

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 2022 to
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

WHAT WE DO

The DC Bar Foundation has a bold and visionary goal: To transform the civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so all District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.

Our core values, which include principles around equitable justice, centering community, collaboration and partnership, mutual trust and respect, and standing against anti-Black racism, in conjunction with our Strategic Framework, help guide our decision-making as we work on the systems and programs that will give all District residents equal access to justice regardless of wealth, education, or power.

GRANTS

The DC Bar Foundation supports our grantee partners through resources from the Access to Justice program, the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program (CLCPP), and General Support Grants. These funds help create a robust legal aid system in the District. In 2023, we awarded over \$26.4 million in funding, which helped families maintain stable housing, protected people in the workplace, and gave those who needed it access to health care support. Since 1977, the DC Bar Foundation has awarded nearly \$150 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 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.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The DC Bar Foundation invests in the capacity and vitality of the civil legal aid network through ongoing individual and organizational training on such topics as eviction defense, trial advocacy, supervision skills, and anti-racism.



DEAR FRIENDS,

The DC Bar Foundation continues progressing in its mission to transform the civil legal aid network in the District of Columbia. This year's annual report highlights the work we accomplished in FY23.

For starters, the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network continued to meet quarterly, bringing together stakeholders from various disciplines to reimagine how civil legal aid is delivered in the District. We released the results of the second network mapping survey, which provide a visual of the network's growth over the past two years.

The results show the Network's increasing value among Network members, with almost 45% of respondents to the survey saying that through the Network they gained new insight and perspective on our local civil legal aid system. (You can check out the Network mapping results on the Foundation website.) The Network also moved to in-person convenings, allowing members to deepen their work with stakeholders from legal aid, health and social services, government, academia, and philanthropy.

Second, FY23 marked the fifth anniversary of the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program (CLCPP), which funds legal assistance to residents facing housing-related issues. During FY23, CLCPP expanded for the first time, with the Children's

Law Center joining the CLCPP network to provide legal services to tenants seeking to remediate substandard housing conditions. CLCPP services reached every Ward in the District, with 45% of clients living in Wards 7 and 8.

Finally, we made significant progress toward the launch of the Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR) system, which will make it easier for DC residents to access legal aid. We have worked on this effort for the last three years in partnership with the legal aid community and other key stakeholders. In FY23, we held focus groups throughout the city, partnering with legal aid and social services organizations to meet with District residents to inform the system design. We also hosted a CIR user-testing session with DC residents that allowed them to use the system and offer suggestions for improvement. We know that in order to make impactful change, we must center the voices of those at the heart of our mission.

The Foundation would not be able to achieve these accomplishments without your support. Funding from the District, private and in-kind donations, volunteer support, and our ever-growing community partnerships are all invaluable to the Foundation and, most importantly, DC residents and our communities. Thank you for inspiring us and joining us in creating a fair and equitable legal aid system.

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer

John P. Relman
Board President



Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer



John P. Relman
Board President

86 Attendees

joined us for the first in-person DC Legal Aid Transformations Network convening.



64 Attorneys Enrolled to Receive Loan Forgiveness

through the Loan Repayment Assistance Program.



65% of Tenants

served by Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program partners reached their attorney through the Landlord Tenant Legal Assistance Network.



\$26.44 Million

awarded in grants to 37 legal aid organizations to amplify the voices of those in need, keep families in their homes, and protect people in the workplace.



1,540 Tenants Served

by Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program network partners at Landlord-Tenant Court from January to June 2023.



17 Generous Donors

joined the 77 Society's Class of 2023.



54% of DCBF Funding Supported

legal assistance related to housing.



6 Social Services Organizations

worked with us to get client feedback from DC residents about the Coordinated Intake and Referral System.



\$807,264

received from individual and corporate donors supporting civil legal aid.



50% of Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program

clients received legal advice and counsel.



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's civil legal aid needs.

In June 2023, the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network (DC LATN) celebrated its two-year anniversary. For the first time since the Network's inception, we were able to meet in person at the University of the District of Columbia. We had almost 90 participants from a cross-section of stakeholders from legal aid, academia, social services, and DC government to reimagine a new legal aid system that meets the needs of those we serve.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2

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.

