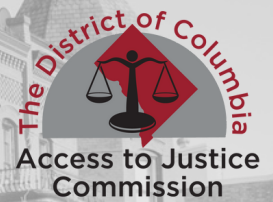


# IMPACT ON SAFETY

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### How the Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Community Safety

The Mayor's proposed FY24 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 60% to \$13.018 million. By eliminating access to critically needed legal services, this cut will put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of some of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY23 funding of \$31.689M to ensure these services continue.

### *Highlights of Initiative work in the area of safety include:*

#### **Addressing domestic and gender-based violence to promote client and community safety, stability, and independence**

- trauma-informed legal and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence and their families
- legal services for survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation reduces further exploitation
- representation in civil protection order and anti-stalking order cases minimizes likelihood of further violence
- specialized services to Black women, adolescent, and girls who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse living in Wards 7 and 8

#### **Lessening economic risk and inopportunity promotes community well being and stability**

- protection for DC residents at risk of fraud to promote their financial well-being
- legal representation in debt and consumer cases to protect limited income and assets
- specialized services to DC residents experiencing homelessness to gain access to housing, employment, and other benefits
- employment-related supports to promote fair wages, treatment, and access to benefits

#### **Reducing recidivism to promote community safety and resilience**

- legal and supportive services to formerly incarcerated women and youth transitioning back to the community after being detained in juvenile justice facilities, DC jail, or federal prison.

#### **Combatting discrimination towards those at risk of exploitation and violence**

- specialized community-based services to combat Anti-Asian hate and discrimination
- address discrimination faced by and empower transgender individuals to fight workplace harassment, access health insurance, maintain health benefits, and secure identity and immigration stability
- combat other forms of discrimination (housing, disability, gender, age)

#### **Promoting health and wellness of vulnerable DC residents**

- medical-legal partnerships to support low-income individuals, pregnant and postpartum women, and children
- compelling landlords to address dangerous living conditions so that children have a safe and healthy place to live
- prevent victimization and promote stability of individuals with psychiatric and developmental disabilities

To learn more: visit us at <https://dcaccesstojustice.org> or go to <https://www.dcbfoundation.org/>