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DC BAR FOUNDATION

WE INVEST IN JUSTICE

DCBF

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 2021 to
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

GRANTS

The DC Bar Foundation helps build a vibrant civil legal aid network in DC by providing resources through our Access to Justice Program, Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program (CLCPP), and General Support Grants. In 2022, we awarded over \$19.3 million in funding, which kept families in their homes, protected people in the marketplace and workplace, and amplified the voices of those in need. Since 1977, the DC Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$114 million in grants.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The DC Bar Foundation's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) makes it more possible for District legal services providers to hire and retain top-notch legal talent to better serve their clients in need. LRAP provides eligible attorneys a forgivable, one-year loan to help pay their significant educational debt. LRAP allows legal aid attorneys to manage their student debt without compromising their desire to work in the civil legal aid sector.

WHAT WE DO

The DC Bar Foundation is the leading funder of civil legal aid in the District of Columbia. Since its founding in 1977, the Foundation's mission has been to fund, support, and improve the legal representation of financially disenfranchised residents living in vulnerable situations.

We are committed to the vision that District residents have equal access to justice, regardless of wealth, income, or power. In 2019, we adopted a bold strategic vision to “transform DC’s civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.”

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The DC Bar Foundation invests in the capacity and vitality of the civil legal aid network through ongoing professional and development opportunities. We provide training for organizations and legal aid attorneys on topics such as eviction defense, trial advocacy, and anti-racism.

DEAR FRIENDS

The DC Bar Foundation is working toward transforming civil legal aid in the District. The work we pursue, the organizations we fund, the networks we build, and the connections we form within legal aid—and beyond—are moving us closer to this goal. Our 2022 Annual Report highlights some of what we have accomplished thus far. Though more work remains, we are proud and grateful for what we achieved this fiscal year.

Notably, we were able to continue our network- and community-building efforts. Through the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network (DC LATN), which includes legal aid organizations, social services providers, funders, and other key stakeholders, we brought together a community of thought leaders that met quarterly to discuss and strategize how to transform the delivery of civil legal aid in DC. As it works on expanding and continuing its work outside of the quarterly convenings, last year, DC LATN established subnetworks, which are smaller issue-specific groups within the Network, covering issues like

housing, employment, domestic violence and assault, and public benefits.

We also made significant strides with Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR)—a system that will make finding civil legal aid assistance easier and more accessible. Last year, with the help of the entire DC legal aid community, we built the provider directory. It has data on DC's more than 60 legal aid providers and will be the central piece of technology for the CIR System.

Finally, we expanded our evaluation efforts. As a foundation, it is important to closely examine our work to understand fully the impact we are making. Our 2022 learnings serve as part of the foundation for our future work.

We are thankful for the increased public funding we have received from the District and the private donations, because that is what makes this work possible. In the coming fiscal year, we will continue to build connections and foster the relationships that will allow us to build an equitable and fair justice system.



Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer



Kelly V. Darnell
Board President

connect

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer

Kelly V. Darnell
Board President



58% of DCBF Funding Supported

legal assistance related
to housing.

\$19.3 Million Awarded

in grants to 36 legal aid
organizations to amplify the voices
of those in need, keep families
in their homes, and protect people
in the workplace.

\$893,000

received from individual
and corporate donors in support
of civil legal aid.

103 Organizations

counted in the
DC Legal Aid
Transformations Network.

72 DC Residents

provided feedback during focus
groups designed to collect
feedback and input on the design
of the Coordinated Intake and
Referral System.

90% of Survey Participants

in a 2022 Civil Legal Counsel
Projects Program report said
they would tell others facing
eviction to contact the
Landlord Tenant Legal Assistance
Network for legal services.

19 Grantee Organizations

participated in a six-part
Racial Equity 101 training.

78 Attorneys Enrolled to Receive Loan Forgiveness

through the Loan Repayment
Assistance Program (LRAP).

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 1

Engage all stakeholders in the work

The DC Bar Foundation will work with existing and identify new partners to support the civil legal aid network by providing data, identifying needs, sharing observations, serving as a sounding board, and developing solutions to meet the community civil legal aid needs.