As we moved forward with the Coordinated Intake and Referral (CIR) System, in early 2023, the DC Bar Foundation partnered with the Bernice Elizabeth Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library to host user testing with DC residents. The testing was an opportunity for residents to experience the CIR System as front-end users, testing how easy it is to find legal services providers. The feedback we received has helped inform changes and will allow us to create a system that is more seamless.

To help the legal aid community better understand the CIR System, we launched a monthly CIR Chat series. This series is intended to foster transparent conversations about the work being done, the support we need from the legal aid community, and what to expect going forward. We have held conversations related to branding and marketing, intake workers, navigator training, the client experience, and the pilot.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 3

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 incentives.

The DC Bar Foundation celebrated its fifth year working with Service Never Sleeps to provide a six-part Racial Equity 101 training series for our grantee partner community. In addition to the Racial Equity training series, this year we engaged in a needs-sensing process to gather feedback from our grantee partners about their organization's racial equity needs and priorities. This information will drive the training and technical assistance that we will make available to our grantee partners.

Internally, we updated our hiring and procurement processes with a racial equity lens, reviewed team needs for racial equity and racial justice training, and began an update of the racial equity roadmap that guides our internal racial justice work. We also embrace diversity on our Board of Directors. We continue to seek and appoint Board members from diverse backgrounds. In FY23, more than 50% of our Board was made up of people who identified as Black or people of color, and more than 50% were women. Additionally, 68% of our consultant partnerships are with women-owned businesses.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 4

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 are gathered, and experience dictates what can and should be scaled.

Our advocacy efforts for FY23 funding were successful, resulting in a \$31.7 million appropriation. For FY23, the District also doubled the funding restricted to eviction prevention, increasing from \$1.5 million to \$3 million.

DCBF-funded grantee partners address the needs of DC residents, in all eight Wards, in a trauma-informed, racially sensitive manner. Over the grant cycle, the type of work funded included legal advice, education through Know Your Rights sessions, and representation. We also provided funding for grantees who are engaging in systemic advocacy work to alter policies, procedures, and/or practices, and funding for organizations that have established partnerships between medical and legal providers to address health-harming social needs that have civil law remedies.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 5

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 Foundation prioritizes research and evaluates how we deliver services to ensure the people who need our services are getting them. We listen to DC residents from different backgrounds to learn more about their experience with legal aid and how we can make the system easier and more seamless to access. We convened six social services organizations (Mamatoto Village, Horton's Kids, My Sister's Place, The Smith Center, Food and Friends, and Catholic Charities) to gather feedback about designing a Coordinated Intake and Referral System.

We continue to work with NPC Research. In fall 2023, we released our biannual Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program evaluation report, which compiles data about work on housing and eviction-related cases. One highlight from the report that demonstrates the program's effectiveness is that from January through June 2023, attorneys worked on 1,627 eviction cases, and 1,134 cases were closed after receiving direct legal services beyond the initial intake screening.

DCBF Grantee Partners Provide Life-Changing Support

Advocates for Housing Justice

Ms. S is a disabled senior citizen who moved out of public housing a few years ago with a voucher. In August 2022, she received a notice stating her rent would increase on October 1 from \$859 to \$1359. Ms. S is on a fixed income and was very distraught about how she was going to be able to afford this increase. Because she is a voucher holder, her rent should never be more than 30% of her income. She tried several times to point out this discrepancy to the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) but did not receive a helpful response.

DCBF grantee partner Bread for the City began working with Ms. S to handle her case. Their initial step was to ask for a rent review from DCHA, believing that both her current and proposed future rent were inappropriately high. At the rent review, her attorneys learned that Ms. S missed a few fields in her recertification paperwork.

Bread for the City subsequently helped Ms. S submit all the paperwork she needed. The Housing Authority confirmed they had all they needed but changed its mind on December 15, stating that they needed her to fill out new recertification paperwork by the end of the week or they would proceed with charging her the higher rent. Bread for the City advocated on behalf of Ms. S, indicating there was no basis for DCHA to charge her higher rent or request other documents at the last minute and impose an artificial deadline.

