

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 3 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 740 Ward 3 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- Low-income Ward 3 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 3, where 30% 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



Financial Security

Ward 3 includes some of DC's wealthiest neighborhoods, but sharp disparities exist: the median household income for Black families in Ward 3 is less than one-third of that for White families, and 8% of Ward 3 residents live in poverty.* Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count



Family Stability

More than 13,600* children live in Ward 3. 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 3

Did You Know?

- One Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance in housing matters to elderly tenants** in Ward 3, helping ensure that their units are safe, habitable, and affordable
- Sixty-five Ward 3 residents received services in 2022 through an Initiative-funded project that **connects tenants with legal assistance** before a landlord can file for eviction.
- One Initiative grantee provides **legal services to students with disabilities** in Ward 3, helping them obtain the educational support and services they need to succeed academically
- Last year, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **90 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 3

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