Since the White House Summit on Eviction Prevention on June 30, 2021, the DC Bar Foundation and the Greater Washington Community Foundation, with facilitation by the Urban Institute, have regularly co-led the DC eviction prevention working group to identify systemic challenges and develop a comprehensive plan to address them.

In September 2022, the DC Bar Foundation and Visible Network Labs conducted a second mapping survey—a study to show members of a group and the relationships among them—of the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network (DC LATN). From its initial survey in 2021, DC LATN grew from 75 to 103 members. The DC Legal Aid Transformations Network Fall 2022 Comparison Report details the full survey results.

Identify Unmet Civil Legal Needs

The civil legal aid needs of District residents are vast. DCBF will identify barriers to accessing services by those who need them most and support the development and launch of a Coordinated Intake and Referral system to improve access to civil legal aid services. DCBF will also work with its stakeholders to use data generated by this system and engage the larger community to identify community priorities.



The DC Bar Foundation held focus groups in late December 2021 through early April 2022, in collaboration with Bread for the City, DC Rape Crisis Center, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, and District Alliance for Safe Housing, to gather feedback on the design and implementation of a Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR) System, which will streamline how DC residents access civil legal aid.

In July 2022, DCBF partnered with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) to offer publicly-funded legal service attorneys scholarships to participate in the “Building Trial Skills” program. NITA uses the “learn by doing” teaching method. Participants practiced opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, closing arguments, objections, and admitting evidence before experienced volunteer faculty and fellow students.

Infuse Racial Justice And Equity In Our Work

DCBF will evolve its practices and culture to learn, reflect, unlearn, and change its practices to pursue justice. Initially, DCBF will study best practices to learn about racial justice and equity initiatives. DCBF will also explore local partnerships where there are opportunities to align efforts to develop a plan to integrate racial justice and equity initiatives.

In March 2022, the DC Bar Foundation offered a six-part Racial Equity 101 training, with 19 grantee organizations participating. This is our fourth year working with Service Never Sleeps to provide this training to our grantee community. DCBF also launched the initial Racial Equity 2.0 training series, with 26 people from 14 organizations participating in the five-part training from March 11 to April 8, 2022.

In August 2022, DCBF adopted five core values, and the fifth core value is “We Stand Against Anti-Black Racism.” It reads: “We must work within ourselves, our networks, and our institutions to challenge anti-Black racism with each decision we make. We must actively change behaviors, policies, and procedures that perpetuate anti-Black racism. Understanding and addressing anti-Black racism will help reveal solutions to eradicate the manifestation of all forms of bias, racism, and hate.” This core value ensures that DCBF and the organizations we partner with are working in earnest to dismantle racism in the justice system.

Fund With Intention

DCBF will identify and articulate what it wants to achieve through its grantmaking.

By working with its stakeholders and piloting a few interventions that address the most significant needs, DCBF will better understand effective strategies and make more strategic grantmaking decisions. DCBF will adapt its investments as additional data and feedback is gathered, and experience dictates what can and should be scaled.



In December 2021, the DC Bar Foundation awarded \$15.75 million in grants to 36 DC legal aid organizations, providing free legal assistance to thousands of financially disenfranchised DC residents.

The Foundation also completed a second cycle of grantmaking in April 2022, including \$4.3 million to six Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program grantees for collaborative work on eviction diversion efforts to benefit 5,000 District households. The project aims to prevent evictions by partnering with community-based organizations to reach tenants at risk of displacement as early as possible and connecting them with the support and services they need to stabilize their housing.

Demonstrate How People Who Need Services Are Getting Them

By integrating evaluation into every aspect of its work, DCBF will position itself to describe how it is changing and improving the lives of District residents and identify areas in need of improvement. DCBF will generate data on program delivery, measure the effectiveness of services, study outcomes, determine the level of impact, and share those findings with our partners and stakeholders.

The DC Bar Foundation has increased its research efforts to evaluate how we deliver services and to ensure the people who need our services are getting them. We have completed focus groups with DC residents who represent different backgrounds to learn more about their experience with civil legal aid, completed research related to family law hearings, and gathered feedback from legal services organizations and key stakeholders about designing a Coordinated Intake and Referral System.