Ultimately, Bread for the City was able to help Ms. S submit this additional paperwork in January 2023. Attorneys spent the next three months continuing to advocate for Ms. S with various DCHA employees that her rent should be reduced retroactively back to October 2022. In April 2023, Bread for the City received confirmation that their advocacy had paid off and DCHA was setting rent for Ms. S at \$247, effective October 1, 2022. This is an example of a client who did everything she could to follow the rules and stay compliant but did not get the support she needed. Without Bread for the City's assistance, Ms. S very likely would have fallen behind on her rent, risking both eviction and termination of her voucher.

Support for Children and Families

Eight-year-old Jaxon resided in North Carolina with his mother all his life. But in February 2022, his mother fled an abusive relationship and came to the DC area where Jaxon's father resides. Without stable housing options, Jaxon's mother returned to North Carolina, leaving Jaxon in his father's care.

During this time, Jaxon was not enrolled in school and was falling increasingly behind. There was a high level of hostility and mistrust between Jaxon's parents, who could not reach an agreement on custody or visitation, causing Jaxon further instability and emotional distress. Jaxon, who had witnessed domestic violence in North Carolina between his mother and her partner and whose father was in recovery from substance use, needed an advocate to represent his best interests in court.

Out of concern for his wellbeing, a judge appointed attorneys from the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCVLP)—a DCBF grantee partner—to

represent Jaxon as guardians ad litem. DCVLP attorneys quickly got to work, engaging Jaxon's parents, and encouraging them to work together. After more than a year, the guardians ad litem in Jaxon's case helped his parents to reach a custody and visitation arrangement that they both found suitable. Jaxon is now enrolled back in school, spends time with both parents, and his mom and dad are co-parenting well with positive communication.



*Names have been changed or modified to protect everyone's identity.

EVENTS & AWARDS

President's Reception

The Foundation hosted its annual President's Reception on June 6, 2023, at Relman Colfax PLLC. 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. We were joined by DC Councilmembers Charles Allen, Ward 6, and Brooke Pinto, Ward 2.

The event featured remarks from several speakers. DC Bar Foundation Board President John Relman and DC Bar Foundation CEO Kirra Jarratt updated attendees on the Foundation's recent achievements and efforts. Marc Fleischaker, Chair of the 77 Society, thanked members for their generosity and encouraged them to invite friends, colleagues, and other connections to consider joining the 77 Society. Karen Newton Cole, executive director at Neighborhood Legal Services Program, gave a status update on the Coordinated Intake and Referral System.

Avenues to Justice

The Foundation's Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council (YLN LC) hosted its second in-person Avenues to Justice event on July 12, 2023, at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.

Corporate and individual sponsors joined us for a happy hour before the event's main programming: a conversation about the intersection of wellbeing and access to justice. Speakers included a panel of DC Bar Foundation grantee partners and allied organizations: George Jones, chief executive officer of Bread for the City, Allison Dowling, medical-legal partnership director at Georgetown University's Health Justice Alliance Law Clinic, and Daniel del Pielago, housing director at Empower DC.

Avenues to Justice impressively raised nearly \$69,000 for the District's civil legal aid network, surpassing its initial goal.

Fall Reception and Scoutt Prize

The Foundation held its annual Fall Reception on November 8, 2023, generously hosted by PNC. The reception brought together members of DC's civil legal aid community to highlight our FY23 successes, including the identification of key priorities for the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network, progress made with Coordinated Intake and Referral, and a successful campaign to maintain level funding for the Access to Justice Initiative amid historic budget cut threats.

We also highlighted the important work and support of our grantee partners, DC Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) participants, donors, and volunteers. CEO Kirra Jarratt presented the 2023 Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Tracy Goodman, director at Children's Law Center, where she leads their Healthy Together medical-legal partnership. 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.



DCBF CEO Kirra Jarratt presenting Tracy Goodman with the 2023 Jerrold Scoutt Prize.



Left to Right: Moderator and YLN LC member Chris Sakauye, and panelists Allison Dowling, Daniel del Pielago, and George Jones at the 2023 Avenues to Justice Event



CALL TO ACTION

Platinum (\$25,000 and up)

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PRO BONO SUPPORT AND SPECIAL THANKS

• Our grantee partners for their unwavering commitment to a fair and equitable legal experience for all District residents. We especially thank you for sharing your passion at Bar Foundation meetings and events, your support in securing Access to Justice Initiative funding, and your active engagement alongside other key stakeholders in the DC Social Justice Transformations Network.

• Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for general counsel support.

• The DC Social Justice Transformations Network Design Team for serving as ambassadors and relationship-builders and helping to steward and advance the strategic direction of the Network.

• Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, PNC, and Relman Colfax PLLC for hosting DCBF events throughout the year.

• The MIT Sloan School of Management for conducting the Coordinated Intake & Referral participation incentives study.

AVENUES TO JUSTICE SPONSORS

Host & Honorary Sponsor

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Northrop Grumman Corporation

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Bertram LLP

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Silver (\$1,500)

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP
Miller & Chevalier Chartered
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Regan, Zambri & Long PLLC

PRIME PARTNERS

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.

Forbright Bank
Huntington National Bank
Industrial Bank
Old Dominion National Bank
United States Senate Federal Credit Union



INDIVIDUAL DONORS (\$0 - \$999)

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 John Tucker
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 Mark Tuohey
 Kimberly Waichman
 Richard Webber
 Courtney Weiner
 Robert Weiner
 Alvin Winston
 Alice Yang
 Eun Mi Yu



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.

Class of 2017

Murray J. Belman
 Maureen F. Del Duca
 Marc L. Fleischaker **
 Nathalie F.P. Gilfoyle ***
 Susan F. Hoffman
 Philip W. Horton
 Ellen M. Jakovic *
 Kirra L. Jarratt
 Andrew Marks
 Mary E. McClymont
 Patrick McGlone and Kevin Taylor *
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 Stanley O. Sher
 Paul M. Smith *
 Janet R. Studley

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 Ronald S. Flagg **
 Jamie Gorelick **
 Hartmut Schneider *
 Michael Ward *

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 Adam C. Pollet
 John P. Relman *
 Michael Rogan ***
 James J. Sandman **
 Matthew S. Watson
 Melissa Weberman

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 Wayne T. Gibson *
 Meryl D. Grenadier
 Rachael D. Kent
 Perry A. Lange
 Deborah P. Lindenberg
 Danielle M. Reyes
 Howard M. Shapiro **
 Daniel Volchok
 Seth P. Waxman

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 Peter B. Edelman *
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 Vonya B. McCann
 Anjali Wagle Phillips
 Merinda and Benjamin F. Wilson *

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 Anthony C. Epstein
 Meredith Fuchs
 Indira Henard *
 Nancy A. Noonan
 Rumu Sarkar
 Tab Stewart
 Mayra C. Suárez

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 Kenneth Epps
 Kerry-Ann Hamilton
 Maria Kirby
 Gail Makode *
 Angela Montez and Perry Fergus *
 Joseph Rancour
 Richard Roberts
 Laurie B. Davis and Joseph M. Sellers
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 Elio Trabal
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Donor Tiers

* Advocates of Justice (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
 ** Champions for Justice (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
 *** Pillars of Justice (\$10,000 and Above)

LEGACY DONORS

This year, the Foundation created legacy giving tiers within its 77 Society to recognize donors who have reached significant lifetime giving thresholds of \$25,000, \$50,000, and \$100,000. We have named the legacy tiers after historic African-American civil rights champions in the District whose work may not be widely known: Charles T. Duncan Legacy Donor (lifetime gifts totaling \$25,000 - \$49,999), Charlotte E. Ray Legacy Donor (lifetime gifts totaling \$50,000 - \$99,999), and Charles Hamilton Houston Legacy Donor (lifetime gifts totaling \$100,000 or more).

