



CASA Programs in California: Annual Report 2010

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by a judge, commissioner, referee, or other bench officer to provide one-on-one advocacy for a child who is under the jurisdiction of the courts owing to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These volunteers spend time with children, ensure that court-ordered services are provided, attend court hearings for children to which they are assigned, and provide child-focused recommendations to the court based on the best interest of the children they serve.

CASA programs were first implemented in 1977 in the state of Washington and in the following year the first CASA program in California began providing services to children. In 1988, legislation amended California's Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 100 et seq., to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines for local CASA programs and a CASA grant program. As a result, the council adopted rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court, which contains mandated requirements for CASA programs. The council works closely with the California CASA Association to ensure that programs are in compliance with both rule 5.655 and National CASA Association standards. The council also established the CASA grant program to ensure funding for a paid administrator for each local CASA program serving the superior courts.

Most CASA programs in California are independent nonprofit agencies. Programs vary by size, number of children served, and services offered. In 2010, 41 local CASA programs provided services in 44 of California's 58 counties. One tribal CASA program served four tribal courts and new programs were developing in three counties. The findings presented in this annual report are from the California respondents to the 2010 Local Program Survey administered by the National CASA Association (n = 41).

Program Highlights

- About **6,660 volunteers** served children in 2010, consistent with the previous year.
- Approximately **9,360 children** were served by CASA volunteers in 2010, a 4 percent increase from 2009 and an almost 22 percent increase since 2006.¹
- In 2010, statewide total program revenue increased slightly (3 percent) to about **\$20,362,500**.
- In 2010, the median cost per child was approximately **\$2,165**.²
- Programs statewide reported about **461,167 donated hours** in service to California's children.³ Donated volunteer hours represent a monetary value of about **\$10,800,531**.⁴

Table 1 shows trends in CASA program services and revenue in California over five years. CASA services have steadily increased during this period, even as revenue has fluctuated. Although the total number of children in foster care has decreased statewide since 2006,⁵ the numbers of CASA volunteers and children served have continued to increase over the same period by more than 20 percent. The number of cases closed by CASA programs has also increased since 2006. Meanwhile, the percentage of cases closed with children placed in a permanent home (reunification, adoption, or guardianship) has remained constant.

Table 1. Annual trends for active volunteers, children served by volunteers, CASA cases closed, and total statewide revenue.

Trend Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change Since 2006
CASA Volunteers						
Total	5,099	5,361	6,068	6,559	6,659	31%
New	1,789	1,793	2,093	2,485	2,237	25%
Children Served						
Total	7,698	8,091	8,874	8991	9360	22%
New	3,273	3,404	3,613	3,733	3574	9%
Closed Cases						
Total	2,528	2,612	2,746	2,994	3126	24%
% closed to permanency	54%	55%	56%	55%	54%	0%
Statewide Revenue						
Total (in millions)	\$18.3	\$18.9	\$20.8	\$19.8	\$20.4	11%

CASA Volunteers

Number of Volunteers

The number of CASA advocates in California remained fairly constant in 2010, with about 6,660 volunteers serving 9,360 children. CASA programs trained 2,237 new volunteers in 2010 who were sworn in by California courts. This figure represents a decrease of 10 percent from the prior year (2,485).

CASA program volunteer capacity varies throughout California. Statewide, programs supervised a median of 116 volunteers serving children in 2010, a decrease of about 10 percent from 2009. Regionally, a median of 58 volunteers served Northern/Central counties and a median 139 volunteers served Bay Area/North Coastal counties, consistent with 2009.⁶ Meanwhile, the median number of volunteers decreased almost 20 percent in Southern counties to 176 volunteers.

CASA volunteers statewide donated a total of 461,167 hours to serve children in 2010, an increase of about 8 percent from 2009. Volunteers contributed a median of 71 hours in 2010.

Volunteer Demographics

CASA programs reported more than half of all CASA volunteers were working either full time (43 percent) or part time (11 percent.) About 18 percent of CASA volunteers were retired, while the

remaining volunteers were either unemployed (11 percent) or students (3 percent), or the employment status was not known (14 percent). CASA volunteers continued to be primarily female (81 percent), non-Hispanic white (69 percent), and more than 40 years old (73 percent.) For more details on the demographics of volunteers in comparison to the children they serve, see Table 3.

