



Outreach Tools for FY25 Budget

Potential tag lines: #dcciviljustice #restoreATJfunding #theInitiativeworks

Consider tagging: DC Council (@councilofdc); Councilmembers (see below); Commission (@DCATJComm); DC Bar Foundation (@DCBarFoundation)

Sample Tweets (remember 280 character limit – or do a thread)

FY25 cuts to legal help will deny DC residents meaningful access to justice. #DCCivilJustice @chmmendelson @anitabondsdcc @CM_McDuffie @robertwhite_dc @CMCHenderson @brianneknadeau @CMBrookePinto @CMFrumin @CMLewisGeorgeW4 @CMZParker5 @charlesallen @vincegrayward7 @trayonwhite

Twitter Card available [HERE](#)



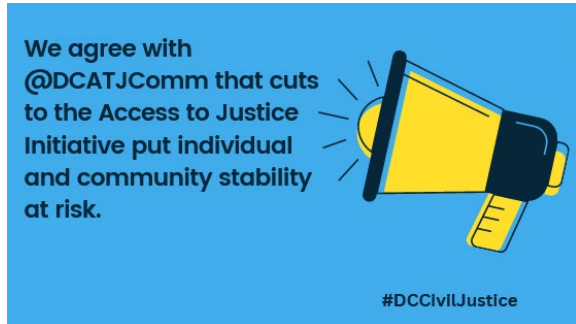
The Access to Justice Initiative works. We urge the Council to prioritize ATJ funding. @chmmendelson @anitabondsdcc @CM_McDuffie @robertwhite_dc @CMCHenderson @brianneknadeau @CMBrookePinto @CMFrumin @CMLewisGeorgeW4 @CMZParker5 @charlesallen @vincegrayward7 @trayonwhite

Twitter Card available [HERE](#)



We agree with @DCATJComm that cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative put individual and community stability at risk. #DCCivilJustice

Twitter Card available [HERE](#)



Our organization needs stable Access to Initiative funding to be able to serve our clients and preserve stable communities. #DCCivilJustice @councilofdc @cmbrookepinto @chmnmendelson

[Use your own logo, etc.]

Group Tweet D.C. Council: @chmnmendelson @anitabondsdcc @CM_McDuffie @robertwhite_dc @CMCHenderson @briannknadeau @CMBrookePinto @CMFrumin @CMLewisGeorgeW4 @CMZParker5 @charlesallen @vincegrayward7 @trayonwhite

Sample E-Mail (from ED/Board)

Councilmember *[CM name]* or Councilmembers *[if group e-mail]*:

Our organization is reaching out to make sure you are aware of the drastic cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative in the Mayor's proposed FY25 budget, part of OVSJG's budget. The program was cut by \$21.211M – from \$31.668M to \$10.457M – representing a 67% cut. We rely on this funding to be able to serve District residents in cases where the stakes could not be higher

- In practical terms, if we lose 67% of our Initiative funding, that translates to *[insert data like ## staff members, ## clients served, #cases handled, programs you might end]*
- The work that we do is critical to your constituents. *[Describe your work]*

As you consider the proposed FY25 budget, please keep the Access to Justice Initiative among your highest budget priorities. We look forward to telling you more about the program and why losing its services will put the District and its residents at risk.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the Initiative or our work, or go to our website at *[insert website]*.

Sincerely,

[Executive Director and/or Board President]

Group E-Mail D.C. Council:

TO: pmendelson@dccouncil.gov; kmcduffie@dccouncil.gov; abonds@dccouncil.gov; rwhite@dccouncil.gov; chenderson@dccouncil.gov; bnadeau@dccouncil.gov; bpinto@dccouncil.gov; mfrumin@dccouncil.gov; jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.gov; zparker@dccouncil.gov; callen@dccouncil.gov; vgray@dccouncil.gov; twhite@dccouncil.gov

Group CC: bstum@dccouncil.gov; ecash@dccouncil.gov; dparks@dccouncil.gov; dcrawford@dccouncil.gov; jhudson@dccouncil.gov; afowlkes@dccouncil.gov; kwhitehouse@dccouncil.gov; mshaffer@dccouncil.gov; grogoff@dccouncil.gov; nrivero@dccouncil.gov; dmeni@dccouncil.gov; ghulick@dccouncil.gov; lgroft@dccouncil.gov; lc miles@dccouncil.gov; khunt@dccouncil.gov; neasley@dccouncil.gov; rroberts@dccouncil.gov; kwiley@dccouncil.gov; kmitchell@dccouncil.gov; anunes@dccouncil.gov; sbunn@dccouncil.gov; tnorflis@dccouncil.gov; wlockridge@dccouncil.gov; sgales@dccouncil.gov; emarolf@dccouncil.gov; erodriguezlabrada@dccouncil.gov

Sample E-Mail (from Staff Member)

Councilmember [*CM name*]:

I am reaching out after seeing the proposed cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative in the Mayor's proposed FY25 budget. I am employed at [*grantee organization*]. Every day, I work to help low-income District residents who are struggling with difficult problems like [*insert examples*]. I see what a difference it makes for them to have a lawyer by their side. I also see how those without a lawyer fare without legal help.

IF APPLICABLE: I am also a resident of Ward [*insert number*]. I am worried that with this funding cut, important services will no longer be available to my neighbors in my Ward. I know that helping my neighbors deal with legal issues like eviction, family conflict, economic hardship, and other problems makes my community a more stable place to live.

[*Add any more detail or specific experiences.*]

As you consider the proposed FY25 budget, please keep the Access to Justice Initiative among your highest budget priorities. We look forward to telling you more about the program and why losing its services will put the District and its residents at risk.

Thank you,

[*Name and Address*]

Sample E-Mail (from DC Resident)

Councilmember [*CM name*]:

I live in Ward [*insert number*]. I am reaching out after seeing the proposed cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative in the Mayor's proposed FY25 budget. I am worried that with this funding cut, important services will no longer be available to my neighbors in my Ward. I know that helping my neighbors deal with legal issues like eviction, family conflict, economic hardship, and other problems makes my community a more stable place to live.

[Add any more detail or specific experiences.]

I hope that you will prioritize the Access to Justice Initiative throughout this budget process. We need to keep these services available to District residents.

Thank you,

[Name and Address]

D.C. Councilmember and Committee Rosters available in [PDF](#) and [MS Word](#)