

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 4 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 3,500 Ward 4 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022.
- With a poverty rate of 10%\*, 1 in 10 Ward 4 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: - keeping families housed, helping seniors secure critical public benefits, ensuring that children with disabilities receive services
- 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 4, 32% 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

With a 6% unemployment rate and a 10% poverty rate,\* many Ward 4 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs. 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 18,300\* children live in Ward 4. 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 4

##### Did You Know?

- One Initiative grantee helps **preserve affordable housing** in Ward 4, working with tenants to fight illegal rent increases, demand repairs for housing code violations, and challenge unfair landlord practices
- One Ward 4-based Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance to crime victims, including sexual assault and domestic violence survivors**, along with holistic and comprehensive advocacy and case management
- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **224 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 4

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

