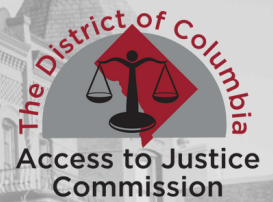


# IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Public Safety

The Mayor's proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. This will have catastrophic consequences for economic security and opportunity for almost 40,000 District residents who receive life-changing civil legal services through the program each year. We urge the D.C. Council to restore funding to the FY24 level of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

### Highlights of Initiative work in promoting public safety include:

#### Promoting Stable, Resilient Communities

- **Increasing education opportunities for youth** by ensuring students have access to special education and related services, language access, and other required supports to keep them invested in their education. Other legal services specifically target court-involved youth or youth at risk of court involvement.
- **Achieving family stability** through legal services to prevent children from entering the foster care system by supporting families at risk and legal supports to relatives seeking to care for children whose parents are unable; and legal services to reduce family conflict and resolve custody and child support disputes.
- **Helping Seniors aging in place** through legal services to maintain housing, protect in-home support services, and assist with financial planning to ensure inter-generational transfer of homes and property
- **Protecting the District's growing immigrant population** from fraud and provide culturally specific legal services that focus on the safety, security, and holistic well-being of migrant and immigrant communities
- **Promoting economic opportunity** and stability for District residents, including those with disabilities, experiencing medical crises, re-entering citizens, low-wage workers, and others at risk of financial or commercial exploitation

#### Keeping Abuse Survivors Safe

- Trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic and gender based violence in all 8 wards, including emergency legal services, crisis safety planning, and expanded walk-in clinics and virtual clinics at the courthouse and in the community
- For one organization, 1,200 free legal consultations in 2023 for low-income victims of domestic violence, immigrants, and at-risk children - - double the number provided in 2022.
- Holistic legal support for crime victims and survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, and training community providers on identifying trafficking survivors - with one provider receiving 445 calls from crime victims seeking services in FY23

#### Decreasing recidivism

- Ensuring individuals transitioning back to the community after being detained in local or Federal juvenile, residential, or adult facilities have necessary legal supports for education, custody, child support, employment and consumer matters and other post-incarceration issues so that they can successfully reintegrate into their communities.
- One funded provider working with adolescents has cut recidivism in half through legal advocacy for well-tailored reentry plans and community supports.

**To learn more:** visit us at <https://dcaccesstojustice.org/access-public-funding/> or go to <https://www.dcbafoundation.org/>