

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## Child Advocacy Board - Department of Inspection and Appeals

### Background

The Iowa Child Advocacy Board (ICAB) is administratively attached to the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) but is an independent Board that provides for citizen involvement in child welfare issues. The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor of Iowa and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. The Board is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for two volunteer child advocacy programs: the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program and the Foster Care Review Boards (FCRB) Program. Citizen volunteers for these two programs work with abused and neglected children. The ICAB annually reports on issues affecting children in the Iowa child welfare system and offers recommendations for improvements.

**Iowa Court Appointed Special Advocate Program:** The Iowa Court Appointed Special Advocate Program recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve as a voice in court for abused and neglected children and works to ensure that each child is living in a safe, permanent, and nurturing home. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers must be able to think independently, use good judgment in difficult situations, and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. Volunteers are expected to serve at least a one-year commitment unless the child's case is closed by the Court earlier. Applicants go through an intensive screening process, have a criminal history check, and provide references.

**Iowa Foster Care Review Board Program:** The Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) Program was established in 1984. The Program began with pilot projects in certain counties in cooperation with the Juvenile Court system and the DHS. The Program expanded as funding permitted. The new law required that trained citizen volunteers provide oversight to help assure the welfare of abused and neglected children. The FCRB was placed under the purview of the Iowa Child Advocacy Board in July 2002.

The Iowa Foster Care Review Board Program recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve on local community boards with the goal of providing permanency for children placed in foster care. Persons age 21 and older can apply to serve on the Board. Volunteers commit to a two-year term and go through a criminal and background check. There are local boards in 50 counties with some counties having more than one active board. The boards meet monthly to review the status of children that have been removed from their parents. Advisory recommendations in the best interest of the child are provided by the boards to the Court and other system officials.

### Funding

For FY 2017, the ICAB received a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$2.6 million and a total of 32.26 appropriated FTEs.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [10A](#) and Iowa Code section [237.16](#)  
[489](#) Iowa Administrative Code

Revised September 14, 2016

### More Information

Department of Inspections and Appeals, Iowa Child Advocacy Board: <https://childadvocacy.iowa.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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