We have worked with NPC Research to complete the following surveys: In December 2021, we released Litigant Perspectives on Remote Hearings in Family Law Cases, the results of a survey of 189 Family Law Learning Network clients. In July 2022, we released a report summarizing the feedback we received about the design of the CIR System during client focus groups held from December 2021 – April 2022. In September 2022, we released a report that compiled input from legal services providers, allied organizations, and individuals about designing a Coordinated Intake and Referral System for civil legal services in the District of Columbia.

The DC Bar Foundation is proud of the work our grantee organizations do daily. These two stories highlight the impact our grantees make with DCBF funding.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Giving Clients Peace of Mind

“Rebecca” is an 18-year-old student with an intellectual and a learning disability who recently graduated from high school and is starting college out of state. Her parents—a bit anxious about their daughter embarking on the college experience and living away from home for the first time—contacted the Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities’ Jenny Hatch Justice Project (JHJP) after attending one of their webinars.

Rebecca’s mom wanted help exploring less restrictive options so Rebecca can maintain her autonomy and independence while on her own. Rebecca clearly expressed that she wants to make her own decisions and wants both of her parents to be her formal supporters through a statutory supported decision-making agreement (SSDMA), which is a formal agreement that allows an individual with a disability to pick someone they trust to give them advice and help them navigate the decision-making process.

Over the course of several meetings, a JHJP attorney worked with Rebecca to draft two SSDMAs (one for each parent) that reflected her wishes and her vision of how her parents could help her as formal supporters. After finalizing the SSDMAs and Healthcare Power of Attorney forms, Rebecca felt more confident and prepared to start her freshman year of college. “It feels exciting! It is good to have these papers just in case I need help or especially if there’s an emergency.”

Reclaiming Unpaid Wages

Mr. X went to the Workers’ Rights Clinic at The Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs in January 2020 seeking assistance in recovering unpaid wages from his employer, a DC construction company. Mr. X had been assaulted on the job and was unable to work because of his injuries. In response, his employer fired him without paying Mr. X tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages, stating that because he did not have immigration status he could not “come after us.” The Clinic drafted a demand letter for Mr. X to send to his employer.

After receiving no response, Mr. X returned to the Clinic, and over the course of multiple consultations, the Clinic assisted him in drafting and filing a pro se complaint in DC Superior Court. The Clinic provided Mr. X with advice as his case progressed. In 2022, the court issued a default judgment for Mr. X in the amount of \$35,470 in unpaid wages. The Clinic has provided Mr. X with a referral to a collections attorney.





DCBF CEO Kirra Jarratt presenting Jonathan Smith with the 2022 Scoutt Prize.



Sen. Doug Jones at Avenues to Justice 2022.

EVENTS & AWARDS

President's Reception

The Foundation hosted its annual President's Reception in person for the first time since spring 2019 on May 3, 2022, at the Bipartisan Policy Center. We spent the evening honoring our most generous donors – members of the 77 Society who give \$1,000 or more to the Foundation each fiscal year—thanking them for supporting access to justice in the District.

The event featured remarks from DC Bar Foundation Board President Kelly Darnell and DC Bar Foundation CEO Kirra Jarratt, who updated attendees on the Foundation's recent achievements and areas of focus, including increased coordination and collaboration within the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network and prioritizing racial equity and racial justice.

Beth Mellen, former supervising attorney for Foundation grantee Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and 2021 Scoutt Prize winner, provided remarks about the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program grantees' eviction diversion work.

Avenues to Justice

The Foundation's Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council (YLN LC) hosted its first-ever in-person Avenues to Justice event on July 20, 2022, at Skadden.

We invited corporate and individual sponsors to join us for a rooftop happy hour before the event's main programming: a conversation about the importance of diversity at all levels of the legal profession. Speakers included Sen. Doug Jones and a panel of DC Bar Foundation grantees: Stephanie Troyer of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, Ariel Levinson Waldman of Tzedek DC, and Karen Newton Cole of Neighborhood Legal Services Program.