Children Served

Number Served

The number of children served by volunteers has steadily increased over the past 5 years, serving about 1,660 more children in 2010 than in 2006. Approximately 9,360 children were served by volunteers throughout 2010, a 4 percent increase from 2009. About 3,570 of those children were new children assigned a CASA in 2010.

Statewide, CASA programs served a median 167 children in 2010, consistent with the prior year. Regionally, Northern/Central programs served a median 82 children, Bay Area/North Coast programs served a median 173 children; and Southern programs served a median 273 children. Many programs in the Northern/Central Region are located in small rural counties with low populations and, therefore, lower dependency populations than the other regions. Conversely, Southern California accounts for more than half the state’s dependency population.

Point-in-time data collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts found that CASA programs served about 10 percent of the children in California’s dependency system in December 2010. One-fourth of all programs served fewer than 9 percent of their county’s dependency system, while one-fourth served more than 46 percent.

CASA programs in California typically follow a “one child, one advocate” program model. However, volunteers may choose to serve more than one child at a time or to serve a sibling group. The median number of children served by one volunteer in 2010 was 1.5.

Case Types Served

In addition to child abuse and neglect cases, 19 programs served children in other types of cases: 2 programs served children in divorce custody cases, and 17 programs served delinquency or dual status cases. Many CASA advocates follow their assigned children if the case is transferred from dependency court to delinquency court. In 2010, the median number of delinquency cases served statewide was 7 cases.

Outcomes at Case Closure

CASA programs reported closing 3,126 cases in 2010, about 4 percent more than in the previous year (2,994). Table 2 describes the most common outcomes for children at CASA program closure or court case closure in 2010.

Table 2. Outcomes at CASA case closure in 2010 (n=3,126).

Outcome at CASA case closure	Children Whose Cases Closed
Reunification	33%
Child aged out of system/emancipation	21%
Adoption	12%
Guardianship	9%
Transferred out of county or state	4%
Non-relative foster care	3%
Relative foster care	3%
Delinquency	2%
Other	13%

More than half of case closures (54 percent) resulted in children placed in a permanent home through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. Meanwhile, the percentage of CASA cases that closed due to emancipation increased to almost 21 percent in 2010, compared to 16 percent in 2009.

Children’s Demographics

In 2010, as reported by the survey, about 67 percent of children served by volunteers were children of color, predominantly Hispanic/Latino (36 percent) and Black/African American (16 percent). The percentage of Hispanic/ Latino and Black/ African American children served was consistent with previous years. As seen in Table 3, racial/ethnic disparities between staff, volunteers, and children continue—particularly for Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American children.

Available point-in-time child welfare data for California as of January 1, 2011, provides a rough comparison to the data on CASA children served (see Table 3).⁷ These data suggest that the race/ethnicity of CASA children served in 2010 did not reflect the general child welfare population in that Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino children, in particular, were underrepresented and white (non-Hispanic) children were overrepresented. At the same time, the data reported by programs in the National CASA Association’s *Annual Survey* also included more than 1,090 children (12 percent) who could not be compared with state child welfare data because of their vague categorization as either “Multiracial,” “Other,” or “Unknown.”⁸

Point-in-time data collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts found that CASA programs served a higher proportion of adolescents than the state’s child welfare population (Table 4). About 62 percent of children served by CASA programs were more than 10 years old compared to only 46 percent of the total children in California’s foster care system.

CASA Staff

Number of Positions

During 2010, CASA programs reported a median of 5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and an FTE range of 0.5 to 32 positions. The average program was staffed by a full-time executive director and at least one full-time volunteer coordinator. The range of volunteer coordinators per program was

Table 3. Percentage of staff, volunteers, children served, and California children in foster care in each gender and racial/ethnic group in 2010. Figures include about 150 children served by CASA program staff.

