

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 2 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 1,800 Ward 2 residents sought help from Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- Low-income Ward 2 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes - stable families, secure incomes, 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

How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC, including in Ward 2, where 33% 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

Ward 2 includes some of DC's most economically stable neighborhoods, but sharp disparities exist: the median household income for Black families in Ward 2 is less than one-third of that for White families, and 4.5 % of families in Ward 2 live below the poverty line.* Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters



Family Stability

More than 9,500* children live in Ward 2. 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 2

Did You Know?

- One Initiative grantee focuses on supporting low-income Asian American communities in downtown DC, helping them **secure tenant rights and preserve affordable housing**
- In addition to **legal help**, one Initiative grantee offers wraparound services at its Shaw location, including housing search help, social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- **Domestic violence survivors** can receive free legal counseling at a weekly walk-in clinic held by an Initiative grantee at a Ward 2 medical clinic
- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **90 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 2

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