



Overview of the PMT Data for Court-Appointed Special Advocates Program Grants: July–December 2017

The Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The CASA program ensures that abused and neglected children receive high-quality representation in dependency-court hearings. It also seeks to serve and improve outcomes for children in the dependency system; provide effective advocacy for abused and neglected children, including foster care youth; and fund programs that support cultural diversity and competency.

CASA programs build on the training and technical assistance (TTA) program that OJJDP developed in collaboration with the National CASA Association (NCASA). Under this program, OJJDP provides TTA to local and state providers to support existing and new CASA programs across the nation. The program serves communities where representation rates are low, the numbers of abused and neglected children are high, and service systems do not meet the needs of families and children. The program also offers TTA assistance for volunteer advocate recruitment and retention, volunteer advocate training, diversity, data collection and reporting, sustainability, and program standards.

Report Highlights

This report is an overview of the Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) data for CASA grantees during the July–December 2017 reporting period. Performance measures help OJJDP determine whether the federal program has achieved its goals and objectives and may be used to improve program and policy decisions at the federal level. The report is divided into two sections:

1. An examination of program information for CASA grantees.
2. An analysis of CASA performance measures.

Key findings from the analysis for the July–December 2017 reporting period include:

- There was one active grantee with a federal award amount of \$13,029,438.
- The total ratio for the number of volunteer advocates to children was 1 to 2.
- Of the total number of volunteer advocates recruited, 15 percent were new volunteers.
- There were 80,281 children served.
- 23 percent of the children served were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time.

- Among the total number of CASA-served youth who left foster care, 65 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship.

1. Examination of Program Information

1.1 Reporting Compliance

Grantees are required to report semiannually for each active federal award. Table 1, below, presents the reporting compliance rate of active federal awards. During the July–December 2017 reporting period, the CASA grantee completed the PMT reporting requirement.

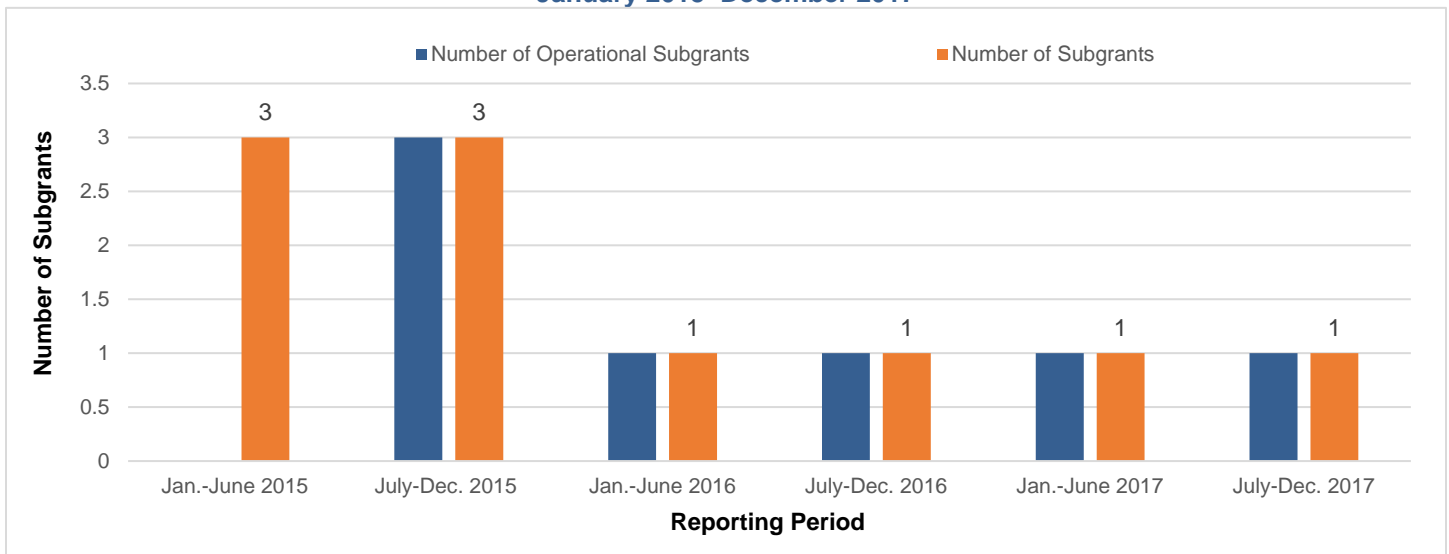
Table 1. Status of CASA Program Reporting by Reporting Period: July–December 2017

