



## Early Childhood Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the early childhood (EC) initiative?

The EC initiative is a specially funded, CASA of Los Angeles project designed to address the needs of infants and toddlers entering the dependency system. This specialized learning track brings a developmental lens to child advocacy for CASA staff, advocates, coordinators, and community & court partners.

### 2. Why the focus on early childhood?

Over 31% of youth in foster care, in Los Angeles County, are under the age of five; early intervention for these young children is a path to lowering the number of transition age youth who are in the system long term.

### 3. What is the goal of the initiative?

There are several objectives of the early childhood initiative. They include:

- ✂ Increase response: trained liaisons will be on call daily to pilot court rooms facilitating early assignment of individual EC CASAs to more children (0-5 years) entering the system.
- ✂ Increase the number of children (0-5 years) served each year by almost 400%: In FY 2011 CASA served 70 children in this age group; with the EC initiative we'll be able to serve 275 children (per year) by the end of FY 2014.
- ✂ Build capacity: by developing an infrastructure (people, technology, equipment, processes, systems) we'll be able to support the increased number of children served.
- ✂ Track our progress: We will monitor and measure every step of the way, adjusting as necessary.

### 4. How can I get involved?

Attend a training! In January, CASA of Los Angeles will introduce the first of an ongoing, specialized learning track designed to bring a developmental lens to child advocacy.

### 5. Who may attend the training?

Any active CASA may attend an EC training, however, there are a limited number of spaces in the first training. Priority will be given to advocates who agree to participate in the pilot project\* and then to CASAs currently working with children ages 0-5.

### 6. What is the training schedule?

**Two hours online – must be completed prior to January 18, 2012**

Classroom training (Monterey Park) - January 18, 2012 9:00am – 11:00am

**Two hours online – must be completed prior to January 24, 2012**

Classroom training (Monterey Park) - January 24, 2012 9:00am -- 11:00am

**Two hours online – must be completed prior to January 27, 2012**

Classroom training (Monterey Park) - January 27, 2012 10:00am – 2:00pm

### 7. How do I reserve my place in the training?

Call volunteer services at 323-526-6306