

# CT Right to Counsel Update

April 22, 2022

eviction  
**HELP**<sub>CT</sub>

# Revisiting the Legislation

(g) The administering entity, in consultation with the working group and designated organizations, shall determine how to **phase in the right to counsel program** based on all relevant factors, including, but not

***Public Act No. 21-34***

**5 of 14**

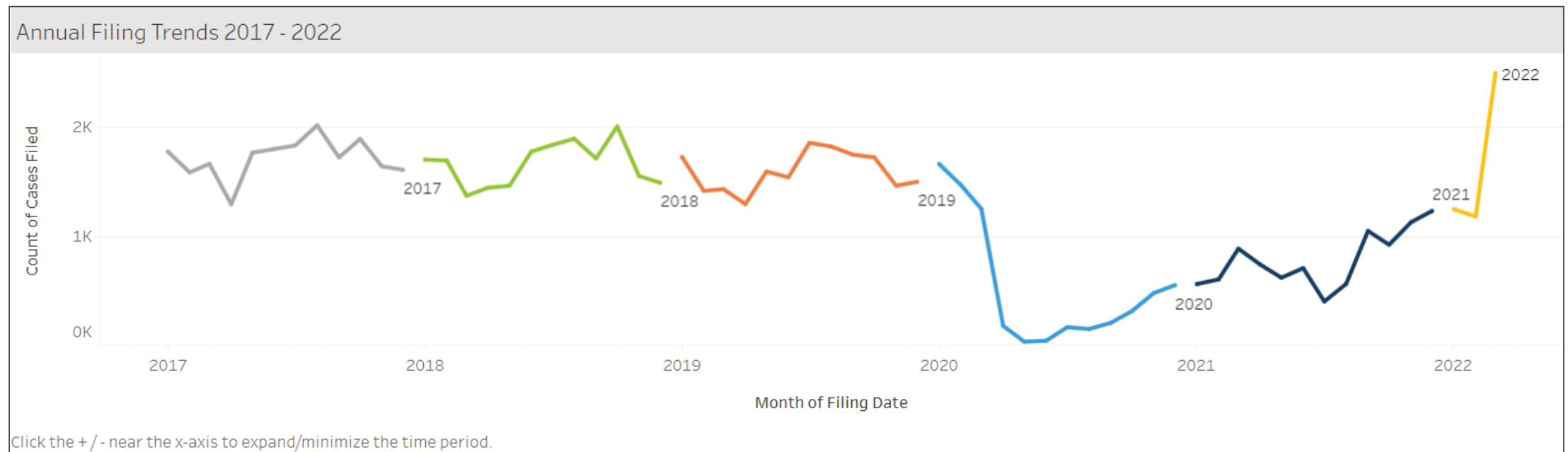
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***Substitute House Bill No. 6531***

limited to: (1) The prioritization of certain groups of individuals by income, zip codes, census tracts or other priority criteria developed in consultation with the designated organizations and the working group; (2) the availability of program funding; (3) the number of trained legal services attorneys available to provide legal representation; and (4) the scope of the need for legal representation.

