

# ACCESSING JUSTICE IN D.C.

FY27

## An Investment in Community Need

### REQUESTS FOR LEGAL HELP ARE RISING

**+230%**

*Increase in requests for Probate and Estate Planning services for one grantee organization*

**+11.5%**

*Increase in requests for Consumer Debt help for one grantee organization*

**+31%**

*Increase in referrals from community partners seen by one grantee organization*

### **Rising costs and economic stress =**

- More economically vulnerable District residents targeted by scams and fraud
- More need for legal help accessing SNAP, utility assistance and other benefits

**Access to Justice Initiative funding supports crucial civil legal services for low- and moderate-income District residents, supporting safety, health, housing, and economic stability - and demand is high and growing.**

- **In FY25, funds allowed 30+ Initiative grantee organizations to:**
  - Serve **44,000+ District residents** - an almost **9,000 person increase** from FY24
  - Offer over **668 community education sessions attended by 7,780 DC residents**
  - Conduct **nearly 8,500 telephonic legal interpretations**
  - Provide loan repayment help for **87 legal services attorneys** working and living in DC
  - The **DC Resource Bridge** provided a **single-point of entry for 1,333 District residents** seeking legal help - from launch in late September 2025 to early April 2026
- **Community Need is Growing:**
  - Providers are serving more clients - **up to twice as many as in the previous year** - but still not meeting the need
  - Demand remains high for **domestic violence** and **family law**, particularly for family emergency planning (up to 100% increase in demand)
  - Changes at the Federal level have led to a **surge in requests for help** navigating and addressing errors due to changes to SNAP, Medicaid, and other programs
  - More residents are seeking help with **probate and estate planning** to preserve assets as expenses grow
  - More District residents are struggling to access **health care**, especially community-based services to avoid unnecessary and costly institutionalization
  - More younger people are facing cancer diagnoses and related complex and urgent legal needs
  - Domestic violence legal services providers are facing **Federal funding cuts** that put services at risk of closure

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