



RIGHT TO COUNSEL PILOT PROJECT REPORT

CHICAGO RENTERS NEED PERMANENT FUNDING FOR RIGHT TO COUNSEL

The Chicago Right to Counsel Pilot Project (RTC) provides extended legal representation to eligible low-income tenants at risk of eviction. RTC, a 3-year collaboration between the Chicago Department of Housing, Law Center for Better Housing (LCBH), Legal Aid Chicago, and CARPLS, aims to prevent evictions and stabilize housing for renters in Chicago.

HOW IT WORKS

2K+ HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED RTC SERVICES

53 OF 60 CHICAGO ZIP CODES REACHED

RTC builds on the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt Early Resolution Program, a free service providing renters and landlords with brief advice on their first court date. When a settlement cannot be reached in ERP, eligible renters are screened for viable defenses and connected with a legal aid attorney through RTC for extended representation.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

78% Black participants

75% Female participants

63% below \$25,000 income

PRELIMINARY DATA

OF CLIENTS SEEKING TO AVOID EVICTION,

92% AVOIDED A FORMAL EVICTION JUDGEMENT

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

SUPPORT CHICAGO'S RENTERS

Call or email your Alderperson and help us advocate for renters' rights:

"Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I am a resident of [Your Ward]. I am calling to express my support for programs that help renters at risk of eviction.

Specifically, I am urging you to advocate for the sustained funding for the Early Resolution Program (ERP) and the steady growth of Right to Counsel (RTC). 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."



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