

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services: Helping Ward 1 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 4,100 Ward 1 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- With a poverty rate of 11%*, more than 1 in 10 Ward 1 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence and economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes - stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing - and supports safe, thriving communities citywide
- The need for civil legal help - already at crisis level - surged during the pandemic & continues to grow

Source: DC Kids Count

How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC. In Ward 1, 31% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count



Economic Security

Income disparities in Ward 1 point to uneven financial security: the median household income for Black families in Ward 1 is less than one-third of that for White families.* Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters



Family Stability

More than 13,400* children live in Ward 1. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 1

Did You Know?

- One Initiative grantee participates in several **medical-legal partnerships** with Ward 1-based medical clinics, accepting referrals for a range of legal matters, including family law and public benefits
- **Domestic violence survivors** can get free legal help at weekly walk-in clinics held by an Initiative grantee in Ward 1
- One Initiative grantee focuses on the **underserved Latinx community** in Ward 1 and assisted 213 residents last year with issues including immigration and employment
- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **247 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 1

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

