

# RIGHT TO COUNSEL WORKS TO STOP EVICTIONS!

*Here are the facts after 1 year of implementation in New York City*

**Right to Counsel (RTC)** is a law that was passed in New York City in 2017 after a 3-year tenant organizing campaign. The law guarantees low-income tenants a right to an attorney when facing an eviction in housing court. The law is currently being implemented in 20 NYC zip codes, and will be fully phased-in by 2022.

Data from 2018, Right to Counsel's first full year, proves that the law has been a huge success in decreasing evictions. Here are several key facts:

- 🏠 **84%** of tenants who had a lawyer under RTC (nearly 22,000 households) were able to remain in their homes
- 🏠 More than **50%** of the households who used RTC had lived in their homes for **6+ years**; **38%** lived in their homes for **10+ years**
- 🏠 Evictions across the city are down by nearly **14%**
- 🏠 There was a **23%** drop in evictions in the Bronx—the borough with often the lowest rate of legal representation for tenants and, therefore, the most evictions
- 🏠 Evictions dropped **16%** in Manhattan, **7%** in Brooklyn + Queens, & **5%** in Staten Island
- 🏠 Zip codes with RTC accounted for **64%** of the overall citywide decline in evictions
- 🏠 Evictions declined more than **5x** faster in zip codes where RTC is currently in effect than in similar zip codes where it is not
- 🏠 Landlords are suing people less, as eviction filings dropped by more than **5%**
- 🏠 **30%** of tenants in all of NYC's housing courts received legal representation
- 🏠 **56%** of tenants facing an eviction in zip codes currently covered by RTC were represented by a lawyer
- 🏠 Tenants were **3x** as likely to receive legal services in zip codes where RTC is currently in effect, compared to similar zip codes where it is not

## Sources:

NYC Office of Civil Justice 2018 Annual Report  
NYC Office of Civil Justice Universal Access 2018 Report  
NYC Right to Counsel: First year results and potential for expansion, a report by the Community Service Society of New York

