



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Every child deserves a voice.

www.montanacasagal.org



Montana CASA/GAL Association's mission is to empower advocacy for abused and neglected children.



1,636

Montana children served

567

CASA Volunteer Advocates

“Montana CASA is one of our giving priorities because it ensures a direct positive impact on the well-being of abused and neglected children in Montana. We are grateful for the commitment of the volunteer advocates and dedicated staff. They are the best.”

-Long-time MTCASA Supporter Laura Brehm

A Story of Hope: Alyssa's Story from CASA of Missoula



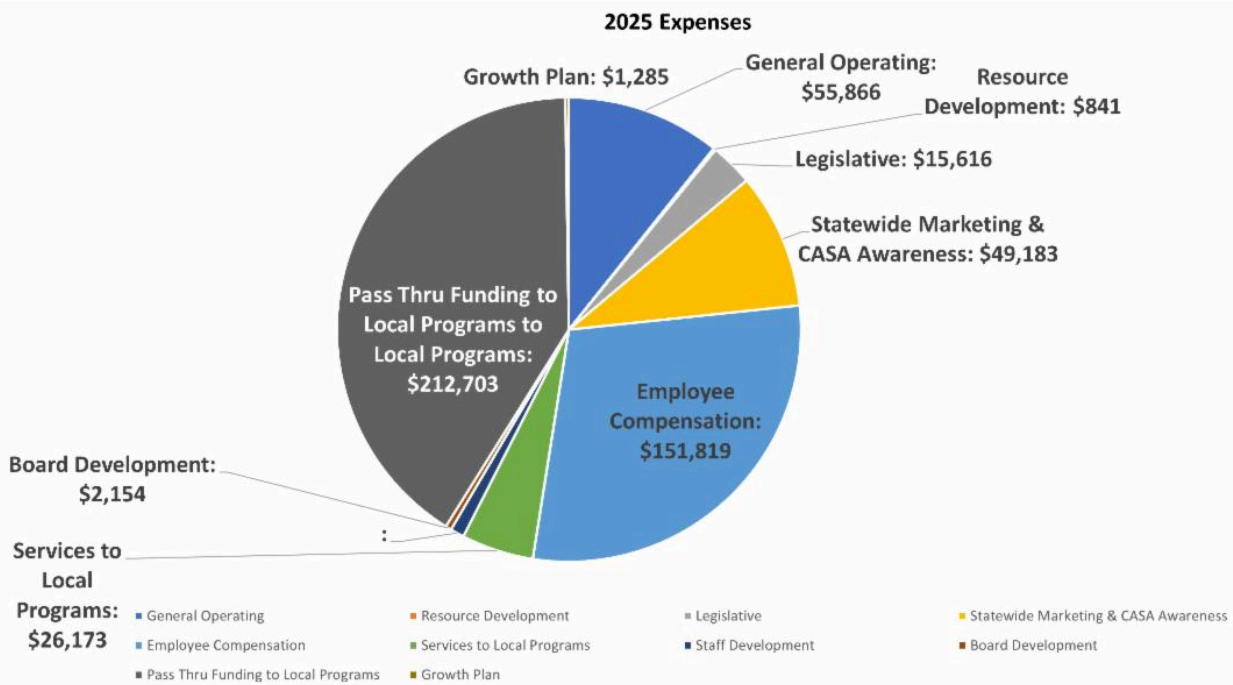
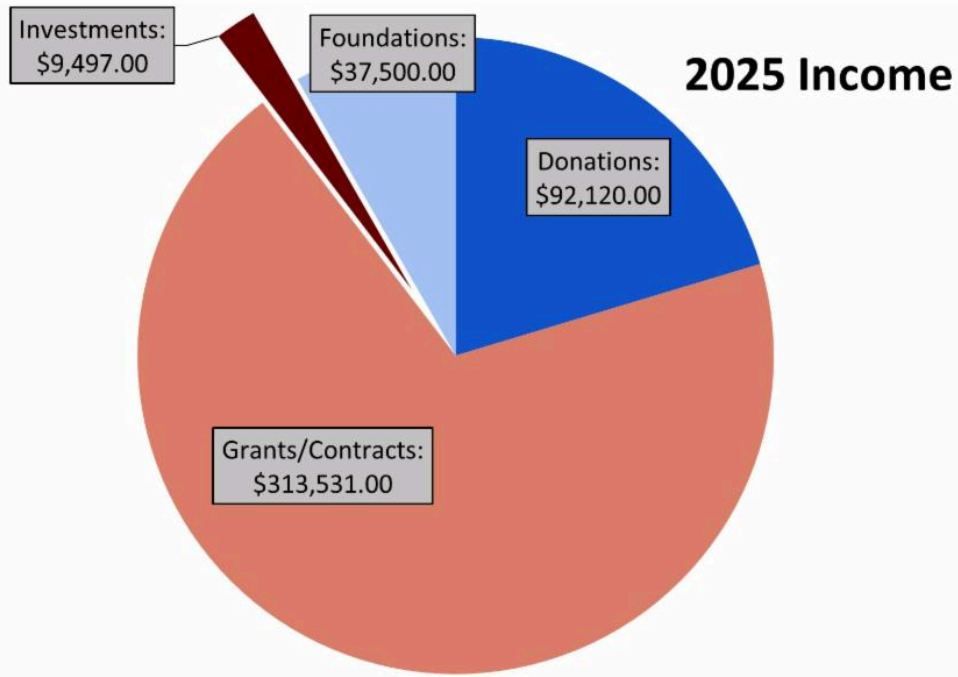
Alyssa grew up without stability—moving through foster homes after being born to an incarcerated mother. By her teens, her parents’ rights were terminated, and she battled addiction before landing in juvenile detention with nowhere to go.

