Civil legal aid is an essential service for people who face housing insecurity, including eviction and foreclosure. A significant percentage of civil legal aid cases involve complex housing issues that can mean the difference between retaining housing and facing homelessness for Massachusetts residents. In FY22, legal aid organizations saw a 26% increase in federally subsidized housing cases and a 23% increase in private landlord/tenant cases. The expiration of COVID-19 eviction moratoria, significant changes to rental assistance programs, and rising rents continue to put families with low incomes at risk for displacement.

**Legal aid helps protect access to safe and affordable housing by:**

- Enforcing the health, safety, and accessibility standards of rental units
- Protecting tenants at risk of losing housing subsidies
- Helping place vulnerable people and families in emergency shelters
- Advocating for access to affordable housing
- Helping people obtain rental assistance
- Defending clients from unlawful evictions and forclosures and combating housing discrimination

$126 million in estimated economic benefits were provided by civil legal aid to the Commonwealth and its residents last year, including $19.8 million in shelter savings.

10,258 housing cases were closed in FY22, including cases involving:

- 5,425 Private Landlord/Tenant Disputes
- 2,970 Federally Subsidized Housing Issues
- 797 Public Housing Issues
- 250 Housing Discrimination
- 76 Foreclosures/Predatory Lending Practices
- 59 Homeownership/Real Property

People and families with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level ($37,500 per year for a family of four; $18,225 for an individual) qualify for civil legal aid.