Data Reporting Period	Status				
	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Total	Percent
July–December 2017	0	0	1	1	100%

1.2 Subgrants

The number of operational subgrants has varied across all reporting periods (figure 1). During the January–June 2015 reporting period, there were no operational subgrants. Therefore, that reporting period has been excluded from the analysis of program measures in the second part of this report. During the July–December 2017 reporting period, there was one operational subgrant, which reported aggregated data for multiple local CASA programs.

Figure 1. Total Subgrants Versus Number of Operational Subgrants by Reporting Period: January 2015–December 2017



1.3 Diversity Matrix

Table 2 presents demographics of volunteer advocates and children. The table’s diversity matrix allows NCASA’s subrecipients to show the number of volunteer advocates to children by race, ethnicity, or cultural group, as well as the ratio of volunteers to children. These data are collected from activities from multiple local CASA programs.¹ During the July–December 2017 reporting period, the total ratio for Caucasian/Non-Latino was 1 to 1 while the ratio for African Americans was 1 to 5; 1 to 8 for Native Americans; and 1 to 12 for Multiracial, suggesting the need for a larger number of volunteer advocates for these groups. Since the previous reporting period, the volunteer to children ratio for Hispanic/Latinos improved from 1 to 4 during the January–June 2017 reporting period to 1 to 2 for the current reporting period, and Asian/Pacific Islanders continued to have a surplus of volunteer advocates.² The total ratio for number of advocates to number of children was 1 to 2.

Table 2. Diversity Matrix: July–December 2017

Race/Ethnicity/ Cultural Group	Number of Volunteer Advocates ³	Number of Children	Ratio Volunteers:Children
African American	3,620	18,682	1:5
Asian/Pacific Islander	686	292	2:1
Caucasian/Non-Latino	28,654	36,130	1:1
Hispanic/Latino	3,425	7,034	1:2
Multiracial ⁴	457	5,372	1:12
Native American	145	1,103	1:8
Other ⁵	0	0	0:0
Do not know	965	11,668	1:12
Total	37,952	80,281	1:2

¹ The CASA subgrantee reported aggregated data for multiple local CASA programs.

² Reference [January–June 2017 CASA Performance Report Table 2. Diversity Matrix](#)

³ Adults may be self-identified.

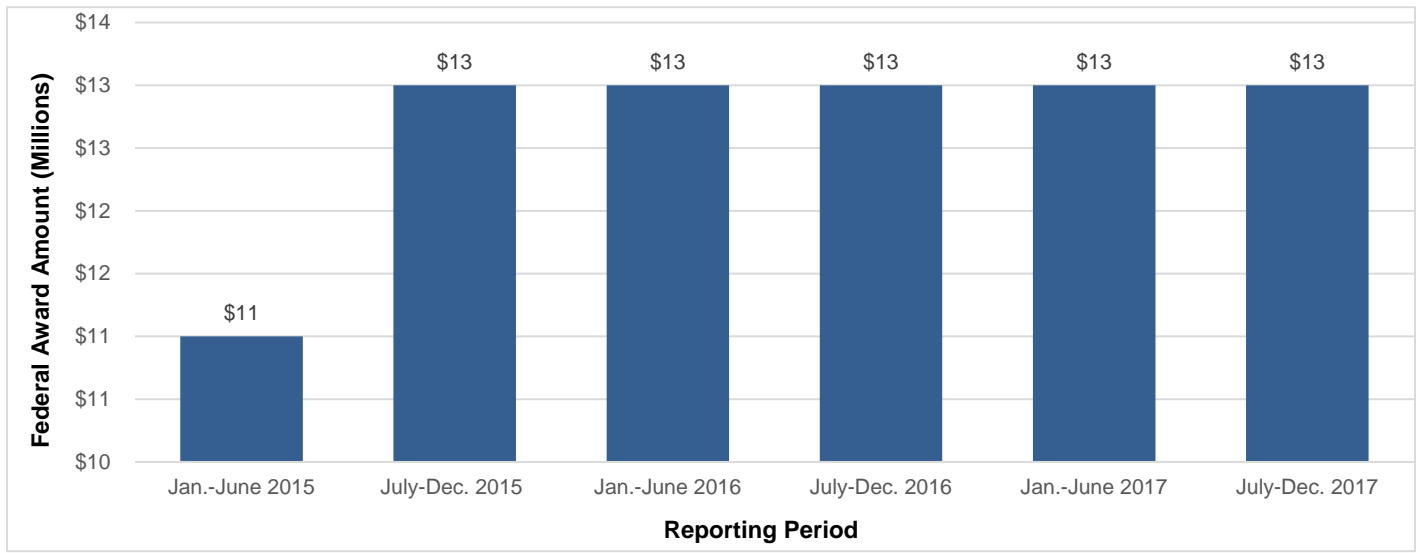
⁴ Multiracial is selected if a person identifies in more than one group.

