

# NCSC Eviction Diversion Initiative

## Round Two Grantee List

### **Colorado 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court**

Colorado Springs, CO

The Colorado 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court will launch a pre-filing mediation program to facilitate agreements between landlords and tenants prior to formal court proceedings. The pre-filing mediation program saves the parties and the courts time and resources while helping tenants avoid the damaging effects of an eviction filing on the public record. The Court will also re-design the required Tenant Answer form to make it easier for tenants to participate in their case and to identify and raise possible defenses. Finally, the Court will establish the Eviction Diversion and Housing Recovery Implementation Team to provide wraparound support to people facing evictions before and after court to help them secure temporary and permanent housing and address the underlying causes contributing to housing instability.

### **Shelby County General Sessions Court**

Memphis, TN

The Shelby County General Sessions Court will establish an Eviction Court Resource Center to better connect tenants to rental assistance, housing stability agencies, and community organizations that assist people facing eviction. An Eviction Court Case Manager will assist landlords and tenants in completing applications for rental assistance and help litigants understand the court process. Additionally, the Court will pilot a variety of supportive initiatives to make tenants aware of these services as early as possible. Informational videos, a text messaging notification system, and partnerships with grassroots organizations will proactively raise awareness of the Evictions Resource Center with the goal of improving tenant participation and engagement with the diversion program.

### **Tulsa County District Court**

Tulsa, OK

The Tulsa County District Court will place Eviction Prevention Specialists in court to reach landlords and tenants at all phases of the eviction process and connect them to resources to resolve their cases and address long-term housing stability. During the eviction docket, one Eviction Prevention Specialist will help litigants access community



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resources while another will attend the eviction docket itself to provide real-time information to the court on the status of rental assistance applications and other supportive services. The program staff will also work with the court on process improvements including streamlining the existing mediation program to better meet the needs of litigants under the time constraints posed by evictions.

### **Akron Municipal Court**

Akron, OH

The Akron Municipal Court will establish two roles to support the needs of landlords and tenants in eviction court. The Housing Navigator Program Facilitator will manage a court navigator program to answer litigant questions, explain the court process and assist landlords and tenants in accessing the Court's Online Dispute Resolution program, a mandatory post-filing mediation program. The Housing Program Specialist Facilitator will provide case management and referrals to help tenants facing eviction address emergency housing needs, connect to supportive services and return to permanent housing.

### **Jefferson County Court**

Louisville, KY

The Jefferson County Court will hire an Eviction Diversion Initiative Facilitator, establishing a single point of contact for tenants in eviction court and coordinated process for making referrals to assistance programs. The Facilitator will meet with tenants at the courthouse to assess their individual needs and connect them with legal assistance, housing stabilization, rental assistance, mediation services and other relevant social services. The Facilitator will provide tenants with a highly accessible point of entry to navigate the web of available community resources while providing streamlined referrals to organizations that can help them resolve their eviction case, find emergency housing, and address other needs related to housing stability.

### **Harris County Justice of the Peace Precincts 1 & 2**

Houston, TX

Harris County Precincts 1 & 2 will undertake a comprehensive review of each step of its eviction process—from pre-filing, through the eviction court process and the closing of the case—to identify effective entry points to eviction diversion and implement improvements to the eviction process. Two Eviction Diversion Facilitators will work to ensure that litigants are effectively notified prior to court hearings, connect litigants to legal services, facilitate mediation and settlement options, and coordinate with social



service providers at each step of the process to ensure tenants facing homelessness are provided immediate assistance and resources. The Court will also work to leverage program outcome data to make process improvements and ensure tenants are connected to high-quality, timely resources.

### **Third District Court**

Salt Lake City and West Jordan, UT

The Third District Court will launch the Pro Se Community Clinic in collaboration with the Utah State Bar's Access to Justice Office (ATJ) and People's Legal Aid (PLA) and hire a dedicated facilitator to manage and grow the clinic. The court-issued eviction hearing notice will include information about the clinic and a sign-up link to receive virtual assistance. Tenants will also receive a "Pro Se Tenant Information Packet" with links to informational videos about the court process and how to access case information. The Pro Se Community Clinic will offer virtual legal advice, document review, help with negotiations and referrals to social service providers. When tenants access the virtual space, they will be greeted by an intake worker who directs them to a private breakout room to meet with a clinic staff member or volunteer based on their individual needs.

### **Douglas County Court**

Lawrence, KS

The Douglas County Court will hire an Eviction Diversion Coordinator, placed in the District Court Legal Self-Help Office, to attend the eviction docket and provide tenants with procedural guidance, information on their options and connections to mediation, rental assistance, legal representation, and housing stability services. The Court will also expand its existing mediation program to add a pre-filing option, allowing landlords and tenants greater opportunities to come to facilitated agreements without having to go through a formal court process.

### **Clatsop County Circuit Court**

Astoria, OR

The Clatsop County Circuit Court will launch a landlord/tenant mediation program and bring together community organizations to provide rental assistance, legal services, and housing resources to help resolve eviction cases. As a rural county, there is a significant community need for expanded alternatives to the technical and formal court process. The Court will expand on partnerships with non-profit organizations, private



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attorneys, and legal aid organizations to prevent evictions and provide assistance to tenants facing displacement due to an eviction. The mediation program will provide a venue for landlords and tenants to access this assistance and come to mutually beneficial agreements.

## **Clark County Superior Court**

Vancouver, WA

The Clark County Superior Court will partner with Community Mediation Services (CMS) to launch an eviction diversion program that provides mediation services, personalized referrals for legal and financial assistance, court navigation, and education around eviction, tenancy, and conflict resolution. The program builds on the successful [Eviction Resolution Pilot Program](#) (ERPP), which expired in June 2023, and established strong networks of collaboration among organizations that aid people experiencing evictions. The program will also offer access to existing CMS services, including a Renter Certification program for tenants experiencing barriers to securing housing, Landlord Conflict Coaching trainings, and direct access to mediators.



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