Everything changed when she met her CASA, Jen—someone who showed up, advocated for her, and became the first adult Alyssa could truly rely on. With Jen’s support, Alyssa found the belief and stability she needed to turn her life around.

Today, she’s a college freshman studying Sociology, having graduated high school and earned recognition for her essay on the foster youth-to-prison pipeline. Their bond remains strong—“best friends for life.”

Montana CASA helps make stories like Alyssa’s possible by helping ensure local programs have the capacity to recruit and train advocates like Jen—trusted adults who ensure every child has someone fighting for their future.

2025 Financial Overview



MTCASA Statewide Social Media Outreach Overview

Engagement at a Glance

👁️ **1.6+ Million**
Content Views

❤️ **1,748**

Content Interactions
(likes, comments, shares, saves)

🔗 **677**

Direct Link Clicks
(volunteers, events, resources)

👤 **3,436**

Profile & Page Visits



2025 Year In Review



By April Barnings, Executive Director of MTCASA

The year 2025 brought significant federal and state funding challenges and uncertainty for child advocacy work across Montana. Despite these obstacles, MTCASA and the Montana CASA Network persevered, grew, and continued to serve children. Through collaboration, strengthened relationships, and a renewed focus on capacity-building, we met funding challenges and courtroom uncertainty head-on—always guided by what is best for abused and neglected children.

Key 2025 Accomplishments:

Expanded Resource Development

MTCASA hired a Resource Development Officer to pursue new funding sources, training opportunities, and educational resources to support both the state organization and local CASA programs.

Established a New Local Program

MTCASA led and coordinated the creation of CASA of Butte–Silver Bow County, a new local program preparing to train advocates to serve approximately 100 children in the community.

Strengthened Statewide Leadership & Representation

MTCASA represented local programs across multiple statewide initiatives and advisory groups, including the Indian Child Welfare Act Work Group, Moving the Dial, the Child and Family Services Advisory Council, and the Children’s Justice Act Advisory Council—ensuring CASA perspectives inform child welfare decisions.

Advanced Child-Centered Legislation

Provided critical information to Montana legislators that helped shape the first-ever Dependent Neglect legislation defining *The Best Interests of the Child* in Montana State Code, as well as clarifying the role of CASA in court proceedings.

Continued...

Secured Government Funding Opportunities

Collaborated with national and state leaders to protect and expand access to current government funding for all Montana CASA local programs.

Launched a Statewide Awareness & Volunteer Campaign

Implemented a comprehensive outreach campaign using billboards, television, digital media, and social platforms to raise awareness—particularly in underserved areas—and increase volunteer recruitment. The goal: ensure every child who needs a CASA has one.

Invested in Training & Network Sustainability

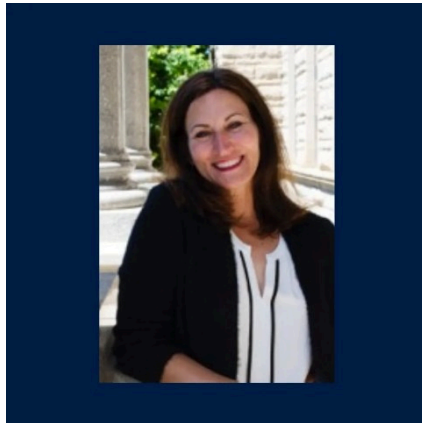
Delivered statewide trainings and leadership coaching for CASA staff, advocates, and board members through webinars, in-person site visits, and the Annual MTCASA Conference—strengthening service quality and long-term network success.

None of this work would have been possible without the financial support, partnerships, and shared commitment of communities across Montana and beyond. We are deeply grateful to all who stand with us in empowering advocacy for abused and neglected children.

Thank you for providing hope—and making a lasting difference—for so many.



Looking Forward in 2026



By MTCASA Board Chair Laura Dever

We are a statewide, non-profit board that works with the local CASA programs, and with National CASA, to provide support, advocacy, training and networking for CASA staff and volunteers.

To continue our mission in 2026, our new (and first!) Resource Development Officer, Allie Harrison, is focused on expanding and diversifying our funding streams. We're welcoming new board member Dee Incoronato, and extending thanks to departing board member Shannon Parker for her service. And, after many years of hard work, planning and preparation, the brand new CASA of Butte Silver Bow program will be operational this year! Many heartfelt thanks to April, our Executive Director, and the CASA Butte Silver Bow Board of Directors for the vision and drive to create this new and much needed local CASA program.

In September, we'll hold our annual CASA Conference in Missoula to provide education, training and networking opportunities to all of the Montana CASA programs and volunteers. The conference also welcomes stakeholders and individuals involved in children's advocacy, and anyone interested in learning more about CASA work in our courts and communities. Our annual Board work retreat takes place following the Conference. And the MT CASA Gal Association will also host - for the first time - the biannual CASA State Directors Conference in Missoula in June.

All year long, the MT CASA Gal Association staff and Board of Directors work to support and expand the amazing local programs and volunteers who advocate for the best interests of Montana children in the dependency and neglect court system. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of our work: it makes all the difference to the kids that need it the most.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



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We look forward to another great year!