We also had video remarks from Roger Fairfax, dean and professor of law at American University's Washington College of Law, and Lisa Fairfax, presidential professor and co-director of the Institute for Law and Economics at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law.

Avenues to Justice impressively raised over \$65,000 for the District's civil legal aid network, surpassing its initial \$50,000 goal.

Fall Reception and Scoutt Prize

DCBF hosted on Nov. 19, 2022, its annual Fall Reception in-person for the first time since 2019. The reception brought together members

of DC's civil legal aid community to celebrate the Foundation's 45th anniversary, highlight our FY22 successes – including how we are fostering collaboration, centering community voices, and grounding our work in a foundation of racial justice and racial equity – and honor members of the Foundation's community who had passed away since the previous year's Fall Reception.

We also highlighted the important work and support of our grantees, Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) participants, donors, and volunteers. At the Fall Reception, the DC Bar Foundation presented the 2022 Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Jonathan M. Smith, executive director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. The Scoutt Prize is awarded annually to an attorney who has worked for a significant portion of their career at a nonprofit organization providing direct hands-on legal services to financially disenfranchised residents of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Smith joined the Washington Lawyers' Committee as executive director in 2016. He oversees litigation and advocacy programs, addressing civil rights and anti-poverty issues related to housing, employment, education, disability, criminal justice, immigrants, and refugees.

CALL TO ACTION

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PRO BONO SUPPORT AND SPECIAL THANKS

- Bipartisan Policy Center for hosting our 2022 President's Reception.
- DC Public Library for making space available for community focus groups.
- FTI Consulting and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for general counsel support.
- Perkins Coie LLP for legal counsel on a grantmaking issue.
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP for hosting our Avenues to Justice event.
- Wiley Rein LLP for legal counsel.
- Legal Aid Society of DC, Tzedek DC, and Neighborhood Legal Services Program for participating in our Avenues to Justice event programming.
- The DC Legal Aid Transformations Network's Design Team for serving as ambassadors and relationship-builders and helping to steward and advance the process and strategic direction of DC LATN.

CHAMPIONS FOR JUSTICE FIRMS

\$5,000 and Up

Steptoe
WilmerHale

\$2,500-\$4,999

ArentFox Schiff
Latham & Watkins LLP
Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

\$1,000-\$2,499

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Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP

\$500-\$999

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
Venable LLP

Up to \$500

Crowell & Moring LLP
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Washington Council of Lawyers

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The Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, comprised of thousands of pooled bank accounts, is administered by DCBF and distributed within the community for legal aid. We are extremely grateful for our Prime Partners for going above and beyond by offering a higher interest rate on their IOLTA accounts and making civil legal aid more accessible in our community.

City First Bank of DC
Forbright Bank

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77 SOCIETY MEMBERS

Named in honor of the year that the DC Bar Foundation was founded, the 77 Society recognizes the generosity of our donors, as well as the impact their support has on financially disenfranchised District residents in need of civil legal aid. Membership in the 77 Society is extended to individuals whose gifts to the DC Bar Foundation total \$1,000 or more each fiscal year. Members are listed below by the year they joined the 77 Society.

