Legal assistance for at-risk renters overview

Legal assistance for at-risk renters is provided by legal service organizations that, in some cases, are supported by local jurisdictions, among other funders.

These organizations provide legal advice and representation to tenants who are facing eviction or dealing with other serious housing issues, such as landlord harassment, fair housing discrimination, or failure to address maintenance issues that pose a safety or sanitation issue. Legal assistance organizations can also help tenants understand their rights and responsibilities so they can be well-informed and successfully advocate for themselves when reviewing a lease, requesting necessary maintenance, and in other situations. Some jurisdictions are debating whether to create a right to counsel or a commitment to fund counsel for all low-income tenants facing eviction, which could mean a very large expansion of existing local levels of funding for this type of legal assistance.