807

TOTAL IN-KIND VOLUNTEER HOURS: \$197,744*

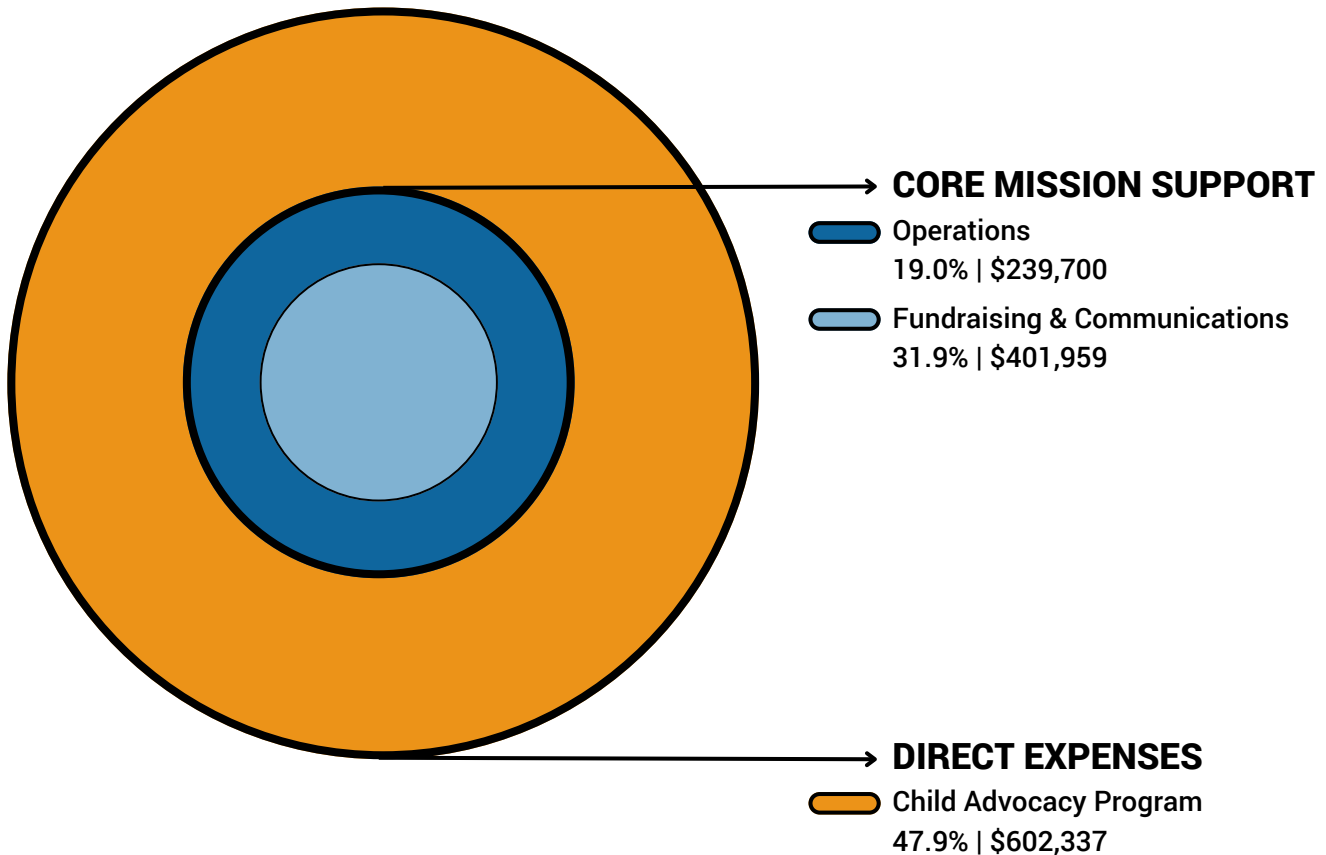
**Not included in below chart.*



EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,258,344



NOTES

- The Family Law CASA Board of Directors approved a deficit budget for FY2024 to fund and sustain capacity for 100-120 cases per year. A draw from the Special Gift reserves covered the deficit.
- Core Mission Support refers to the essential infrastructure that enables Family Law CASA to effectively fulfill our mission and ensures sustainability for our child advocacy program.



ADVOCATING FOR AUSTIN

Austin was a 12-year-old boy facing a turbulent home life. While he lived primarily with his mother, Austin came in contact with his father's excessive drinking and verbal abuse. His father's unpredictable behavior, often fueled by alcohol, led to further emotional distress and conflict.

Austin bravely shared his story with Peter, our dedicated advocate, recounting the aggressive incidents. Peter identified the father's dangerous mix of alcohol and mental health medication, recommending therapy to address these issues and improve his relationship with Austin.

In the end, the judge decided Austin should be able to choose his visitation times with his father. Throughout this case, Austin's resilience and our advocacy highlighted the importance of prioritizing a child's well-being. Family Law CASA remains committed to supporting children like Austin, ensuring their voices are heard.

Disclaimer: The names and precise ages in this story have been changed to protect the privacy and safety of the individuals involved.



DOING RIGHT BY RILEY

Riley was a 3-year-old boy caught in a difficult family situation. For nearly 18 months, Family Law CASA advocated for him as his parents navigated complex issues stemming from their past struggles with substance abuse.

Riley's mother, in recovery and living in a sober home, accused his father of verbal abuse, financial control, and neglect. The father, a recovering alcoholic, had once placed Riley in severe danger by driving intoxicated with him in the car.

The CASA on the case was Lauren, who gathered extensive information, including CPS records and treatment histories. She documented the father's history of neglect and abuse from previous relationships, and highlighted the pattern of coercive control and emotional harm he inflicted on Riley's mother. Lauren's comprehensive report made a compelling case for a domestic violence (DV) restriction to protect Riley and his mother.

Despite the father's current sobriety, Lauren discovered his relapse and the potential dangers it posed to Riley. Her detailed, objective report led to a settlement where the father agreed to complete DV and substance abuse evaluations and treatment before expanding his visitation rights.

This case underscored the importance of thorough, empathetic advocacy in ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children like Riley.

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GIVING KIDS A PLATFORM

This case centers around three children who were 16, 14, and 12 years of age. Their mother sought to modify their 50/50 parenting plan due to their father's alcohol use, which raised safety and emotional abuse concerns.

The CASA, Dave, interviewed the three children and their older sister, giving them a platform to voice their fears about their father's drinking. He also consulted their teachers and medical providers to ensure the children's best interests were prioritized. Dave recommended that the children be allowed to decide if they wanted to spend time with their father and suggested measures to reduce parental conflict.

Due to the compelling evidence in Dave's report, the case concluded with a settlement that prioritized the children's well-being. In a feedback survey, the mother in the case wrote, "Dave was very professional and never showed a sign of preference toward either parent. I appreciated his promptness, his organization, his care of the delicate situation and his wisdom. I appreciate you all very very much. Thank Dave for me."

Disclaimer: The precise ages in this story have been changed to protect the privacy and safety of the individuals involved.

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

