

ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services: Promoting Community Stability in Ward 1

- More than 5,200 Ward 1 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in 2023 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 12% and child poverty rate of 23%, more than 1 in 10 Ward 1 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence and economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

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 1, 32% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative funded programs prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions.

Source: DC Kids Count



Economic Security

Income disparities in Ward 1 point to uneven financial security: the median household income for Black families in Ward 1 is less than one-third of that for White families. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Kids Count



Families and Youth

More than 12,400 children live in Ward 1. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, immigration matters, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 1



Did You Know it Funds?

- **Medical-legal partnerships** with Ward 1-based medical clinics that accept legal referrals for family law, public benefits, and a range of other issues
- A weekly **immigration and domestic violence legal clinic** at two Ward-1 sites
- Legal intakes and a quarterly **immigration clinic** held at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School
- Monthly **financial workshops**, and outreach at local food distributions
- **Partnerships** with Ward-1 located community organizations
- 351 Ward 1 tenants alone were assisted with **eviction matters** in one year's time

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ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 2

- More than 2,300 Ward 2 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- Low-income Ward 2 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 like stable families, secure incomes, livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC, including in Ward 2, where 33% 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



Economic Security

Ward 2 includes some of DC's most economically stable neighborhoods, but sharp disparities exist: the median household income for Black families in Ward 2 is less than one-quarter of that for White families, and 4.8% of families in Ward 2 live below the poverty line. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters



Family Stability

More than 8,700 children live in Ward 2. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 2



Did You Know it Funds?

- **Legal and wraparound services** in Shaw, including, including housing search help, social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- Free weekly legal clinic for **domestic violence survivors and immigration matters** at a Ward-2 medical clinic
- **Trainings and presentations** at health clinics, law firms, MLK Library, and community locations
- Criminal record sealing workshops
- Support for **low-income Asian American communities** in downtown DC to secure tenant rights and preserve affordable housing
- A number of grantees have their **primary office spaces** in Ward 2
- 108 Ward 2 tenants alone were assisted with **eviction matters** in one year's time

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 3

- More than 1,100 Ward 3 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects - and community need continues to grow.
- 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 like stable families, secure incomes, livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

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 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

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-half 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 13,200 children live in Ward 3. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 it Funds?

- Initiative funded providers serve residents in all 8 wards, including Ward 3.
- One Initiative grantee with a home office in Ward 3 provides legal services for DC residents with low incomes dealing with the often devastating consequences of abusive debt collection practices and other consumer related issues.
- Initiative grantees partner with UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, American University Washington College of Law, and other community service providers to provide trainings and support for Ward 3 service professionals and clients.
- Last year, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **148 tenants faced with eviction in Ward 3**

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 4

- More than 5,000 Ward 4 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 9% nearly 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 like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

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 9% 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 18,700 children live in Ward 4. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 it Funds?

- 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 advocacy and case management
- One grantee provides a quarterly financial workshop at the Petworth Neighborhood Library, and does monthly outreach at a food distribution site
- In one year's time, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **278 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 4

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 5

- More than 4,700 Ward 5 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in 2023 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 16%, many Ward 5 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 like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

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 5, 38% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

Financial Security

With a 5.9% unemployment rate and a 16% poverty rate, many Ward 5 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 17,400 children live in Ward 5. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 5

Did You Know it Funds?

- A **free monthly walk-in clinic** at Woodridge Library that provides legal help with public benefits, unemployment, student loans, and more
- Legal information, advice, and brief assistance from a **Ward 5-based** legal services provider on a range of legal issues
- **Twice-monthly legal clinics** in Spanish and English at a resource center for families experiencing homelessness and poverty
- **Legal orientation clinics** for recently arrived migrants
- **Medical-legal partnerships** at Children's National Hospital, focused on adolescents, and at Washington Hospital Center, focused on maternal health.
- In one year's time, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to 466 **tenants facing eviction** in Ward 5

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 6

- More than 2,700 Ward 6 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 11%, 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 like more stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports stable, thriving communities.

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, 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

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 7.1% 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 17,200 children live in Ward 6. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, 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 it Funds?

- On-site legal assistance at D.C. 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, and the **Landlord Tenant Resource Center**.
- Twice monthly legal aid clinics at a emergency shelter
- One Ward 6-based Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance to people with disabilities**, such as ensuring they have equal access to public accommodations
- In FY23, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 268 tenants facing eviction** in Ward 6

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 7

- Nearly 6,700 Ward 7 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 24%, 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 like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports stable, thriving communities.

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, 43% 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 16.5 % 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 19,700 children live in Ward 7 and the child poverty rate is 34%. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Kids Count

Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 7



Did You Know it Funds?

- 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**
- Free monthly trainings on **family law, housing, and public benefits** at Capital View Library
- In FY23, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 560 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 7

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Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 8

- More than 7,300 Ward 8 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 28%, many Ward 8 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 like more stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities.

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, 49% of Ward 8 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 9.6% unemployment rate and a median household income less than half of that for all of DC, many Ward 8 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 21,000 children live in Ward 8, with a child poverty rate of 36%. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count

Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 8

Did You Know it Funds?

- Provided **legal assistance to 982 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 8
- One grantee provided legal help with housing, public benefits, family law and more, as well as **wraparound services** at its Anacostia location, including social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- **Children's National Hospital** sites in Anacostia and at THE ARC host Initiative-funded lawyers.
- A criminal record sealing workshop with CSOSA
- Advanced Directive workshop **for seniors**
- Weekly walk-in legal clinic for **domestic violence survivors**
- Legal clinic at **Parkland Turner Library**
- Know-your-rights seminars for **caregivers and caseworkers** at community locations
- Financial literacy training for **young adults** at THEARC

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