

ACCESSING JUSTICE IN D.C.

FY27

Return on the District's Investment

50+ national studies

show that legal services provides a positive return on investment*

an estimated \$7 in return for every \$1 invested

- Preventing financial loss due to foreclosure, debt collection, and evictions
- Securing unpaid wages, veterans' benefits, child support, Social Security payments and record sealing
- Lowers costs for emergency shelters, healthcare, social services, emergency financial assistance and law enforcement
- Fueling economic growth through the economic multiplier effect

\$2.50 - \$4.84

For every \$1 spent, estimated public return on investment on eviction right to counsel programs in 20+ jurisdictions - including

National and local data demonstrate that funding civil legal services is a valuable and fiscally responsible investment

RESULTS FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS:

- Over a three-year period, one grantee handling housing conditions matters impacting children with asthma **saved more than \$3 in Medicaid costs for every \$1 spent on the legal services - \$14 to 15M overall**
- A grantee secured **more than \$12 million in financial benefit for clients** in foreclosure & debt collection cases
- A grantee serving District seniors generated \$1,772,412 for clients, from Initiative funding of \$305,132 - **a 581% return on investment**
- Another grantee saved nearly **\$1 million** for over 1,000 District families with debt and consumer needs

SAVING THE DISTRICT OTHER EXPENSES:

- **Reducing youth recidivism:** Clients represented by one grantee were 38% less likely to be rearrested within 2 years than other youth committed to DYRS
- **Reducing emergency room usage** by connecting clients to primary and mental health care and medication through insurance and Medicare Part D coverage
- Legal help offered to people with disabilities or complex health needs help them access employment, income, and services in the communities - **avoiding unnecessary, costly institutionalization**
- Domestic violence survivors who receive representation in protection order and family law cases report substantially **greater economic self-sufficiency & less future violence**
- Criminal record-sealing significantly expands **economic opportunity** and **reduces recidivism** - one grantee alone handled 618 of these matters

Source: Legal Services Corporation, "The Economic Case for Civil Legal Aid" (2025); Stout, [Eviction Right to Counsel Resource Center](#)

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