Demographics	Staff	Volunteer	Children Served	Children in Foster Care ⁷
Gender				
Female	87%	81%	51%	50%
Male	13%	18%	49%	50%
Race/Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	18%	11%	36%	46%
Black/African American	6%	5%	16%	26%
White (non-Hispanic)	69%	70%	32%	24%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4%	5%	2%	3%
Native American	1%	1%	2%	1%
Multiracial	1%	3%	8%	N/A
Other/Unknown	1%	5%	4%	N/A
Statewide Totals	352	6,659	9,508	56,923

Table 4. Age of children served (n = 5,623) compared to children in foster care (n = 56,923).

Age	Children Served	Children in Foster Care
Birth–5 years	16%	34%
6–10 years	22%	20%
11–15 years	36%	26%
16-17 years	20%	15%
18+ years	6%	5%

0 to 18 FTE positions. Three programs did not have a volunteer coordinator position. In 2010, the staff-to-volunteer ratio ranged from 7 to 50, with a median of 31 volunteers per staff member.

Most programs (56 percent) reported a change in the number of staff positions in 2010. More programs increased staff positions (17 programs) than decreased staff (6 programs) a reversal from the previous year. In 2010, 6 programs reduced staff capacity, compared to 14 programs in 2009.

Salaries and Benefits

The median executive director’s salary in 2010, when adjusted for full-time equivalent (FTE) status, was \$68,000 annually. The median salary for volunteer coordinators was \$36,867. Most programs continued to offer some type of benefits package to executive directors (83%) and volunteer coordinators (79%). However, seven executive directors and ten volunteer coordinators were not provided health insurance in 2010. Table 5 provides salary and benefits details by region.

Table 5. Median salary and number of programs providing benefits to executive directors and volunteer coordinators by region.

SALARY & BENEFITS	Bay area/North coastal		Northern/Central		Southern		All programs	
	Executive Director	Volunteer Coordinator	Executive Director	Volunteer Coordinator	Executive Director	Volunteer Coordinator	Executive Director	Volunteer Coordinator
	(n = 14)		(n = 17)	(n = 14)	(n = 10)		(n = 41)	(n = 38)
Median salary	\$77,050	\$41,750	\$53,333	\$35,180	\$75,194	\$36,150	\$68,000	\$36,867
Health	11	11	14	10	9	7	34	28
Dental	10	10	12	9	4	4	26	23
Retirement	5	5	4	1	2	2	11	8
Other	4	3	6	6	4	4	14	13
None	3	3	3	3	1	2	7	8

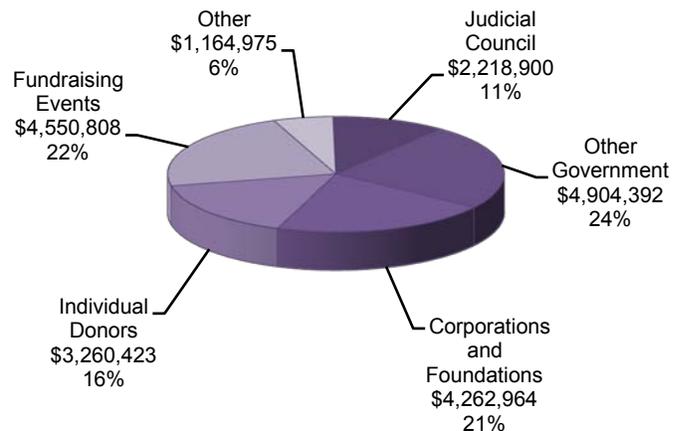
Program Resources

Program Revenue

In 2010, the total revenue⁹ for all programs statewide was \$20,362,462, only 3 percent higher than 2009. Seventeen CASA programs reported decreased revenue in 2010, with a median decrease in revenue of 8.5 percent. Meanwhile, 22 CASA programs reported revenue increases, with a median increase of 12 percent.

CASA programs receive funding from a mixture of public and private sources. Figure 1 details the major revenue sources in 2010; the total amount contributed by these five major sources represents about 94 percent of total statewide funding (\$19,197,487), and “other” sources account for the rest.

Figure 1. Sources of Revenue Statewide in 2010



Public Funding Sources

In 2010, public funding sources accounted for about 35 percent of the total funding for California’s CASA programs. Statewide revenue from public sources totaled about \$7.1 million, about 9 percent higher than 2009 (about \$6.5 million).

