



Appointed Counsel for Indigent Tenants: A Proven, Cost-Effective Strategy to Prevent Homelessness

EVICTION FILINGS ARE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

Eviction filings in FY 2025 reached 24,368—47.6% higher than the FY 2019 baseline of 16,505.

For more than 10,000 low-income Washingtonians each year, eviction defense can be the difference between housing stability and the trauma of displacement and homelessness.

The **Appointed Counsel for Indigent Tenants Program (RCW 59.18.640)** is a proven homelessness prevention tool. It ensures tenants on the brink of losing their homes have a fair chance in court and access to all available resources. This program is not only about legal defense—it is about **keeping families housed, preventing homelessness, reducing the trauma of eviction, and lowering the downstream costs of homelessness.**

PROGRAM IMPACT

🔥 Over 30,000 low-income Washingtonians have been served since the program began in January 2022.

🔥 More than 10,000 people are served each year.

🔥 Housing Stability: 90% of closed cases resulted in permanent housing solutions; 60% allowed tenants to remain in their homes.

🔥 Serving the Most Vulnerable: 47% BIPOC; 39% people with disabilities.

🔥 Cost Efficiency:
Cost Per Case FY 2025: \$1,663.27

CLIENT STORY

A tenant fell behind on rent due to financial coercion from her ex-partner, who demanded money from her every time she was paid. Her attorney helped her create a safety plan to prevent further contact, set a realistic budget, and apply for child support through DSHS. With rental assistance from the Eviction Prevention Program (EPP), **the attorney was able to keep her in her home.**

FUNDING REQUEST

Maintaining these critical services during the continuing crisis requires continuation of the current budget and approval of **\$3 million in supplemental funding for FY 2027.** Without this supplemental funding we will lose 17 full-time attorneys and nearly **2,000 individuals facing eviction each year without an attorney.**