

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of East Central Wisconsin



During the Covid19 pandemic, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) experienced unprecedented challenges and financial losses impacting services to Manitowoc County's most vulnerable youth - abused and neglected children.

CASA of East Central Wisconsin

40 children served

81 unserved

200% INCREASE in children in need of protection over the last 6 years

-\$48,000 Loss of funding due to the pandemic

IN ADDITION \$130,000 required to meet the need



"Child welfare has seen delays with cases getting to permanency due to pandemic related court delays"

"It is anticipated these delays will have a domino effect for the next 3 years as CHIPS court time competes with criminal and other court hearings to be resolved. CASA offers eyes and ears to support some of the cases in Out of Home Care at this moment."

-A County Director of HHS

"CASA will offer children in out of home care additional 1:1 support during the pandemic and work to shorten the gap to permanency."

-A County Director of HHS

"The benefits of this program to the children unfortunate enough to be involved in the court system are immeasurable. Dedicated CASA volunteers quickly become the most reliable adult in many of these children's lives. To have a person who demonstrably cares about these children is, in and of itself, worth the effort, but the benefits do not end there. To have an additional resource able to provide information from an exclusively child-centered viewpoint supplements the information the overburdened social workers are able to provide and provides a different perspective."

- A Manitowoc County Judge

Challenges

- Cancelled events
- Delay in court proceedings
- Projected & actual decreases in funding
- Children are remaining in out of home placement longer
- Surge in children coming into care as schools and daycare centers reopen
- Staff time increased due to case complexity - funding needed to build capacity

Pandemic has increased

- The number of children on wait lists to be served by a CASA
- Wait times for children achieving permanency
- Wait times for court proceedings