The California Judicial Council grant remained the largest single source of public funding. Forty-one CASA programs received more than \$2.2 million from the Judicial Council in 2010, accounting for 11 percent of the total statewide revenue. Federal funding grew significantly by more than 65 percent in 2010 making it the second largest source of CASA funding. Thirty-nine CASA programs received over \$2.1 million in federal funding in 2010, largely due to increases in National CASA Association grants and Title IV-E funding distributed by the California Administrative Office of the Courts. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the National CASA Association significantly increased CASA program grants through federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5). In addition, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-351) extended Title IVE federal funding to CASA volunteer training and California programs began accessing this federal funding source in 2010.

While state and federal funding remained strong, county funding for CASA programs decreased by almost 18 percent from the previous year. Sixteen CASA programs received about \$881,800 from local counties. Similar to 2009, seven programs also received funding from local city governments in 2010. However, the total funding from cities decreased almost 50 percent.

Meanwhile, local court funding remained relatively steady, providing over \$970,000 to 15 CASA programs in 2010, only a 3 percent decrease from the previous year.

Table 6. Detail of funding sources for 2010.

Funding Source	Receiving Programs (n=41)	Median Funding	Total Aggregate Funding	Total Statewide Funding
Public				
State: Judicial Council	41	\$56,100	\$2,218,900	11%
State: Other*	5	N/A	\$819,121	4%
Court	15	\$50,000	\$970,460	5%
County	16	\$50,000	\$881,821	4%
City	7	\$10,601	\$86,801	<1%
Federal: Title IV-E	39	\$8,366	\$515,833	3%
Federal :Non Title IV-E**	26	\$37,750	\$1,630,356	8%
Private				
Foundation grants	30	\$47,180	\$3,195,402	16%
Corporations	26	\$19,743	\$1,067,562	5%
Individual donors	36	\$37,649	\$3,260,423	16%
United Way	14	\$7,523	\$260,322	1%
Community service	19	\$5,000	\$180,166	1%
Kappa Alpha Theta	7	\$5,000	\$31,702	<1%
Church donations	10	\$1,800	\$24,992	<1%
Fundraising				
Fundraising events	34	\$75,995	\$4,550,808	22%
Product sales	8	\$966	\$66,630	<1%
Other sources^	24	\$4,292	\$601,163	3%
Statewide revenue		\$348,093	\$20,362,462	
In-kind donations	30	\$50,394	\$3,149,891	N/A

*Details for non-Judicial Council funding received from the state are not reported.

**Non-Title IVE federal sources include the National CASA Association and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds.

^^Other Sources include investments, IOLTA, sub-leasing, and other various sources.

Private Funding Sources

In 2010, foundation grants, corporate contributions, individual donors, and fundraising events accounted for 60 percent of the total statewide funding for CASA programs. Statewide revenue from these major private sources remained steady from the previous year, totaling just under \$12.1 million.

In 2010, revenue from individual donors increased by almost 15 percent to about \$3.2 million, while the total revenue reported from fundraising events remained constant (\$4.5 million). Meanwhile, foundation and corporate funding decreased significantly. Foundation contributions decreased by 10 percent to almost \$3.2 million, while corporate funding decreased by 17 percent to about \$1.1 million.

Many CASA programs (73 percent) also reported receiving in-kind donations in 2010. Examples of these donations include bookkeeping services, furniture, office supplies, and office space donated by the local court or county. Although these donations do not produce program revenue, they are an important resource for programs. Total in-kind donations increased statewide by about 7 percent in 2010.

Revenue by Program Size

CASA programs in California are diverse in size and local economy. The median program revenue in 2010 was \$348,093. Nine programs reported revenues less than \$150,000 and 11 programs reported revenues more than \$650,000. Small programs serving less than 100 children annually were largely dependent on government funding, while larger programs serving more than 300 children annually reported a more diverse mix of funding sources. Table 7 outlines the median percent of program revenue raised through major funding sources for programs of various sizes.

Table 7. Details of median percentage of major funding sources and number of program recipients by program size.

