**Philly’s Eviction Crisis**

* Philadelphia’s eviction rate is four times higher than the foreclosure rate, impacting nearly 1 in 14 Philly renters.
* Eviction is a leading cause of homelessness and housing instability in Philadelphia.
* More than 24,000 evictions were filed in Municipal Court in 2016.  That number does not include the significant number of illegal evictions that are never filed with the courts.
* As the nation’s poorest big city, the cost of representation is out of reach for too many Philly residents. 81% of landlords attend court with legal representation while only 1% of low-income renters attend with legal representation.
* Tens of thousands of Philadelphians live in substandard housing and face above-average rates of   childhood lead poisoning as well as asthma-triggering mold and vermin infestations.

**Who’s Impacted?**

* Single mothers and their children, seniors, people of color and African Americans in particular, and people living with disabilities.
* Residents of Point Breeze, Grays Ferry, Oak Lane, Olney, Germantown, Frankford, Mayfair, and Elmwood.
* Residents who live in substandard housing.

**Eviction Hurts:**

* Evictions propel families into a downward spiral of poverty; it’s commonplace for residents with eviction histories to be denied future housing and for heads of household to lose stable employment.
* Evictions increase instability and transience in struggling neighborhoods, leaving them vulnerable to violence and crime.
* Evictions hurt children’s academic achievement and school attendance.
* Evictions cost the City of Philadelphia over $40,000 to shelter a single family.
* Evictions burden our City’s shelter system, which is already at capacity and forced to turn away residents.
* Eviction negatively impacts physical and mental health by fracturing continuity of care and management of chronic health issues.

**Help us level the playing field:**

Legal representation protects residents against discrimination, unlawful evictions, and substandard housing.  For every $1 spent on legal aid, $11 return to the economy.