

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services : Helping Ward 7 Residents Build Better Lives

- More than 5,700 Ward 7 residents were served by Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services providers in 2022
- With a poverty rate of 26%,* many Ward 7 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 case outcomes - 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

As gentrification has lowered Black homeownership rates east of the river and pushed up rents, 46% of Ward 7 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 14.7 % unemployment rate and a median household income less than half of that for all of DC, many Ward 7 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



Family Stability

More than 20,000* children live in Ward 7. 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 7

Did You Know?

- An Initiative grantee is a **medical-legal partnership** with Unity Health Care in Ward 7, offering legal assistance to parents of children whose medical issues are related to poor housing conditions
- Community legal education workshops focused on **estate planning and probate matters** were held by one Initiative grantee at the DC Dream Center in 2022 and 2023
- A free monthly walk-in clinic at Benning Neighborhood Library offered by one Initiative grantee provides **legal help with public benefits, unemployment, student loans, and more**
- In 2022, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 381 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 7

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