⁵ Count of people who identified in all other racial, ethnic, or cultural groups.

1.4 Federal Award Amount

Figure 2 shows the total federal award amount across the past six reporting periods. There was only one grant recipient, so the federal award amount has remained the same over the past five reporting periods. During the July–December 2017 reporting period, the federal award amount was \$13,029,438.⁶

Figure 2. Federal Award Amount by Reporting Period: January 2015–December 2017



2. Analysis of Performance Measures

2.1 Youth Served

During this reporting period, 80,281 children were served by the CASA grant program. The program also tracked the number of new children who started receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services. As shown in table 3, below, of the total number of children served, 23 percent ($n=18,496$) were receiving CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time, indicating a decrease of two percent compared to the previous reporting period.⁷

Table 3. Total Number of Children Served: July–December 2017

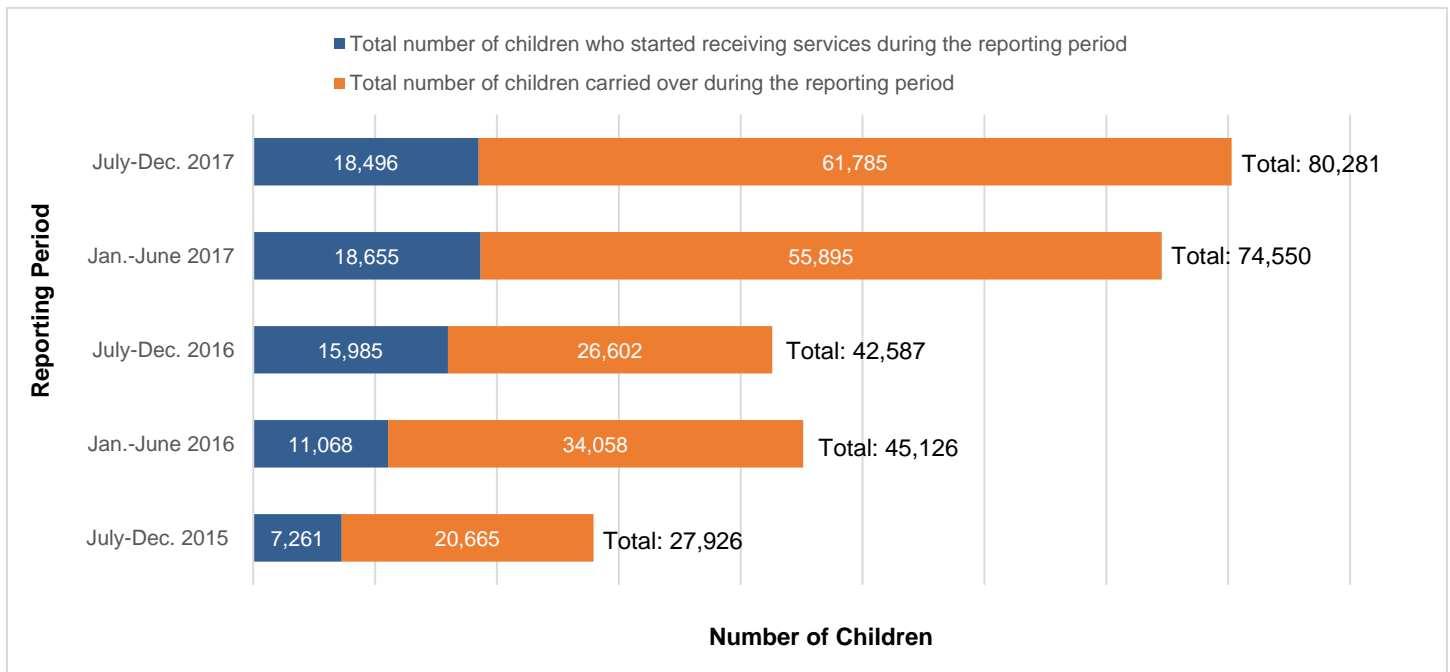
Performance Measure	Number
Total number of children who started receiving services	18,496
Total number of children served	80,281
Percentage of children who started receiving services	23%

