



# 2025 RIGHT TO COUNSEL PILOT PROJECT REPORT

The Chicago Right to Counsel Pilot Project (RTC) provides extended legal representation to eligible low-income tenants at risk of eviction when a resolution cannot be reached in the Early Resolution Program (ERP), a free service providing negotiation and brief advice for tenants and landlords in eviction court. In 2024, an independent evaluation of the three-year pilot found more than 70% of clients felt they could achieve their housing goals with support from ERP and RTC. Through sustained funding of RTC, more Chicago renters at risk of homelessness will remain stably housed, generating financial benefits for the City of Chicago by reducing costs associated with displacement.

## PROGRAM EFFICACY

OF CLIENTS SEEKING TO AVOID EVICTION,

**92 %** **AVOIDED A  
FORMAL EVICTION  
JUDGMENT**

THROUGH COMBINED EFFORTS IN COURT,

**DEFAULT  
EVICTION RATES  
DECREASED** **20 %**

OF CLIENTS WHO AGREED TO MOVE OUT,

**75 %** **SECURED MORE  
THAN 30 DAYS  
TO VACATE**

FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT, CHICAGO REALIZED

**FISCAL  
BENEFITS  
BETWEEN  
\$2.75 AND** **\$ 3.35**

## OUR IMPACT

**3K+** **HOUSEHOLDS  
RECEIVED  
RTC SERVICES**

**50** **OF 50  
WARDS  
REACHED**

Unlike criminal court proceedings, when a renter enters eviction court, they are not guaranteed an attorney, leading to disproportionate rates of representation among tenants and their landlords. Through the RTC Pilot, more than 3600 renters obtained the support they needed to achieve their housing goals, assert their rights, and resolve complex housing disputes, ensuring more renters in every Chicago ward could remain stably housed.

## SUPPORT CHICAGO'S RENTERS

**Call or email your Alderperson:**

*"Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Your Ward]. I am calling to advocate for the sustained funding of Right to Counsel (RTC) in eviction court. These programs have proven to keep more families housed and reduce financial stress on landlords. By supporting these measures, you are helping to create a more equitable city for all renters. Thank you."*



The Right to Counsel Pilot Project is a collaboration between the City of Chicago Department of Housing, LCBH, Legal Action Chicago, and CARPLS. This project is supported, in whole or in part, by a federal grant awarded to the Chicago Department of Housing by the U.S. Department of Treasury.