Annual Children Served	Less than 100 Children		100 – 300 Children		More than 300 Children	
	Median % of revenue	N = 14	Median % of revenue	N = 18	Median % of revenue	N = 9
Government	86%	14	31%	18	23%	9
Foundations	4%	7	22%	16	12%	7
Corporations	5%	4	3%	15	8%	8
Individuals	8%	9	10%	18	15%	9
Fundraising Events	11%	9	19%	16	24%	8
Other	2%	8	5%	14	6%	9

Cost per Child

In 2010, the statewide median cost to provide CASA services to a child was \$2,166 per year, almost 10 percent lower than in 2009. Programs serving more than 200 children annually ($n = 17$) provided CASA services at an even lower median rate of \$1,895.

¹ Comparison with prior year data reflects corrected data and may not match data in the *California CASA Programs 2009 Report*.

² Cost per child is calculated by dividing the total annual expenses by the total number of children served annually.

³ The number of volunteer hours should be viewed cautiously because there is no standardized method for collecting such data.

⁴ Total number of hours multiplied by \$23.42 (Independent Sector's California 2009 rate for the value of a volunteer hour).

⁵ Data about children in foster care in California was taken from the Child Welfare Dynamic Report System website, a California Department of Social Services/University of California, Berkeley collaboration. Needell, B., et al. (2011). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved 10/17/2011, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare>

⁶ Program regions are aligned with the California Administrative Office of the Courts' designated regions (see Appendix 2).

⁷ *Ibid.* 5

⁸ The Administrative Office of the Courts' report *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Courts: An Assessment* (2008) executed a detailed multi-categorical methodology and found that when multiracial Black/African American children are included with children identified solely as Black/African American, the disparity of CASA service for Black/African American children lessened significantly. However, the study continued to find that Hispanic/Latino children were underserved by CASA.

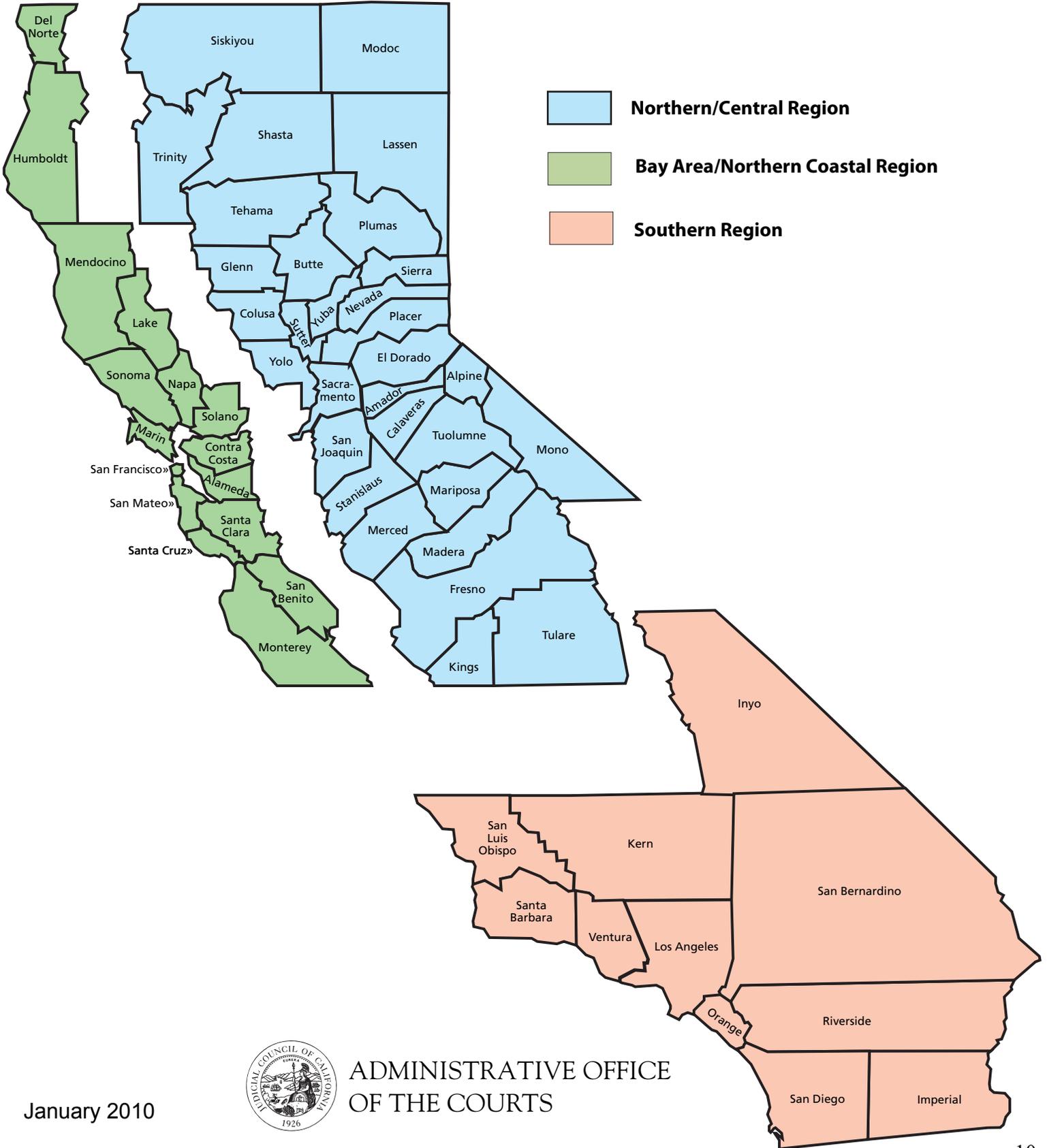
⁹ Respondents to the local program survey for calendar year 2010 were asked to report program revenue for their most recent fiscal year, typically July 2009–June 2010.