⁶ Funding amounts represent the total funding for the life of the award and does not represent actual grantee spending during the reporting period.

⁷ Reference [January–June 2017 CASA Performance Report Table 3. Total Number of Children Served](#)

Figure 3 presents data for the number of children served and the number of children who started receiving services per reporting period since July 2015. The number of children served has steadily increased since the July–December 2015 reporting period. During the reporting period, there was an eight percent increase in total number of children served when compared to the previous reporting period.

Figure 3. Number of Children Served by Reporting Period: July 2015–December 2017



2.2 Volunteer Advocates

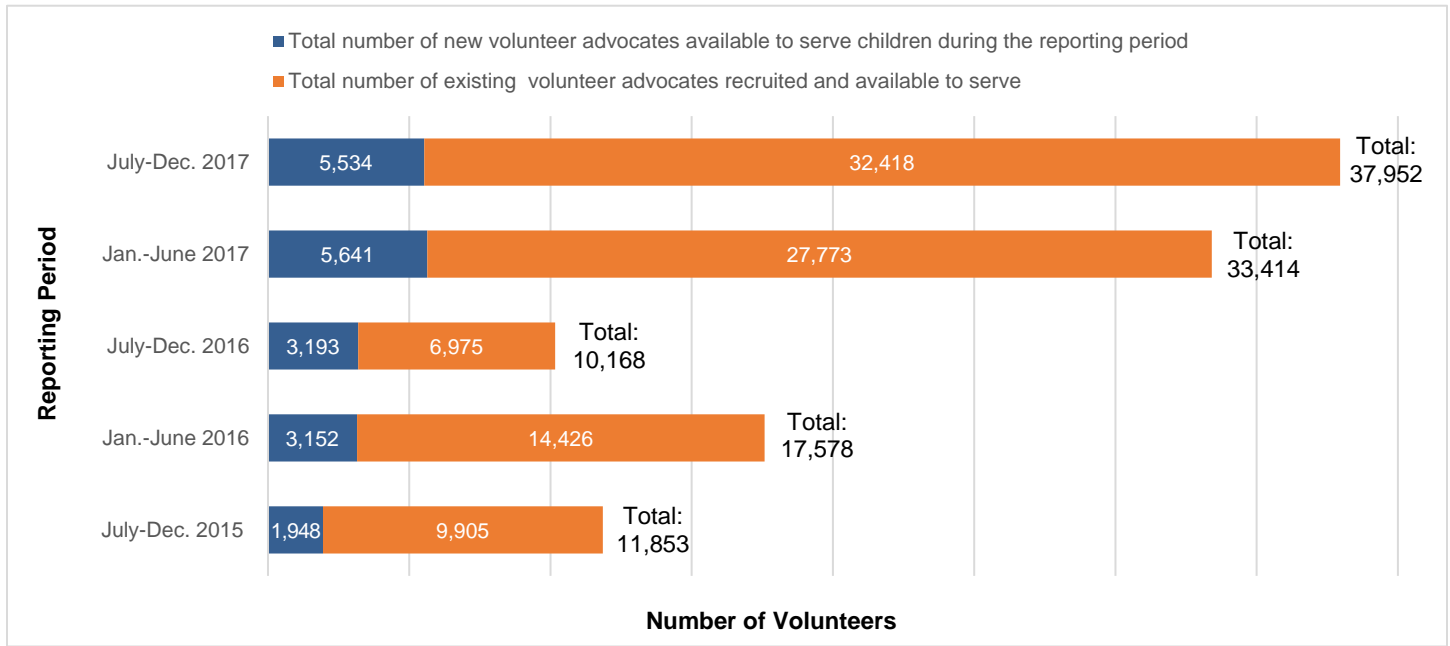
Table 4 presents the number of new and existing volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve children for the current reporting period. Among the total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve, 15 percent ($n = 5,534$) were new volunteers (table 4).

