

# Our Impact

For nearly three decades, Children’s Law Center has been building a strong foundation for DC children. Through individual and city-wide advocacy, we address the urgent family, health and education needs of children and families while creating lasting solutions to complex societal challenges.

Since our founding in 1996, we have reached more than 50,000 children and families directly – and hundreds of thousand more through systemic advocacy.



Special Education	Medicaid	Reunification	SNAP
Housing	TANF	Guardianship	Custody
Behavioral Health	Foster Care	SSI	Adoption

Our more than 100 staff – together with DC children and families, community partners and pro bono attorneys – use the law to solve children’s urgent problems today, improve the systems that will affect their lives tomorrow and strengthen our community so that change endures, across:



FAMILY



HEALTH



EDUCATION

## FAMILY

When children are in secure, supportive families, they flourish. We represent more than half of DC's youth in foster care, helping them receive the supports they need while in care, exit care to reunite with their birth families or connect with kin or adoptive families.

We also work to keep children out of foster care by reaching families earlier with preventive supports and helping family members and other loving caregivers provide a home for children when their parents no longer can. Many DC families are experiencing multiple stressors related to poverty such as access to benefits, health care and housing. We partner with them to help solve these problems, access needed services and reduce sources of stress and instability.

## HEALTH

For many families, their children's health challenges cannot be addressed by medicine alone. For example, substandard housing conditions—such as mold and pest infestations—exacerbate pediatric asthma and undermine the health of children living in poverty. Our medical-legal partnership places attorneys alongside pediatricians in eight community health centers to find and fix the root causes of children's health challenges.

When children are healthy, the ripple effects are felt throughout a family: children miss fewer days of school and their parents miss less work and can focus on providing for the family. And, when we resolve issues that impact a child's health – it leads to fewer trips to the ER and millions of dollars in reduced Medicaid costs.

## EDUCATION

Too often the District's schools fail to provide students with physical, learning or emotional disabilities with the right supports they need to succeed. For children in foster care, school stability is even more important as their living situations change. And in communities with higher levels of poverty, schools don't often receive enough funding to ensure student success.

From ensuring early testing for learning disabilities to getting students with disabilities appropriate plans that meets their learning needs to advocating for educational stability for a child going into a new foster placement, we work to keep children's education on track.