Charles T. Duncan Legacy Donors

Marc L. Fleischaker
 Jamie S. Gorelick
 John M. Nannes
 Stephen J. and Ruth Pollak
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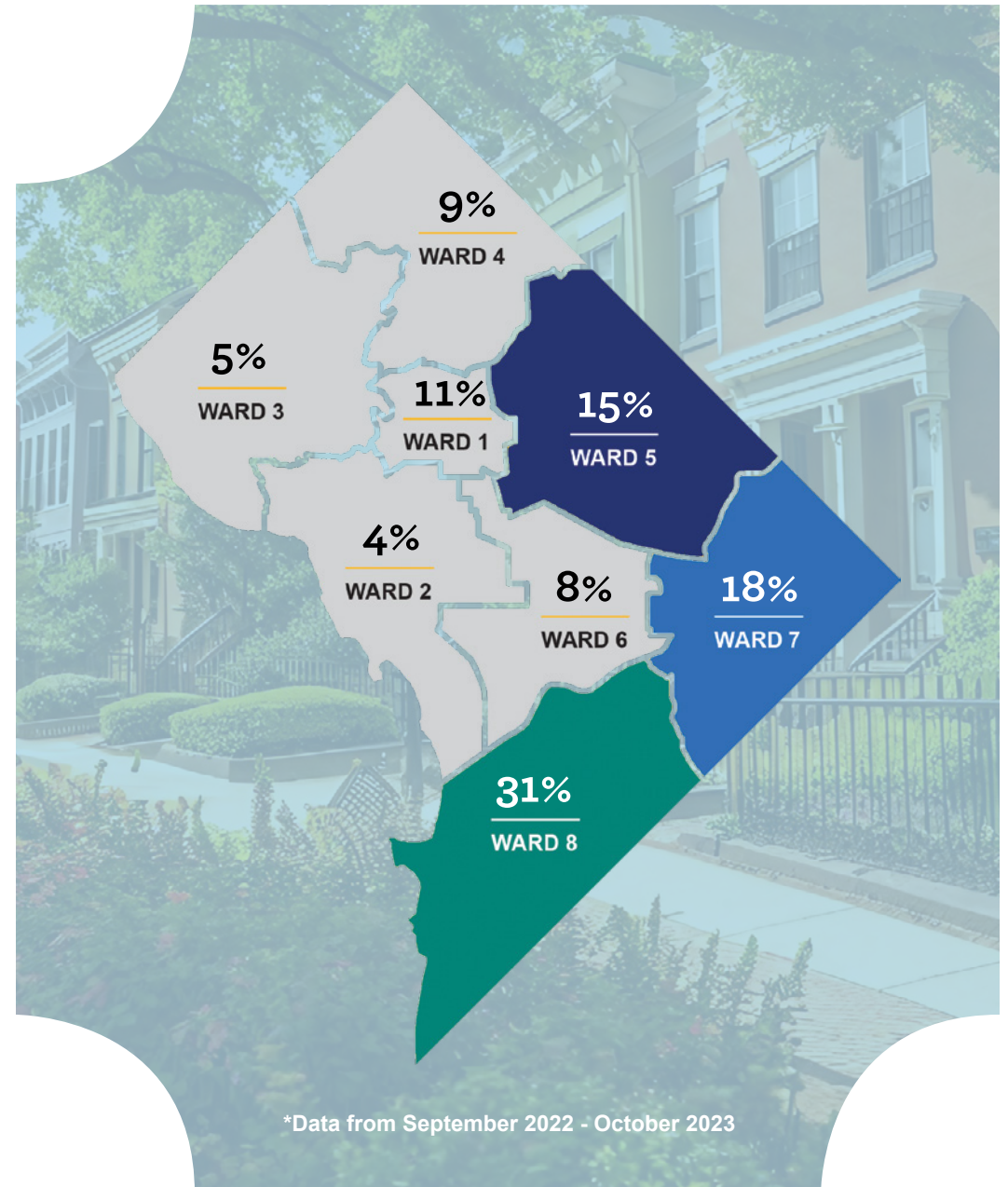
Charlotte E. Ray Legacy Donors

Nathalie F.P. Gilfoyle
 David W. Ogden

2023 GRANTEE PARTNERS

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 African Communities Together
 Amara Legal Center
 Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
 Ayuda
 Bread for the City
 Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington Inc.
 Central American Resource Center
 Children's Law Center
 Christian Legal Aid of DC
 Community Family Life Services
 DC Affordable Law Firm
 DC Bar Pro Bono Center
 DC KinCare Alliance
 DC Volunteer Lawyers Project
 First Shift Justice Project
 Georgetown University
 Howard University
 KIND Inc.
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 Legal Counsel for the Elderly
 Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
 Mothers Outreach Network
 Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia
 Network for Victim Recovery of DC
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 The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
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UNIVERSITY LEGAL SERVICES
 Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
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Percentage of Civil Legal Counsel Program Clients Living in Each Ward*