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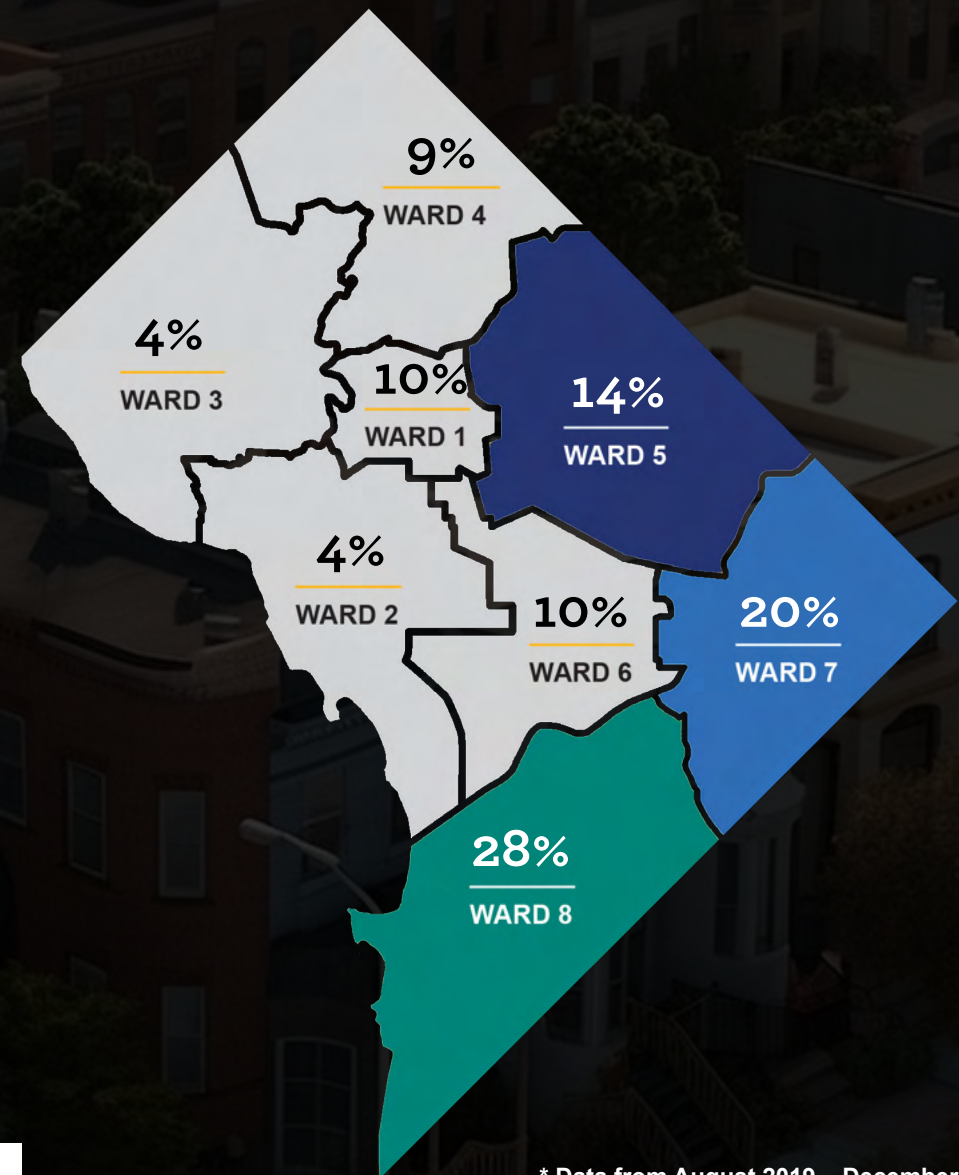