# The Current Landscape

## Eviction Filing Trend By Year



# Eviction Filings in RTC Zip Codes

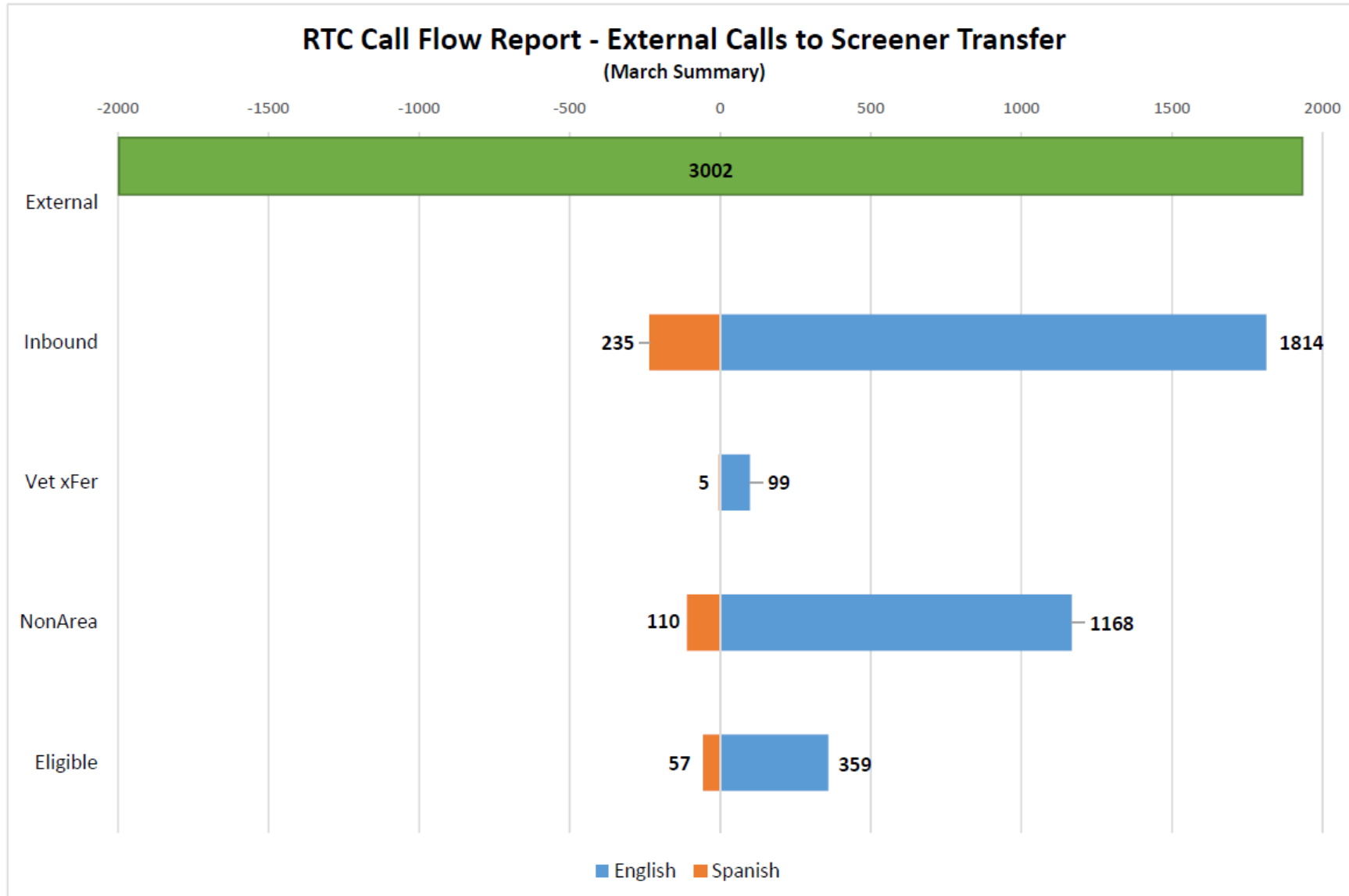
Eviction Filings in RTC Zip Codes in CT				
Eviction Filing Year	Eviction Filing Month			
	January	February	March	Total - Jan.-Mar.
2018	495	463	405	1,363
2019	505	411	401	1,317
2020	514	449	344	1,307
2021	150	172	240	562
2022	370	355	725	1,450

Source: State of Connecticut Judicial Branch data compiled and reported to Stout by Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

% of Tenants in CT RTC Zip Codes Represented in a Judicial Proceeding	
Eviction Filing Year	% Represented
2018	5.90%
2019	6.30%
2020	10.50%
2021	11.80%
2022*	13.40%
*Partial year - data through March 31, 2022.	

