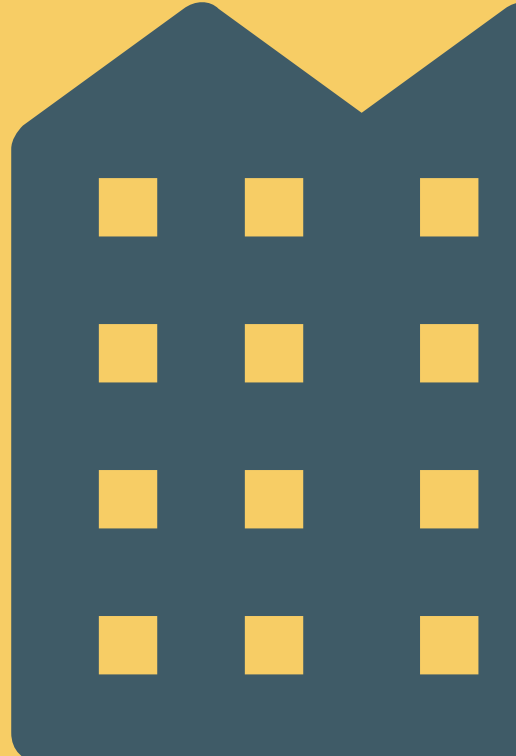


MONROE COUNTY TENANT DEFENSE PROJECT

The Tenant Defense Project is the first project in New York State to combine all aspects of legal advocacy in a single project for all low-income people.

ASK: \$1.5M



THE CHALLENGE

Housing instability is a significant problem in Rochester, particularly in the Black community, as a result of systemic racism. Stable, affordable housing is a top indicator of family success and upward mobility

New York City's right to counsel program has delivered dramatic results for renters, with evictions declining almost 20% in the first year of the program.



1.18M

New Yorkers are at risk of eviction



77%

less likely to be evicted if represented by an attorney

TENANT DEFENSE PROJECT

Initially began as a project of the Justice for All Coalition, the Tenant Defense Project emerged as a solution to reducing housing instability in Monroe County by the legal services community. Launched in August 2020, the Project is a jointly-run pilot by Rochester's legal services community to provide tenants free access to attorneys in eviction cases. The Tenant Defense Project aims to provide legal advice and full representation for all income-qualified tenants in the greater Rochester area.

CURRENT FUNDING

City of Rochester
ESL Foundation
Monroe County
United Way of Greater Rochester
Current funding ends October 2021



DIRECT SERVICES

CIVIL LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR LOW-INCOME TENANTS



The Legal Aid Society
of ROCHESTER, NEW YORK



VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES PROJECT
OF MONROE COUNTY, INC.

SYSTEMS CHANGE

SYSTEMIC AND APPELLATE WORK, IMPACT LITIGATION TO PURSUE SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS TO REPETITIVE OR SYSTEMIC BARRIERS



Empire Justice Center
Making the law work for all New Yorkers

CURRENT STATUS

SINCE 10/1/2020



40

Rochester courts average eviction filings per day



1287

Inbound calls on Hotline created for tenants to easily connect with service providers



340

Courthouse client intakes completed by the Tenant Defense Project



1050

Total client intakes completed by Project Partners