Table 4. Total Number of New Volunteer Advocates: July–December 2017

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of new volunteer advocates available to serve children	5,534
Total number of volunteer advocates recruited and available to serve (new and existing)	37,952
Percentage of new volunteer advocates	15%

Figure 4 presents data for the number of new and existing volunteer advocates since July 2015. The current reporting period had the largest number of new and existing volunteer advocates serving the CASA program (with a slight decrease in the number of new volunteer advocates since the previous reporting period).

Figure 4. Number of New and Existing Volunteer Advocates by Reporting Period: July 2015–December 2017



2.3 Local CASA Programs

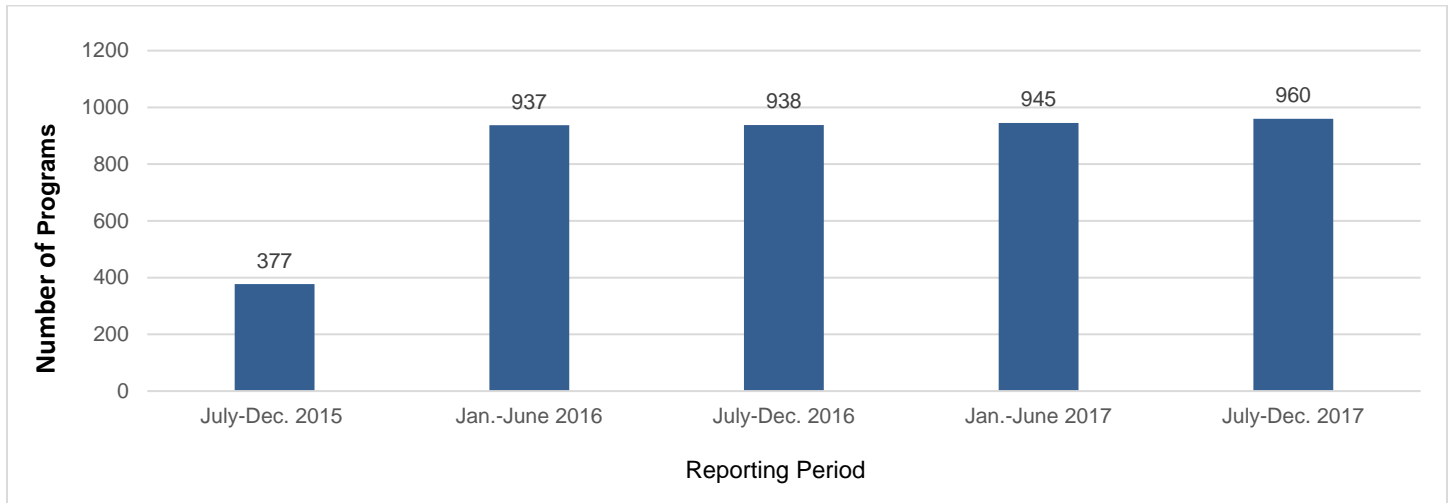
Table 5 presents data for the number of active and new CASA local programs implemented by subgrantees during the reporting period. Of the total number of active local programs ($n = 960$), 1 percent ($n = 9$) were new local CASA programs.

