



"They have learned that resistance is actually possible. The holds are beginning to slip away." -[George Jackson](#)

Organizing for Black Worker Power During COVID-19

Since the onset of COVID-19, the Right to Income Committee has been focused on the pandemic's impact on Black employment. Prior to COVID, Black workers in D.C., particularly those in Wards 7 and 8, have faced the highest rates of unemployment.

| Ward | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate |
|------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 64,480 | 61,961 | 2,519 | 3.9 |
| 2 | 66,475 | 64,115 | 2,360 | 3.6 |
| 3 | 58,780 | 56,690 | 2,090 | 3.6 |
| 4 | 49,650 | 47,303 | 2,347 | 4.7 |
| 5 | 44,217 | 41,430 | 2,787 | 6.3 |
| 6 | 58,929 | 56,121 | 2,808 | 4.8 |
| 7 | 36,260 | 33,175 | 3,085 | 8.5 |
| 8 | 29,463 | 26,163 | 3,300 | 11.2 |

| Ward | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate |
|------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 61,023 | 56,648 | 4,375 | 7.2 |
| 2 | 61,329 | 58,617 | 2,712 | 4.4 |
| 3 | 54,107 | 51,829 | 2,278 | 4.2 |
| 4 | 48,349 | 43,247 | 5,102 | 10.6 |
| 5 | 42,639 | 37,878 | 4,761 | 11.2 |
| 6 | 55,518 | 51,309 | 4,209 | 7.6 |
| 7 | 34,913 | 30,330 | 4,583 | 13.1 |
| 8 | 28,754 | 23,920 | 4,834 | 16.8 |

The pandemic has revealed much of what Black America already knows: the system is not here to help us and is fueled by the oppression of Black and brown folks. The Right to Income Committee's mission is to discuss and implement alternative economies for and by Black people.

Starting Thursday, September 10, the committee will start a new learning circle series, beginning with discussion of a short video titled "About the We: Drawing from Legacies of Black Feminist Praxis for Workers' Rights Transformation." The goal of the learning circle is to educate ourselves on Black labor issues, cooperative economies and self-sustainability.

ONE DC's Right to Income Committee is also co-sponsoring a webinar with the Claudia Jones School for Political Education on Monday, September 28. The focus will be on worker co-ops and socialism, and features Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, longtime ONE DC member and co-chair of the Shared Leadership Team.

**WORKER CO-OPS AND
THE MOVEMENT FOR SOCIALISM**

Presented by:
CLAUDIA JONES | SCHOOL FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

WE OWN IT

Co-sponsored by:

ONE DC
ORGANIZED NEIGHBORHOOD EQUITY

**MON SEP 28 EST
6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

JESSICA GORDON NEMBHARD

CAMILA PIÑERO HARNECKER

RICHARD WOLFF

<https://bit.ly/CJWorkerCoOp>

[REGISTER HERE](https://bit.ly/CJWorkerCoOp)

The Right to Income Committee has also been organizing around the D.C. Shared Work Program and reaching out to workers who may benefit from participating. The program allows for employers to keep, or re-hire in the case of COVID, their full-time staff at reduced hours instead of laying workers off. Employees are able to receive unemployment benefits from their state and at the federal level as well as their hourly take-home pay.

In July, we sent out a survey to our members to gather information about the

effects of COVID on their employment and have been using that data to do outreach around the Shared Work program. If you are an individual or organization interested in learning more, please contact our Black Workers and Wellness Center organizer, Jokebed Morinvil, at jmorinvil@onedconline.org.

The Right to Income committee meets every other Thursday at 6:30pm EST. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jokebed or Kelly.

Rooted & Ready: Eviction Defense for the Renter Nation Series



Join the Right to the City's [Rooted & Ready: Eviction Defense for the Renter Nation series](#) starting this Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 PM. This 5-session series from 9/2 through 9/30 will review the basics of the eviction process and share helpful tips you can add to your toolkits to stop evictions in your neighborhoods. We will hear from on the ground experts who will share tools and inspiring stories of resistance. Together, we will prepare ourselves mentally, emotionally and tactically to defend our homes!

It's projected that almost 40 million renters are at the risk of eviction due to COVID-19. Let's get ready to protect our homes and our neighborhoods from eviction with the Rooted & Ready training series!

[REGISTER HERE](https://homesforall.me/rooted)

[There will be a parallel training held in Spanish with English interpretation on Thursdays 9/3-9/24](#)

ONE DC is a member of the Right to the City Homes For All, a national campaign that aims to protect, defend, and expand housing that is truly affordable and dignified for low-income and very low-income communities by engaging those most directly impacted by this crisis through local and national organizing, winning strong local policies that protect renters and homeowners, and shifting the national debate on housing.

Join the National Black Workers Center for Black Labor Day

WEWORK WEBLACK WEREADY.

A good job is the surest path to economic security and has always been at the heart of our nation's framework. Unless you are Black.

Black workers face what amounts to occupational segregation—siloed into labor markets with low wage jobs and less likely than white workers to get hired into stable, well-paying jobs.

The National Black Worker Center (NBWC) works hard to overcome these disparities and to organize Black workers to push back against economic exploitation.

On Monday, September 7, join the [NBWC](#)'s annual Social Media Storm using #WeReady, #BlackLaborDay, and #WorkingWhileBlack to honor Black workers and uplift our successes, challenges, and victories. The theme this year is WE READY!

ONE Bit of Good News - Sustaining Donor Program Continues to Grow



Grassroots fundraising has been a critical piece of ONE DC's resource development strategy for years, and is even more important now. This year we

are aiming to grow our base of sustaining monthly donor to 200. We're now at 127! [Become a sustainer today.](#)

Here is what a new sustaining donor had to say:

I became a recurring donor after watching our government's response to both the pandemic and to the George Floyd protests and police violence. It seems clear now that we can't always trust federal and state leadership to do what's right for our community so I wanted to help support groups like ONE DC that are working locally to impact real change. I don't always have a ton of time to volunteer, so I felt that a recurring donation was the next best way to support.

As for why others should give monthly - It's easy, and a great way to help give in a more sustainable way. Plus, once I set it up, I barely notice the recurring charge. And when you do the math, you can easily set up a recurring donation for the price of a latte, or a burrito, or a cocktail each week.

[If this resonates with you, then become a monthly sustaining donor!](#)

[You can find past editions of the Monthly Voice here.](#)

Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*?

Email organizer@onedconline.org

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