Source: State of Connecticut Judicial Branch data compiled and reported to Stout by Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

# RTC Hotline Activity



# Zip Code Addition

New London Zip Code Added; 06320 - March 24

Town	Zip Codes	Provider	Average Filings (2017-2019) <sup>1</sup>	Renters (2019) <sup>2</sup>	Eviction Rate (2019) <sup>3</sup>
<b>Bridgeport</b>	06610	CLS	314	11,743	2.8%
<b>Danielson</b>	06239	CLS	63	3,788	1.6%
<b>Hartford</b>	06105	GH LA	698	14,469	4.4%
	06106		690	25,323	2.9%
	06112		339	12,081	2.9%
	06114		479	20,364	2.2%
	06120		401	10,532	3.2%
<b>New Haven</b>	06511	NHLAA	767	36,656	1.9%
	06513		483	23,456	1.8%
	06519		240	11,163	2.0%
<b>New London</b>	06320	CLS	400	13,932	3.0%
<b>Putnam</b>	06260	CLS	45	3,324	1.1%
<b>Waterbury</b>	06710	CLS	319	6,699	4.5%
<b>West Haven</b>	06516	NHLAA	466	21,401	2.0%
<b>Willimantic</b>	06226	CLS	163	9,980	1.8%
<b>RTC Phase-1 Totals (% of Statewide)</b>			5,867 (30%)	210,979 (20%)	2.6%
<b>Statewide</b>			19,739	1,059,257	1.3% (median)

# Demographics

Since January 31, 2022:

- 450 tenants assisted
- 404 referred for legal representation

Of the 404 cases referred for legal representation, these are the demographic details:

Race, Ethnicity	Total
Black	~45%
White, non-Hispanic	12%
Hispanic or Latino	36%
Asian or Pacific	1%
Native American	1%
Other	4%
<b>Total</b>	~100%

Gender	Total
Female	74%
Male	26%
Transgender	0%
Non-binary	0%
<b>Total</b>	100%

Household Size	Total
1	48%
<b>Household size &gt; 1 incl children</b>	
1 child	20%
2	18%
3	9%
4 or more	5%
<b>Total</b>	100%

52%

## Demographics cntd.

### Disability

- Approximately 21% had a physical disability or handicap
- 20% had a mental disability or handicap
- 2% had a learning disability

**43% report having a disability**



# Housing

- Of the people who responded to the question about the presence of defective conditions in their home, approximately **69% indicated there were defective conditions.**
- Of the people who responded to the question about wanting to stay in their home, approximately **64% indicated they wanted to stay**, approximately 31% indicated they did not want to stay, and 5% indicated they preferred not to answer.

## Housing cntd.

Of the people who responded to the question about where they would stay **if they had to move**:

- ~34% indicated they would live unsheltered/on the street
- 32% did not know where they would stay
- 20% would enter shelter
- 5% would stay with friends/family in CT
- 3% would stay with friends/family outside of CT.

# Tenants' Eviction History

- 77% of tenants referred for legal representation report never having had an eviction filed against them.

<b>Prior Eviction Filing</b>	<b>Total</b>
No	77%
Yes	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Rental Assistance



66% of tenants who were referred for legal representation indicated they had applied for rental assistance



Approximately 72% of people who indicated their case was related to the non-payment of rent applied for rental assistance

# RTC Staffing

- Current funding supports 40 attorneys. A statewide Right to Counsel would need approximately 100 attorneys.

RTC Staffing					
Attorneys	CVLC	GHLA	NHLAA	CLS	Total
	3	5	7	8	23
Support Staff	CVLC	GHLA	NHLAA	CLS	
	2	2	1	3	8
Anticipated New Hires		2, Fall	2 Atty, summer		4
				Attorney	4

# Looking Ahead

A continued focus on recruiting, hiring, and training attorneys

As close as possible, real-time communication regarding changes to RTC coverage areas or intake

Continue to explore enhancements to CTLawHelp to inform tenants about the eviction process

# Questions, Comments

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