

ACCESSING JUSTICE IN D.C.

FY27

How the proposed funding reduction will devastate access to civil legal help

86%

PROPOSED FUNDING
REDUCTION

37,893

CLIENTS WHO WOULD
NOT BE SERVED

240

ATTORNEYS, SOCIAL
WORKERS,
PARALEGALS, AND
OTHER STAFF WHOSE
POSITIONS COULD BE
ELIMINATED

31

PROJECTS ACROSS 13
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS
RELY ON THE INITIATIVE
FOR 75% OF THEIR
FUNDING

We urge the D.C. Council to prioritize restoring Initiative funding to the FY26 level of \$31.785M to prevent the loss of crucial civil legal services for low- and moderate-income District residents.

DEVASTATING REDUCTION IN SERVICES

Potential impact on projects covering a wide range of crucial civil legal needs - if spread equally across FY27 programs, an 86% reduction could mean (*approximately*):

- **Housing: \$14.56M → \$2.04M** (cut of \$12.5M+)
- **Family: \$2.59M → \$363K** (cut of \$2.23M)
- **Domestic Violence: \$1.59M → \$223K** (cut of \$1.37M)
- **Probate/Estates: \$930K → \$130K** (cut of \$800K)
- **Consumer: \$1.7M → \$238K** (cut of \$1.46M)
- **Health/Disability: \$1.98M → \$276K** (cut of \$1.7M)
- **Public benefits: \$1.82M → \$254K** (cut of \$1.56M)
- **Education: \$603K → \$84K** (cut of \$518K)
- **Employment: \$589K → \$82K** (cut of \$507K)
- **Immigration: \$1.41M → \$197K** (cut of \$1.21M)
- **Interpreter Bank: \$741K → \$103K** (cut of \$638K)

INCREASE IN OTHER COSTS

- Loss of legal services that help District residents remain housed, maintain their incomes, and stay physically safe, causing strain on other government programs
- A recent LSC review of 50+ studies shows that legal services provides **an estimated \$7 in return for every \$1 invested**

EXPANDED PROJECTS IN JEOPARDY

- DC Resource Bridge, launched in September 2025 to connect D.C. residents to legal help through a single point of entry **would not have been possible** without stable FY23-FY26 funding
- Would **gut** recent expansions in future planning and probate legal services
- **Jeopardizes** expanded community partnerships, outreach, and community trainings
- **Drastic reduction** in legal clinics

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