Appendix 1

Program respondents included in data set in 2010 (n = 41)

County	Program Name
Alameda	Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Alameda County CASA Program
Amador	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Amador County CASA Program
Butte/Glenn	Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, Inc., CASA of Butte and Glenn Counties
Contra Costa	CASA of Contra Costa County
Del Norte	CASA of Del Norte
El Dorado	CASA El Dorado County
Fresno/Madera	CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties
Humboldt	CASA of Humboldt County
Imperial	CASA of Imperial County
Kern	CASA of Kern County
Lassen	Lassen Family Services Inc., Lassen County CASA
Los Angeles	CASA of Los Angeles
Marin	Marin Advocates for Children, Marin CASA Program
Mariposa	CASA of Mariposa County
Mendocino/Lake	CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties
Modoc	T.E.A.C.H., Modoc CASA Program
Monterey/San Benito	CASA of Monterey County/San Benito County
Napa	CASA, A Voice for Children
Nevada	Child Advocates of Nevada County
Orange	CASA of Orange County, Inc.
Placer	Child Advocates of Placer County
Plumas	Plumas Crisis Intervention Resource Center, Plumas County CASA
Riverside	CASA for Riverside County, Inc.
Sacramento	Sacramento CASA Program, Inc.
San Bernardino	Child Advocates of San Bernardino County
San Diego	Voices for Children, Inc., San Diego CASA
San Francisco	San Francisco CASA
San Joaquin	The San Joaquin Child Abuse Prevention Council, CASA of San Joaquin County
San Luis Obispo	CASA of San Luis Obispo, Inc.
San Mateo	CASA of San Mateo County
Santa Barbara	CASA of Santa Barbara County
Santa Clara	Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
Santa Cruz	CASA of Santa Cruz County
Shasta	Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, Inc., CASA of Shasta County
Siskiyou	Siskiyou County CASA Program
Solano	CASA of Solano County
Sonoma	CASA of Sonoma County
Stanislaus	CASA of Stanislaus County
Tulare	CASA of Tulare County
Ventura	CASA of Ventura County
Yolo	Yolo County Court Appointed Special Advocates

Administrative Office of the Courts Regional Map



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

Methodology

This report summarizes data submitted by all of California's 41 local CASA programs serving the Superior Courts as part of the National CASA Association 2010 local program survey. The data discussed represents all 41 programs that responded to the survey, unless otherwise noted. All tables and charts note the number of respondents ($n = xx$) for the data represented. The data in this report may vary from the data submitted to National CASA because of follow-up efforts regarding erroneous or missing data; in these instances, data errors were largely corrected, and the corrected data is reflected in this report.

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