

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 6 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 3,200 Ward 6 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- With a poverty rate of 12%\*, many Ward 6 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 - more stable families, secure incomes, livable housing - and supports stable, thriving communities
- 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 6, 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



#### Financial Security

Income disparities in Ward 6 point to uneven financial security: the median household income for Black families in Ward 6 is less than half of that for White families, and 7.3% of Ward 6 families live below the poverty line.\* 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 16,800\* children live in Ward 6. 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 6

##### Did You Know?

- Initiative grantees provide legal assistance at DC Superior Court in Ward 6 including the Child Support Resource Center, which offers **same-day representation and legal advice for low-income litigants in parentage and child support matters** and the Domestic Violence Intake Center, where Initiative-funded lawyers offer **representation to domestic violence survivors seeking protection orders** against their abusers
- One Ward 6-based Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance to people with disabilities**, such as ensuring they have equal access to public accommodations
- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 247 tenants facing eviction** in Ward 6

To learn more: visit us at

<https://dcaccesstojustice.org> or go to  
<https://www.dcbarfoundation.org/>

