

TEXAS

LEGAL

**SERVICES
CENTER**

NCMLP Patients-to-Policy Learning Collaborative

Part 4: Evictions and Local Ordinances

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About TLSC

Founded in 1977, Texas Legal Services Center is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides legal advice, advocacy, representation, and education to underserved people across the state. With more than a dozen practice areas, our work touches almost every aspect of civil law that impacts low-income Texans.

THE TLSC MISSION

To ensure equal justice for all Texans by educating, empowering, and representing vulnerable people while reshaping the greater legal system that impacts us all.

TLSC MLPs

People Community Clinic - 2012

KIND Clinic - 2018

HOPE Clinic - 2020

Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP)
Goal: Addressing the health-harming legal needs of patients and community

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

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KVUE - February 16, 2021

El Arroyo



**WE NOW CONTINUE
WITH OUR
REGULARLY SCHEDULED
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PROBLEMS & PROTECTIONS: EVICTION

Problems: Loss of income, inability to pay housing costs, inability to remain housed

Protections: Eviction moratoria, rent assistance programs

Eviction filings between March 15, 2020 and January 28, 2021

Austin (local moratoria in place): 818

Ft. Worth (no local moratorium): 11,841

Houston (no local moratorium): 22,357

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PROBLEMS & PROTECTIONS: UTILITIES

Texas Legal Services Center, along with other state legal aid organizations, worked on an emergency petition to the Texas Public Utilities Commission. **The petition resulted in a state-wide moratorium on utility shut-offs.**

Petition emphasized the importance of utilities for health population groups.

- Children / Adolescents
- Elderly
- LGBTQ+ Community
- Individuals with Disabilities

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PROBLEMS & PROTECTIONS: HABITABILITY

Problems: Tenants unable to exercise rights to habitable housing because of rent delinquency

Protections: ??

POLICY & AWARENESS STRATEGIES

Using local moratoria and be creative in areas where there are no local moratoria

Encourage civic engagement. Example: [City of Austin re-routing funds from law enforcement to housing support.](#)

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Direct advocacy with local authorities

Legislative education and advocacy



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GENERAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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RESOURCE LISTS

Information on how legal services interventions can address needs at the intersection of health, housing and justice

The links below focus on legal services interventions:

- https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2711902
- <https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/articles/2019-01-22/cities-provide-lawyers-to-tenants-facing-eviction>
- <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2017/10/27/how-free-legal-help-can-prevent-evictions>
- https://furmancenter.org/files/UAC_Policy_Brief_12_11-18.pdf
- <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/housing-stability/>
- <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/keeping-children-safe-from-lead-poisoning/>

Information on how evictions impact health needs/coverage/access

There is a growing body of evidence documenting the links between evictions and health, health care access, and insurance coverage; here is a representative sample:

- https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/MEMO_Health_Effects_of_Eviction_on_Young_Adults.pdf
- https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/desmondkimbro.evictions.fallout.sf2015_2.pdf
- <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/2/e20172199>
- <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05071>
- <https://www.durhamdisrupted.com/eviction-health>
- <https://www.enterprisecommunity.org/download?fid=5703&nid=4247>
- https://childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/JAMA_Sandel_2017_HousingHealth.pdf
- <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200730.190964/full/#:~:text=Among%20adults%2C%20evictions%20have%20been,hospitalization%2C%20suicides%2C%20and%20depression.>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953617300102> (abstract only; full report needs to be downloaded individually)
- <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/HUD-HHS-Partnerships-A-Prescription-for-Better-Health.pdf>
- <http://arizonahealthycommunities.org/research/place-matters-housing-health/>

Information on creating affordable housing for low-income seniors who are not considered "low-income" enough

- https://www.huduser.gov/portal/IWISH_Evaluation.html
- <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/summer17/highlight1.html>
- https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/mfh/progdesc/eld202
- <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/mlp-resources/older-adults/>