

Grantees focus on Housing

AYUDA LEGAL (PUERTO RICO) trained over 140 volunteers and organized community brigades to provide legal support with both FEMA applications and housing issues after Hurricane Fiona. Ayuda Legal also used these volunteers and brigades to spread information about access to resources for homeowners without formal titles, which the organization claimed was wrongfully denied to 77,000 households after Hurricane Maria.

KC TENANTS (MISSOURI) successfully organized tenants to force City Council to add a ballot just weeks before the November election. Voters then approved the ballot, a \$50 million housing bond (the largest infusion of affordable housing funding in the city's history). The funds will be directed towards Kansas City's Housing Trust Fund, with two seats dedicated to KC Tenants leaders. The Trust will be responsible for reviewing residential applications and making recommendations for projects and developments across the city in upcoming years. The ballot measure also redefined affordable housing as units charging less than \$750/month from the existing \$1,200/month standard.

ARCHCITY DEFENDERS (MISSOURI) have focused heavily on site-based representation at specific apartment complexes to combat out-of-state investors whose business practices have been particularly abusive of local renters. As part of this work, they provided direct eviction defense to families and affirmatively litigated and advocated for renters enduring uninhabitable living conditions. Their housing affirmative litigation led to a significant achievement in March 2022, when a St. Louis County judge ruled on behalf of a class of tenants, ArchCity Defenders' clients and 250 of their neighbors at an apartment complex in Ferguson, Missouri. After years of litigation, the court erased over \$300,000 in rent owed by tenants who lived in uninhabitable conditions at the complex between October 2019 and January 2021.



Photo from KC Tenants

EXAMPLES FROM 2022

Grantees across our places are organizing tenants to redefine and increase funding for affordable housing, challenge abusive landlords, and prevent evictions through rental assistance.



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ALLENDALE COUNTY ALIVE (SOUTH CAROLINA)

leveraged a grant they received from the South Carolina Association of Community Economic Development to assist citizens in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Hampton Counties to apply for rental assistance from SC Stay PLUS and to apply for mortgage assistance from SC Home Rescue. The grant was a success - the grant amount of \$140,000 meant that over 100 families were assisted.

When news broke that Cypress Real Estate Advisors would be buying the RiverChase apartments and displacing over 175 Black and Brown families, STAND UP NASHVILLE (TENNESSEE) and coalition partners worked directly with Riverchase residents to understand their needs, formulate demands, and hold Cypress Real Estate Advisors accountable. While RiverChase was ultimately rezoned, residents were promised the right to return after construction and the real estate company signed a Community Benefits Agreement.

THE NEVADA HOUSING JUSTICE ALLIANCE (NEVADA)

which includes grantees Faith in Action Nevada, Make it Work Nevada, Make the Road Nevada, and Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada held a tenant convening in Las Vegas in December 2022. The convening brought together directly impacted community members, coalition members, State Assembly members, and Senators.

EXAMPLES FROM 2022



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