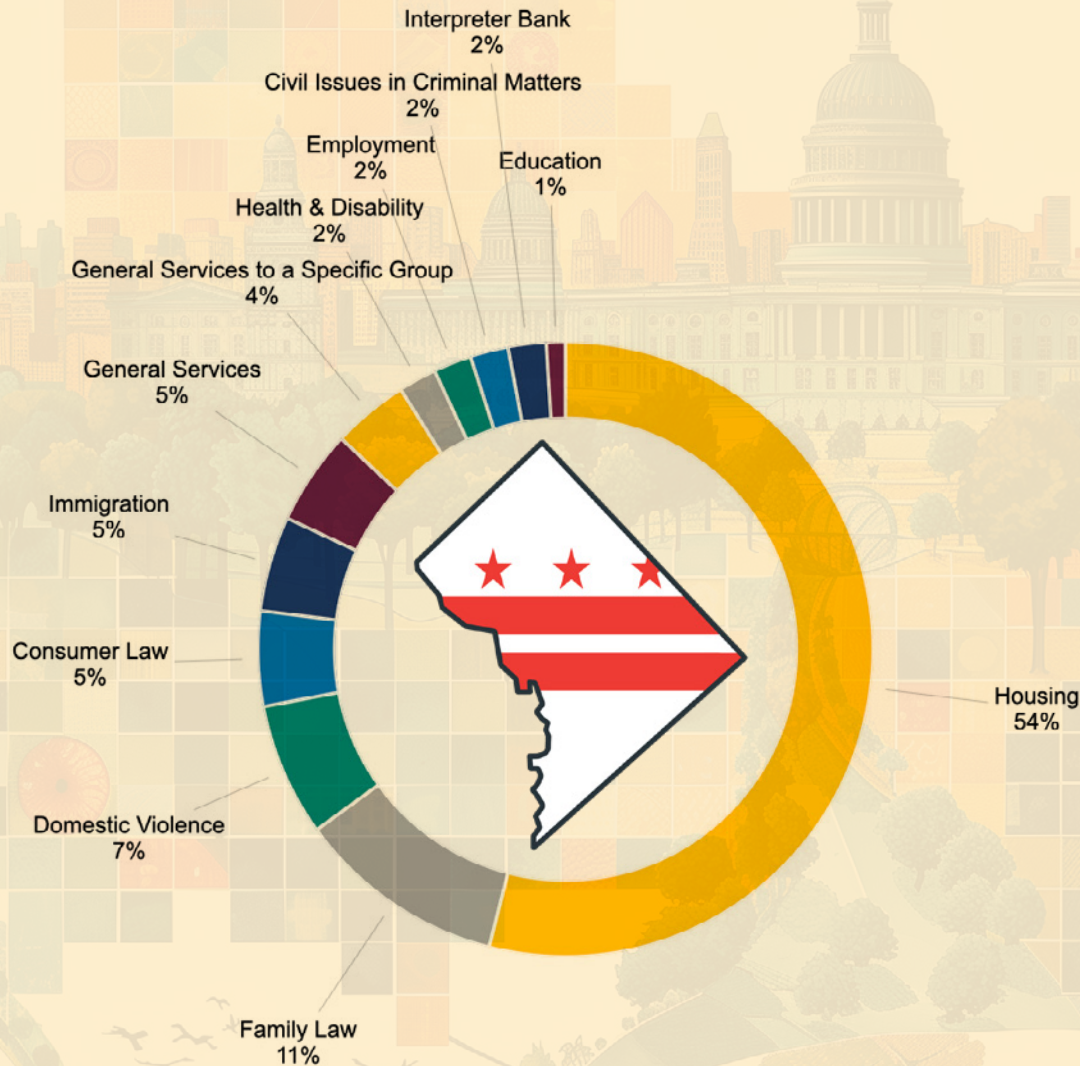


\$26.4 million invested in legal assistance in DC →

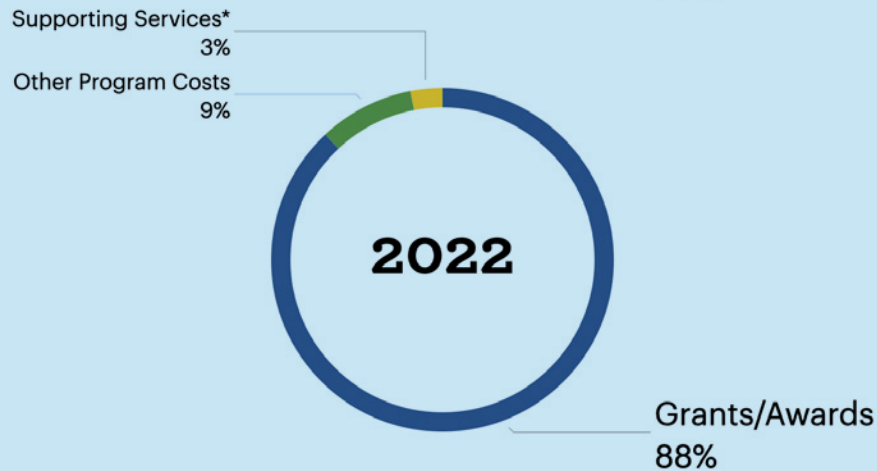
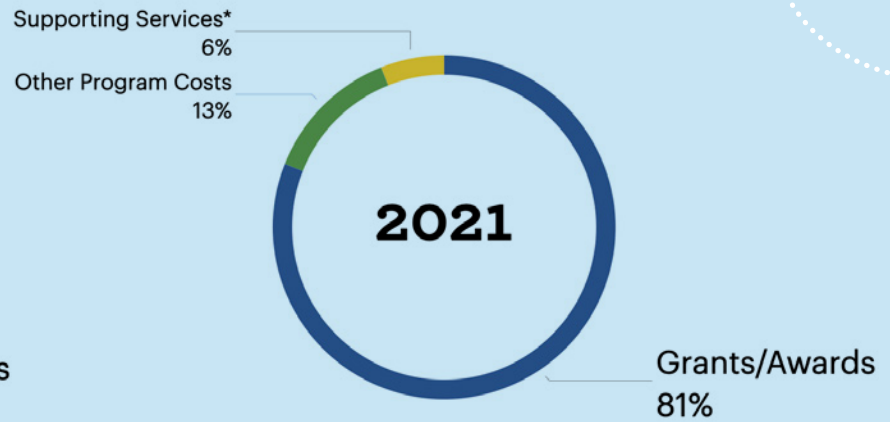
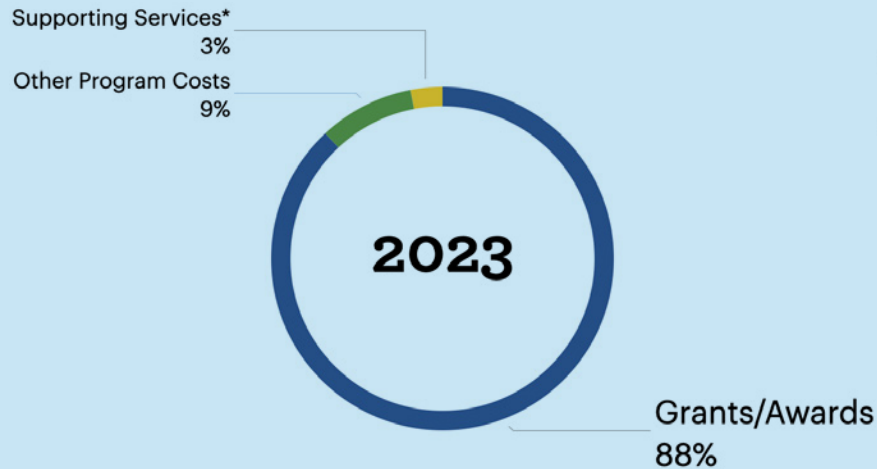
GRANTS

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.

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.



➔ **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. * = Administration and Fundraising

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