



# Center for Children's Advocacy

Fighting For The Legal Rights Of Connecticut's Most Vulnerable Children



## Your Investment Protects Children's Rights AND CHANGES THE SYSTEMS THAT SHAPE THEIR LIVES

Across Connecticut, children still face exclusion from school, unsafe housing, disrupted care, and public systems that do not always honor their legal rights. Because of your support, CCA steps in when those rights are at stake – solving urgent problems for individual children while changing the systems the next child will encounter.

**965**

**Children  
Reached**

**77**

**Connecticut Cities  
& Towns**

**392**

**Full Legal  
Representations**

**99%**

**Of Represented School-Age  
Clients Stayed In School**

## Three Ways Your Support Changed Systems



Speak Up! youth, Nazir and Selina, sharing their voices on participating in the Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee's 2026 Youth Day at Spring for Kids!, June 2026

### The Right To An Education

- Stopping Exclusion Before It Becomes A Pipeline

CCA helped win stronger protections against suspending very young children and the hidden practice of "informal suspensions." When children are pushed out instead of supported, CCA works with families and policymakers to make the right to education real.

### Young People Were Diverted From Arrest

- From Punishment To Possibility

CCA's advocacy resulted in significant increases of police referrals directly to Youth Diversion Teams and a decrease in arrests of children under 12. These changes mean more young people are connected to support and fewer are pulled deeper into the justice system.

### Children Got Services They Were Entitled To

- A Right Without Enforcement Is A Right Denied

CCA enforces education, housing, health and child-welfare rights when systems fall short. Legal advocacy turns rights on paper into something a child can actually experience: safety, services, stability and opportunity.

## One Child's Story Shows Why Rights Need Advocates

For nearly four years, 8-year-old Damion struggled without the special education evaluation his mother and doctor had requested. CCA stepped in. This spring, Damion finally received an IEP – and CCA won compensatory education for the services he had missed.

**115**

**Hours Of  
Compensatory  
Education Won**

**CCA Listens:** *Children & Families Show Us Where Systems Are Failing*

[www.cca-ct.org](http://www.cca-ct.org)



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## Your Investment Protects Children's Rights

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

### We Listen

TO CHILDREN  
AND  
FAMILIES

### We Represent

WHEN A  
CHILD'S RIGHTS  
ARE VIOLATED

### We See The Pattern

BEHIND  
INDIVIDUAL  
CASES

### We Change The System

THROUGH LAW,  
POLICY AND  
PARTNERSHIP

### More Children Benefit

BECAUSE ONE  
CASE CAN REVEAL  
SYSTEMIC BARRIERS



## What Your Investment Made Possible

**149**

School-aged children overcame critical barriers to classroom attendance because of access to specialized teachers, optimized settings, and vital support services

**219**

Children were protected from the immediate health dangers of living without power or water

**114**

Immigrant children & youth received legal intervention

**118**

Youth accessed critical healthcare, housing, and education services

**42**

Information and referral connections

**262**

Rapid, short advice sessions

**14**

Hands-on assistances completing complex legal forms

**184**

Deep-dive, longer advice counseling interventions

**CCA Acts:** *Children & Families Show Us Where Systems Are Failing*



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## Your Investment Protects Children's Rights CHANGE THAT REACHES THOUSANDS

### Systemic Reach

#### INVESTMENT FOCUS AREA

#### MEASURABLE OUTPUT & SYSTEMIC REACH

##### **Early Childhood Legal Protection**

- Stabilized environments for young children, ensuring 60 early learners kept vital light and heat utility services.
- Helped 20 infants and toddlers (birth to age 5) access life-changing healthcare and early education services.

##### **Special Education & Civil Rights**

- Mandated proper services and legally compliant education plans for 100 children and youth with disabilities.
- Enabled 149 school-age children to reduce barriers to classroom attendance by securing appropriate teachers, settings, and services.

##### **Holistic Child Welfare & Housing Stability**

- Protected 219 children from immediate health risks by maintaining crucial utility services during legal crises.
- Defended 52 child-welfare-involved youth (ages 0–23) to secure safe, stable homes and directly prevent homelessness.

##### **Immigration & Pro Bono Defense**

- Mobilized critical legal intervention for 114 immigrant children and youth (ages 0–20) facing complex legal hurdles.
- Leveraged community resources to deploy 71 specialized pro bono representations for deep-dive legal defense.

##### **Justice- Involved & Older Youth Advocacy**

- Championed 49 older youth in accessing a grid of necessary services spanning critical healthcare, housing, and education.
- Trained 38 vulnerable youth at Manson Youth Institution in their legal rights.
- Maintained housing and other supports for 17 older youth who had grown up in DCF care.

### Legislative Victories

- Supporting children in foster care and greater oversight of Department of Children & Families
- Strengthening right to an education for homeless children
- Strengthening accountability for the safety of transition age youth with disabilities dependent on state services and addressing concerns of abuse and neglect
- Creating a safety net for children withdrawn from school to be homeschooled (helping to advance legislation on this topic for the first time ever in CT)
- Advancing in partnership with Speak Up! youth a pilot for free and reduced fare transportation



**CCA Holds Systems Accountable:** *Children & Families Show Us Where Systems Are Failing*



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## **Your Investment Protects Children's Rights**

IT CHANGES THE SYSTEM FOR THE CHILDREN TO COME NEXT

### **CCA's Sustainability**

A child may come to CCA because of a school exclusion, unsafe housing, a health crisis, or a failure in the child-welfare system. CCA solves the immediate problem and then uses what that child's experience reveals to push for stronger laws, better policies, and public accountability. This is how individual representation becomes lasting civil rights change. Your support makes both kinds of change possible.

*"CCA's work goes far beyond advocacy. It protects and heals Connecticut's children and families faced with adversity and diverse challenges."*

— Dr. Darcy Lowell, CCA  
Ambassador and Donor



Family from CCA's Education Success Project with Attorney Ilana Ofgang at Giving Children a Voice, April 2026

## **CCA's Gratitude**

*As we shape our strategic advocacy this fiscal year in an increasingly perilous civil rights environment, your partnership is more vital than ever. We remain profoundly grateful for the trust you place in our team, your investment in our financial stewardship, and the thought leadership you bring to this critical work.*

**Thank you for standing up  
for Connecticut's children.**

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