Table 5. Number of Active and New CASA Programs: July–December 2017

Performance Measure	Number
Total number of active local CASA programs	960
Total number of active new local CASA programs	9
Percentage of new local CASA programs	1%

Figure 5, below, shows the total number of local CASA programs active since the July–December 2015 reporting period. There was a 149 percent increase from the July-December 2015 reporting period to the next reporting period, and the number of active local CASA programs has steadily increased with the current reporting period having the largest number of active local CASA programs ($n = 960$) followed by the previous reporting period ($n = 945$).

Figure 5. Number of Active Local CASA Programs by Reporting Period: July 2015–December 2017



2.4 Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect

The CASA program also tracked short and long-term child abuse or neglect for youth served in the program.⁸ As shown in table 6, 80,281 youth were served during the current reporting period. All of the youth served by the CASA program reported instances of substantiated child abuse or neglect (which qualifies them for CASA services).

Table 6. Short Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2017

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth served	80,281
Number of those youth served with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	80,281
Percentage of youth with a current report of substantiated child abuse or neglect	100%

⁸ Short-term is defined as an unduplicated count of the number of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect served during the reporting period. Long-term refers to an unduplicated count of the number of youth who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse and/or neglect who ended services 6–12 months previous to the current reporting period.

Table 7 presents the number of youth tracked for child abuse or neglect over the long-term. The long-term data reflect a drastic reduction in reported child abuse or neglect reports since they are reported 6–12 months following completion of the program. Of the 18,757 youth who ended services 6–12 months before the current reporting period, just 2 percent had substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect ($n=411$), which remains consistent with the previous reporting period.⁹ It is worth noting that due to the nature of the programs enacted by the grantees, it is difficult to maintain contact with all youth served over long periods of time, and many grantees are unable to report on long-term measures. Therefore, the small percentage could potentially be attributed to difficulty tracking youth long-term.

Table 7. Long-term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect: July–December 2017

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of youth who ended services 6–12 months previous to the reporting period	18,757
Number of those youth who ended services 6–12 months previous to the reporting period with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	411
Percentage of youth with substantiated child abuse or neglect reports	2%

2.5 CASA Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship

Performance measures also capture the number and percent of youth who exited CASA programs and were reunited with their families, were adopted or were provided with legal guardianship. An important goal of the CASA program is to provide a path for children to find a permanent placement. Reunification is the preferred permanent placement, followed by adoption and legal guardianship. Reunification requires parental engagement in reunification services and progress in meeting case outcomes. If reunification is not possible, the program advocates for the next most permanent placement involving kinship care (strong network to support relative caregivers). Adoption is an appropriate permanency plan when the parents are unable to safely care for the child, reunification is not in the child’s best interest, or when permanent legal separation from the birth family is sanctioned by the court. Relatives and non-relatives may be selected as the adoptive resource and termination of parental rights must occur. Lastly, permanent guardianships are granted to a relative or non-relative for a child who is unlikely to return home and when adoption is not in the best interest of the child. Guardianships do not sever birth parents’ rights/responsibilities, and guardianships maintain bond/connections between child and family.¹⁰ As shown in Table 8, among the total number of CASA youth who left foster care during the current reporting period, 65 percent ($n = 13,559$) exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal

⁹ Reference [January–June 2017 CASA Performance Report Table 7. Long-Term Performance Data on Substantiated Child Abuse or Neglect](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.gacasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Path-to-Permanency.pdf>

