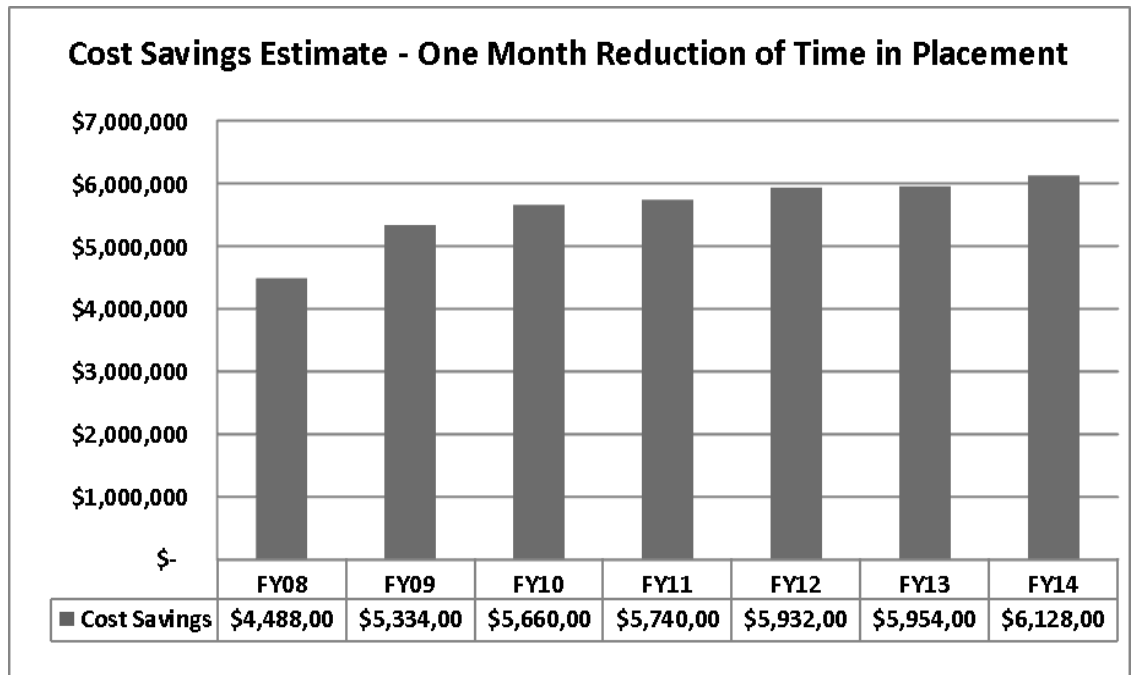




## CASA Advocacy Provides a Significant Return on Investment

CASA is a model public-private partnership which provides the State of New Jersey with a valuable service AND reduces the state's cost of caring for children in out-of-home placement.

In advocating for safe, permanent homes for children, CASA volunteers reduce the overall time these children remain in placement. If CASA reduced that time by only 1 month for each child served, this would amount to a savings of over \$6.1M in FY14 (based on \$2,000/month cost to keep a child in foster care).



CASA helps ensure that children are in the right placement, receiving appropriate services, and having their educational needs met.

- CASA volunteers work to ensure that the child is in the best, least restrictive placement possible (i.e., in relative or foster placements). Less restrictive placements are less expensive.
- CASA helps ensure that services are provided in a timely manner, are the most appropriate, and most targeted to meet individual needs. This protects children from languishing in care due to lack of timely service delivery and saves tax dollars that might otherwise be spent on inappropriate or “one-size-fits-all” services.
- CASA seeks to reduce the number of times a child changes schools due to placement changes as studies show each such change results in 6 months loss of educational progress. The loss of one grade level costs an average of \$18,891 per pupil based on the DOE 2014 Guide to Education Spending.

CASA donated nearly \$4.1 million in services to the state last year. CASA volunteers and trustees are not paid. In FY14, the state and its abused and neglected children were served by 1,476 CASA volunteers working over 150,000 hours. In addition, 183 volunteer Trustees in state and local CASA programs donated 11,000-plus hours. With a value of \$25.33 per hour (based on Independent Sector's valuation of volunteer hours in NJ), last year's donated services were worth \$4,078,130.