2022 GRANTEES

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Amara Legal Center
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Ayuda
Bread for the City
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
Catholic Charities Legal Network
Central American Resource Center
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Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
Mothers Outreach Network
Neighborhood Legal Services Program
Network for Victim Recovery in DC
Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
Rising for Justice
School Justice Project
The Safe Sisters Circle
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Tzedek DC
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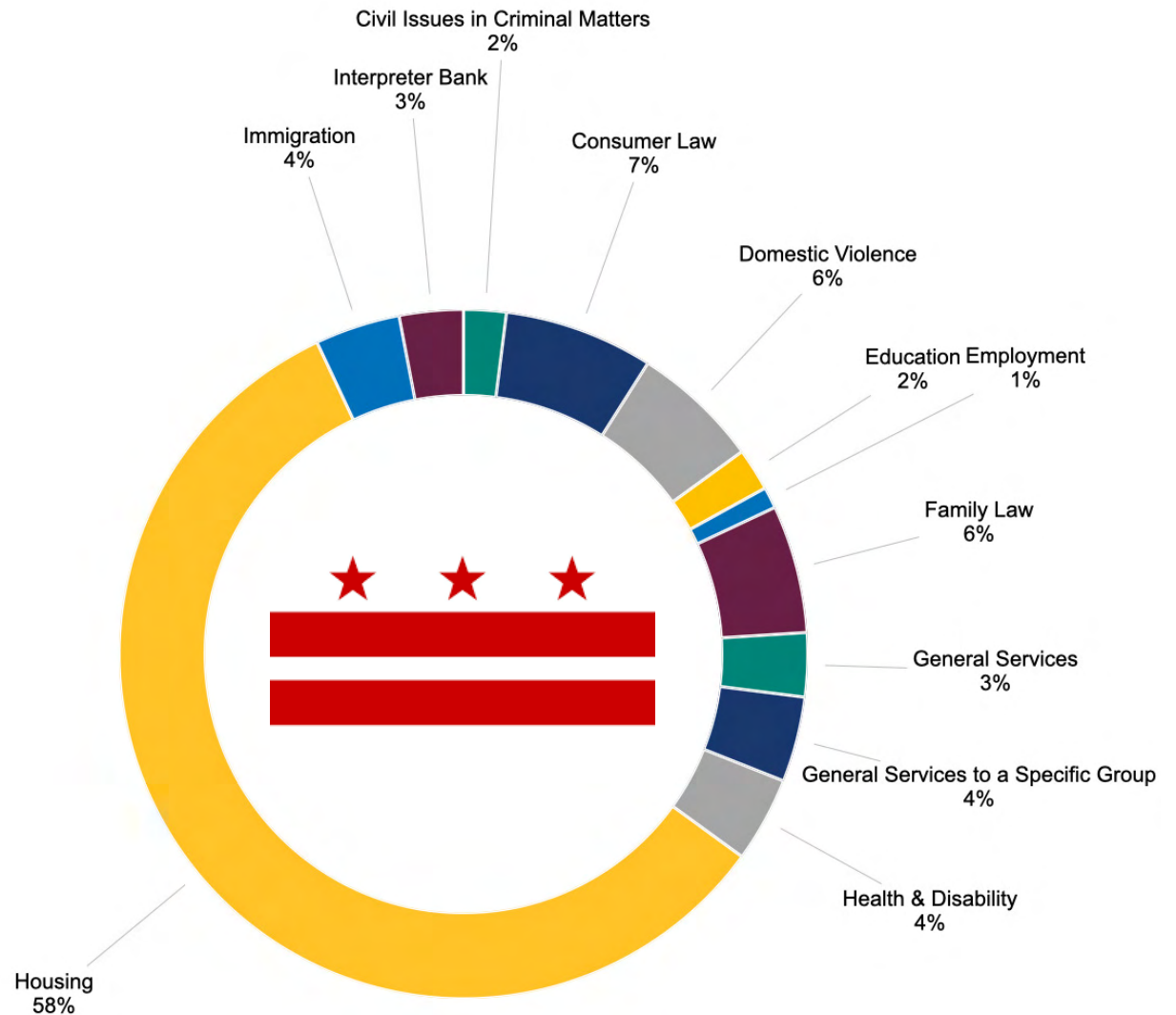
Percentage of Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program Clients Living in Each Ward*



* Data from August 2019 – December 2022

GRANTS → \$19.3 million invested in legal assistance in DC

Our grants provide support to organizations that invest in District residents with the greatest need. Our goal is to ensure that residents are being treated fairly in the workplace and marketplace; they are staying in their homes; and our most vulnerable or isolated neighbors are receiving specialized outreach and support.



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DCBF funds both general support and project-based grants in numerous categories. Examples of our project-based grants include medical-legal partnerships, court-based projects, and community law offices located in underserved neighborhoods. For more detailed information about our grant programs and the legal aid services that our grantees provide to DC residents, please visit our website at www.dcbfoundation.org.

