



Announcements

Thank you CASAs!

At this time of year, we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. As one of our CASA volunteers, you are always at the top of our list. We are so appreciative of your commitment, your persistence, your warmth, and good humor. On behalf of the entire staff, we can confidently say that you are the reason we love our jobs and you are the heart of SFCASA. Thank YOU!

2019 Advocate Appreciation Party

We had a great time last week at our 2019 Advocate Appreciation! Advocates won door prizes, heard from Supervising Family Court Judge Monica Wiley and PSW ET Trice, and tried their luck at the wine toss! A delicious dinner and bar was generously provided by Cioppino's. We hope to see everyone at the event next year!



RSVP for the 2019 Youth Holiday Party!

Join us for our Youth Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7th, from 11am-2pm at National LGBTQ Center for the Arts. RSVP for the Youth Holiday Party [here!](#)

iFoster Cell Phone Update

Youth ages 13-26 can now apply for a free cell phone (and service plan!) by filling out an application and providing a Ward of the Court or County Dependency letter. The application was sent to youth on the waitlist in early October. Please visit <http://www.sfcasa.org/general-and-unsupported-needs> to find the application and FAQs for specific requirements.

SFCASA's Giving Tuesday Challenge!

Join SFCASA's Giving Tuesday Challenge and mobilize your community to support our youth! Create a Mightycause page as part of our SFCASA team and promote it to your network. The challenge will run through the month of November and culminate on Giving Tuesday (December 3rd). This is an amazing chance to tell the story of what this work means to you as an advocate and raise some funds for the organization while you do it! Think about all the people in your network who marvel at the work you do and want to do their part to support our youth in care – they're great people to engage in this challenge! Every donation counts, because a generous donor has offered to match donations up to \$2500! Plus even just creating a page will help your hard-working Case Supervisor win our office competition! Use the toolkit at <http://www.sfcasa.org/givingtuesday> to create your page and share with your network. Email Maggie@sfcasa.org with questions and stay tuned for more information!

Employer Volunteer Grant Programs

Many employers have volunteer grant programs that honor your volunteer efforts with a grant to SFCASA. If your employer has a program, don't forget to log your hours in the employee system before year-end.

Continuing Education Opportunity (2 Credits)

DCYF We are the City: Family Summits – Speak on Behalf of FOSTER YOUTH!

CASA was originally founded to provide a voice for youth in foster care who are too often invisible. We are excited to share an opportunity for you to speak up for foster youth, to offer your own voice for San Francisco's foster youth.

The SF Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) is hosting *We are the City: Family Summits* in every San Francisco district in order to receive input from residents regarding the programs and services they believe would most effectively improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Every five years, San Francisco conducts a needs assessment which will determine the distribution of funding for youth programs and we believe that foster youth and resource (foster) families need a stronger voice in the process. You can speak on behalf of foster youth.

We would like to encourage you to join SFCASA at the *Family Summit* most convenient to you in the coming months – the schedule is online [here](#).

You are welcome to share any ideas you have that might benefit foster youth and we wanted to share a few ideas we plan to propose.

- Given the constant change in foster placements, schools and situations, youth in foster care should be given priority enrollment to DCYF-funded programs, and off-schedule enrollment must be allowed.
- With 65% of foster youth (legal San Francisco residents) living outside the City, the City needs to support programs that reach them wherever they reside.
- We have a crisis-level lack of local foster homes. Foster (Resource) families need additional support. The state provides the same funding to resource families regardless of location, which does not cover costs in San Francisco. How can San Francisco facilitate housing and other services for resource parents?

· The referral/enrollment processes of almost all DCYF-funded programs fail among foster youth – foster youth need to be provided an advocate, such as a CASA, to facilitate referrals, enrollment and accommodations and should always be offered priority access.

Thank you for helping to give a voice to San Francisco’s youth in the foster care system. For further information and/or if you are planning to attend a Family Summit on behalf of Foster Youth, please send an email to our Training Specialist, Diane Posner, at Training@sfcasa.org.

We appreciate all you do for San Francisco’s youth.

IEP 101 CE Opportunity

We will be hosting the second IEP 101 CE on **Monday, November 4, 2019 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm** at the SFCASA Training Space, 2533 Mission Street.

Come learn what makes for a good IEP with SFSU Lecturer and special education teacher, Sadie Egan. Sadie will review the IEP process, special education jargon, what appropriate goals, services, and accommodations look like, common low-tech classroom supports, and how to best advocate for your youth with their IEP team. **Sadie has also agreed to review individual IEPs, so please come with your youth’s IEP in hand!**

All are welcome — CASAs and ERHs who think their youth could benefit from extra support, as well as those with already existing IEPs.

Please register for IEP 101 by emailing our Training Specialist, Diane Posner, at training@sfcasa.org.

Spread the Word!

We still have space available for our Winter 2020 SFCASA Training, beginning on January 28, 2020 through March 5th, 2020 (Swearing-in!). If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the Winter

Training Cohort to become a CASA, please have them register for an SFCASA Info Session on our website: <http://www.sfcasa.org/volunteer>

If they have any questions about the program, training, or volunteering, they can reach out directly to our Community Engagement Specialist, Jackie Moncada, at Jackie@sfcasa.org.

CASA Peer Leaders

Are you interested in talking to potential advocates about the CASA role? We are looking for CASA peer leaders who will answer potential advocate's questions or concerns via email or brief phone call. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity please contact our Community Engagement Specialist, Jackie Moncada, at Jackie@sfcasa.org.



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