

CT Right to Counsel Update

February 21, 2025



RTC Year Three Independent Evaluation: Executive Summary

- From January 31, 2022, through November 30, 2024, Connecticut eviction right to counsel (CT-RTC) attorneys assisted **5,456 households** with **12,798 individuals**, including **5,109 children** and 7,689 adults.
- From January 31, 2022, through November 30, 2024, Stout estimates **CT-RTC attorneys assisted clients in avoiding disruptive displacement¹ in 85% of cases where the client received extensive services.**
- Of clients receiving extensive services who had a goal of preventing an eviction filing, CT-RTC attorneys were able to prevent an eviction filing for approximately 47% of them. Stout understands from CT-RTC attorneys and eviction defense attorneys throughout the country that **preventing an eviction filing has a significant impact on tenants' ability to remain stably housed, avoid eviction judgments and records, and secure future housing** if the tenant needs or wants to move.
- Stout estimates for every dollar spent on CT-RTC from January 31, 2022, through November 30, 2024, Connecticut has likely realized at least \$2.64 in potential fiscal impacts and economic benefits. The **total estimated fiscal impacts and economic benefits of CT-RTC from January 31, 2022, through November 30, 2024, is \$36.6 million.**

RTC Year Three Independent Evaluation: Executive Summary (cont'd)

- CT-RTC clients **disproportionately identify as female and Black or African American compared to Connecticut's overall population**. Approximately 67% of clients identified as female, and approximately 85% of CT-RTC clients identified as non-white. Approximately 44% of clients identified as both African American or Black and female.
- **Approximately 49% of clients indicated they did not know where they would go if they were forced to move**. Approximately 22% of clients (overall) indicated if they were forced to move, they would live on the street or experience unsheltered homelessness, and an additional 7% indicated they would enter emergency shelter. The percentage of clients indicating they would live on the street or unsheltered increased from approximately 18% in 2023 to approximately 22% in 2024.
- Approximately 21% of clients had rental property owners from outside of Connecticut. Clients with rental property owners from outside Connecticut were **more likely to indicate the presence of defective conditions** and have had previous issues with the rental property owner. There was not a significant difference in the months of back rent owed or goals achieved based on where the rental property owner was located (in-state or out-of-state).

RTC Year Three Independent Evaluation: Executive Summary (cont'd)

- Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF), in partnership with the Providers, launched an innovative post-service client follow-up survey in the fourth quarter of 2024. The survey was designed to identify whether and how CT-RTC is assisting clients in securing medium- and long-term housing stability.
- Stout understands there are 3 primary sources of rent assistance available statewide in Connecticut: (1) Eviction Prevention Fund, (2) Moving Assistance Program, and (3) Workforce Rental Assistance Program; securing rent assistance, when available, can assist with the efficient and effective resolution of cases where non-payment is the only issue. **When CT-RTC attorneys were able to assist clients with securing rent assistance, approximately 80% of clients were able to stay in their home.**

Legislative Advocacy

- Governor Lamont's proposed budget for FY 26-27 does not include funds for RTC. It should be noted that the Governor excluded almost all ARPA funded programs from his proposed budget.
- CBF, along with legal aid providers and community partners, testified at the public hearing for the Appropriations Committee on 2/11 to ask that the General Assembly continue to fund RTC.
- Rep. Antonio Felipe, co-chair of the Housing Committee and member of the Judicial sub-committee of Appropriations, has introduced H.B. 6939, An Act Authorizing State Funding for the Right to Counsel Program. The public hearing was on 2/18 and CBF testified in support, along with legal aid providers and other community partners.
- CBF continues to have meetings with legislators, both Democrat and Republican, to lobby for these funds.

Questions?

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