

National CASA's Policy on Diversification

It is the goal of the National CASA Association to have a CASA/GAL volunteer for every abused and neglected child who needs one by the year 2000. In order for CASA/GAL volunteers to represent the best interests of children in juvenile and family court proceedings, they must be cognizant of and sensitive to the child's frame of reference, including his/her heritage, culture, ethnicity, religion, and family structure. Volunteers must also be able to communicate sensitively with the child and his/her family and in turn communicate the child's needs to the court.

Because we live in a multicultural society, an inclusive CASA/GAL network must also be multicultural. Each CASA/GAL must strive to achieve a volunteer base that reflects children in the judicial and child welfare systems as well as its community. Volunteer service must be made more accessible to all individuals regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic situation, or disability. Cultural awareness and competency must be an integral component of all training for board, staff, and volunteers.

As a diverse organization CASA/GAL can better represent and advocate for the children we serve and have a far greater impact on the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Therefore, it is the objective of NCASAA to achieve diversity of the CASA/GAL network in its policies, board and staff composition, committee activities, management plan, publications, resource materials, speakers bureau, and in its training and technical assistance activities.

Achieving Diversity: A Beginning Guide for CASA/GAL Programs, 1992 Edition
Publication of the National CASA Association Resource Library