FINANCIALS → Program Expenses vs. Total Expenses

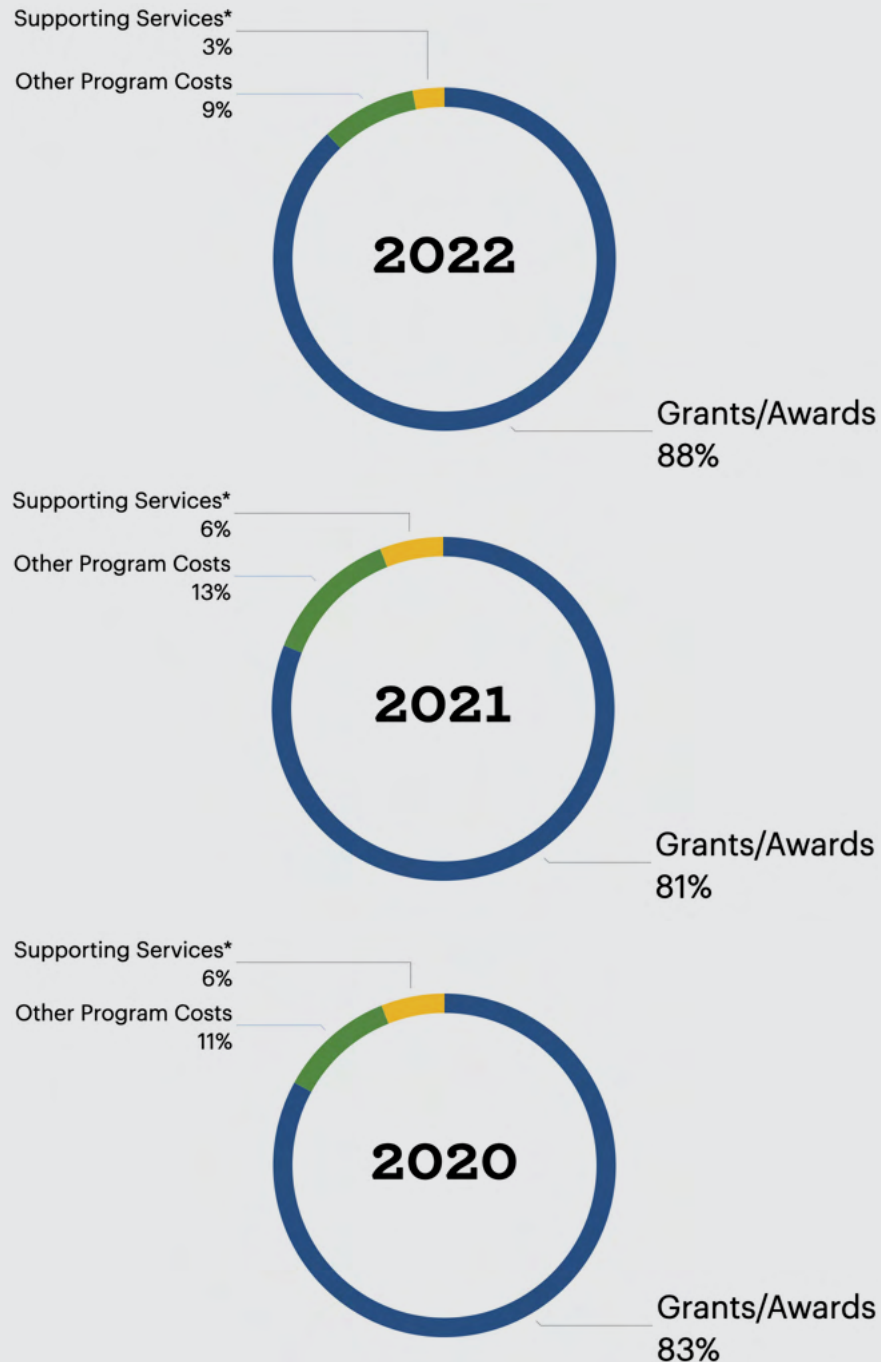
YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK

Effective management and efficient operations allow us to invest as much as possible in our programs.

While our grantmaking and other program activities continue to grow in size, the percentage spent on supporting services has stayed level.

For a complete copy of our most recent audited financial statements, please visit our website at dcbfoundation.org.

* = Administration and Fundraising



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Mayra Suarez (left) and
Ashley James-Smith,
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“In 2022, the DC Bar Foundation fostered significant transformation within DC’s civil legal aid network by weaving wellbeing, community-building, and racial justice and racial equity into our work. Every DC resident deserves to feel supported and empowered as they navigate the justice system, and we hope you will continue to stand with us in our pursuit to promote wellbeing and increase access to justice for all into 2023 and beyond.”

—Kirra L. Jarratt, Chief Executive Officer

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