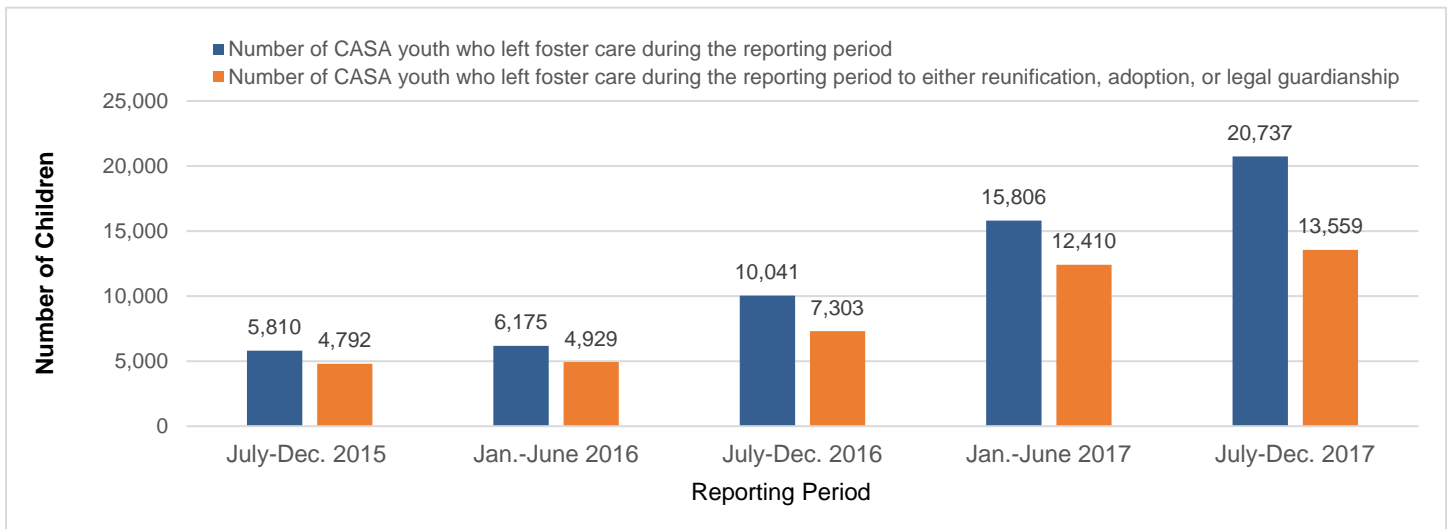
guardianship. This reflects a 14 percent decrease compared to the previous reporting period.¹¹ Note: sometimes children age out of the foster care system and exit the program before they are able to obtain a path to permanency.

Table 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship: July–December 2017

Performance Measure	Number of Youth
Number of CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care	20,737
Number of those CASA youth, at the time of their most recent entry into foster care, who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship	13,559
Percentage of CASA youth who left foster care to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship	65%

Additionally, over the last four reporting periods, the number of children exiting CASA programs, including youth exiting to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship has been steadily increasing reaching a total of 13,559 children for the current reporting period (figure 6). Although the number of youth exiting the program during the current reporting period is higher than the previous reporting period, the percentage of children who exited to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship dropped from 79 percent (during the January–June 2017 reporting period) to 65 percent (during the July–December 2017 reporting period).

Figure 6. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship, by Reporting Period: July 2015–December 2017



¹¹ Reference [January–June 2017 CASA Performance Report Table 8. Number of Children Who Exited CASA Programs to Reunification, Adoption, or Legal Guardianship](#)

Summary

During the July–December 2017 reporting period, the CASA program had one active grant with a federal award amount of \$13,029,438. Further examination of program information for the July–December 2017 reporting period, including the ratio of volunteer advocates for children by race, ethnicity, or cultural group, revealed the need for a larger number of African American, Native American, and Multiracial volunteer advocates. The volunteer to children ratio for Hispanic/Latinos improved from 1 to 4 during the January–June 2017 reporting period to 1 to 2 for the current reporting period, and Asian/Pacific Islanders continued to have a surplus of volunteer advocates. Looking at the information from the performance measure data, the number of children served by the CASA programs has steadily increased since the July–December 2015 reporting period; there was an 8 percent increase in children served since the previous reporting period. A total of 80,281 children were served during the July–December 2017 reporting period, and 23 percent of those children received CASA volunteer advocacy services for the first time. The CASA Program has had a long-term impact on youth who participated in the program with only two percent of youth who ended services 6–12 months before the current reporting period having substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect, remaining consistent with the previous reporting period. However, the low percentage could potentially be attributed to the challenge of tracking youth in the long-term. Additionally, of the total number of CASA youth who left foster care, 65 percent exited CASA programs to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship; reflecting a 14 percent drop since the previous reporting period. This is an important measure of the CASA program since a major goal is to provide a path for children to find permanent placements. The drop could potentially be attributed to a larger number of children who aged out of the system before they were able to find permanent placements.