

## What Legal Aid Helps With

Rental Housing  
 Public Benefits  
 Family or Domestic Violence  
 Consumer and Foreclosure Prevention  
 Immigration

To see if Legal Aid can help you, [apply online](#) or call (202) 628-1161. Please understand that Legal Aid cannot help everyone that applies, even if you have an issue in an area that we help with. There are many reasons why Legal Aid may not be able to take your case, including that Legal Aid must avoid conflicts and that Legal Aid simply does not have enough staff to represent all applicants who need help.

<b>Rental Housing</b>	
<b>Legal Aid could help with...</b>	<b>Legal Aid doesn't help with...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evictions and eviction threats</li> <li>• Public housing, section 8, housing vouchers</li> <li>• Problematic conditions (ex. infestations, no heat, etc.)</li> <li>• Rent increases</li> <li>• Building ownership transfers (ex. TOPA, Sale through bankruptcy or foreclosure)</li> <li>• Reasonable accommodation requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-neighbor disputes</li> <li>• Inter-roommate disputes</li> <li>• Subtenant disputes where the master tenant contacts us</li> <li>• Agency non-responsiveness</li> <li>• Rapid rehousing terminations when reason is timing out of the program between typical program length of 12-25 months</li> <li>• Tenants suing landlords for personal injuries (e.g., ceiling falls in and hurts tenant) or property damage (e.g., bedbugs damage tenant's couch)/slip and fall cases</li> <li>• Expediting someone's position on a housing waiting list (e.g., someone has been on the waiting list for a voucher for years). There may be some unusual circumstances where we may be able to give advice.</li> <li>• Conducting housing searches</li> </ul>

<b>Public Benefits</b>	
<b>Legal Aid could help with...</b>	<b>Legal Aid doesn't help with...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNAP</li> <li>• TANF</li> <li>• Medical Assistance (Medicaid and DC Alliance)</li> <li>• Medicare Part D Enrollment</li> <li>• IDA</li> <li>• Social Security and SSI benefits after the application stage</li> <li>• Unemployment Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare benefits</li> <li>• Applying for Social Security or SSI benefits</li> <li>• Veteran's benefits</li> </ul>

<b>Family or Domestic Violence</b>	
<b>Legal Aid could help with...</b>	<b>Legal Aid doesn't help with...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Protection Orders</li> <li>• Custody</li> <li>• Custodial Power of Attorney</li> <li>• Child Support</li> <li>• Paternity/Parentage</li> <li>• Divorce *Generally, Legal Aid will only help with divorce when there is a related child custody case. Generally, Legal Aid does not help with complex asset division.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Restraining Orders</li> <li>• Criminal defense</li> <li>• Child Abuse and neglect</li> <li>• Education Law</li> </ul>

## Consumer and Foreclosure Prevention

Legal Aid could help with...	Legal Aid doesn't help with...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing home foreclosure by a mortgage company or condo association</li> <li>• Defending against consumer debt collection (credit cards, personal or auto loans, medical, rental or other debt owed to a business)</li> <li>• Automobile insurance subrogation (someone else's insurance company suing you for damage they say you caused in an accident while uninsured)</li> <li>• Transfers of structured settlement annuities</li> <li>• Property tax issues</li> <li>• Bankruptcy, Chapter 7;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting debts from others</li> <li>• Probate, wills, estates</li> </ul>

## Immigration

Legal Aid could help with...	Legal Aid doesn't help with...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U visas (for survivors of certain crimes in the US who have helped police/law enforcement)</li> <li>• T visas (for people who have been forced to work in the US, or forced to participate in sex work in the US)</li> <li>• VAWA applications (for survivors of domestic violence committed by their US citizen or green card holder spouse)</li> <li>• SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications, for children under 18 who have suffered abuse, neglect, or abandonment from one or both parents)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewing your work permit (also known as an Employment Authorization Document)</li> <li>• Applications for green cards/permanent resident status based on family or marriage</li> <li>• Applications to naturalize and become a US citizen</li> <li>• Applying to bring your family member here from outside the US             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Note: This is available to some people who are <i>currently</i> our immigration clients</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Employment-based visa applications</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asylum office interviews and asylum applications in immigration court<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Note: We mainly focus on helping asylum seekers who are LGBTQ and/or have survived domestic violence in their home country. We can't help every asylum seeker.</li></ul></li><li>• New Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") applications and TPS renewals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Note: as of September 2021, USCIS is accepting initial applications for TPS for citizens of Venezuela, Syria, Burma, Haiti, Somalia, and Yemen. Visit <a href="#">this</a> USCIS web page to see the deadlines to apply for TPS for these countries.</li></ul></li><li>• DACA renewals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Note: as of October 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is not allowed to grant applications for new DACA protections because of a federal court order. Visit <a href="#">this</a> website to see updates on any changes.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changing visa categories generally (for example, going from a student visa to a work visa)</li><li>• Passport and ID applications</li></ul>
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