

IMPACT ON HOUSING

ACCESSING JUSTICE

in D.C.



The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Housing Stability

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. By eliminating access to critically needed legal services, this cut will put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of some of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

How the Initiative Helps D.C. Tenants

A Growing Housing Crisis in DC

- DC ranks among the most expensive rental markets nationally; more than 1/3 of tenant households have a high housing cost burden
- The soaring need for affordable housing stands in stark contrast to available supply: 40,000 people were on the waitlist for housing vouchers in FY23. In FY24, the median time from application to lease in Public Housing was 11 years
- Scheduled evictions increased 250% between January 2022 and January 2023, and rates in 2024 are double for the same period in 2023
- Tenant requests for legal help with housing matters increased 225% between January 2022 and January 2023, and providers reported additional increases of 19-45% through 2023
- The monthly average of eviction filings in DC Superior Court grew by 42% in 2023.



Expanded Funding = Real Results

- Since September 2021, Initiative-funded canvassers have contacted tenants with a scheduled eviction to connect with legal, social services
- For tenants served in FY23:
 - **87% of tenants** who wanted to stay in their unit were able to do so
 - **Only 5%** of cases resulted in an eviction judgment against a tenant
 - **89%** of those facing voucher termination had a **favorable result**
- **8,200+ DC residents** got help between August 2019 - September 2023
- [Read FY24 eviction project report](#) →



Did you know?

- **More than 1/2 of Initiative funds** help keep District residents in their homes through eviction defense and diversion, foreclosure prevention, and affordable housing preservation
- **The Landlord Tenant Legal Assistance Network**, a coordinated phone and online intake system, streamlines legal services access by providing tenants with an efficient, centralized service to connect them to one of 6 legal aid providers. **10,300+ District residents have contacted this line since it was created in June 2020.**



Initiative's Eviction Diversion Model Fosters Community Solutions

FY22, FY23, & FY24 funding enabled legal services providers to partner with community-based organizations and canvassers for intensive outreach to identify, support, & train community members and leaders, including in FY23:

6,858 doors knocks

5,609 outreach letters

664 "Know Your Rights" Trainings with 12,105 attendees

To learn more

visit us at dcaccesstojustice.org

or go to <https://www.dcbfoundation.org>

