



CY PRES AWARD PROSPECTUS

As near as possible to the people a settlement was meant to protect.

Every class action settlement is meant for real people: consumers who were overcharged, workers who went unpaid, borrowers, patients, tenants, and families. When some of them cannot be found, the doctrine of cy pres asks a simple question: where can these funds do the work the settlement intended?

For more than 60 years, **Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia (NLSP)** has answered that question, providing free legal representation to low-income residents facing threats to their income, health, homes, and families. A cy pres award to NLSP puts residual funds to work for the residents a class action was meant to protect.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

1,643 clients represented each with an NLSP attorney in 2025	5,695 people in client households each case protects a household	17% growth in new cases from 1,418 in 2024 to 1,665 in 2025	8,000+ residents reached including clinics and outreach
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WHO WE SERVE

90% of our clients are people of color 81% are African American	68% of our clients are women 82% of clients with children	15% of our clients are seniors over the age of 65	1,510 children in client households across 710 matters in 2025
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The People a Settlement Cannot Find

The class members who never claim their share are rarely the ones with the least at stake. They are the ones who moved after an eviction, changed phone numbers to escape a collector, never opened an account for a check to reach, or set the notice aside because the last envelope from a court brought bad news. These are our clients. NLSP serves the District's lowest-income households from offices inside their neighborhoods, and the same residents who fall through the gaps in a claims process walk through our doors every day. An award to NLSP does not approximate the class. It reaches class members exactly where they are.

The Same Harms, One Person at a Time

The wrongs that give rise to class actions do not arrive in our offices as class actions. They arrive as one resident with a notice in hand and no lawyer. Four recent examples:

Unsafe housing and unlawful rent claims

A disabled veteran was facing eviction over \$25,000 in back rent. Our attorneys documented dangerous conditions in her unit, negotiated \$20,000 in forgiveness, and connected her to a veterans' organization that covered the rest. She left with no eviction record.

Wrongful benefit denials

A 47-year-old man who had been unable to work since 2023 had been denied disability benefits twice. NLSP built the medical record and won at hearing: \$30,000 in back pay and \$1,600 a month going forward.

Barriers in the law itself

Two sisters who fled abuse were living safely with their aunt, but the court dismissed her custody case because a non-parent lacked standing. NLSP overcame that barrier and won her permanent sole custody without a trial.

Predatory lending and contractor fraud

A veteran carrying \$70,000 in student loan debt left NLSP with a monthly payment of \$0. Another client won a \$122,000 judgment against a contractor who had exploited disabled veterans.

Where Class Claims Meet Our Work

WHEN A CLASS ACTION INVOLVES	HOW NLSP HELPS THE PEOPLE IT AFFECTS
Consumer debt and junk fees	We defend collection suits and challenge excessive garnishments and fees illegal in DC.
Credit reports and tenant screening	We fix reporting errors that cost residents jobs and apartments.
Criminal records and background checks	We seal records and correct background reports that block work and housing.
Wages and employment	We recover unpaid wages and fight workplace discrimination and license denials.
Housing and tenant rights	We defend tenants facing eviction, often the same day, and force needed repairs.
Public and subsidized housing	We protect housing vouchers and hold housing authorities to due process.
Lending, student loans, and financial aid	We resolve student debt and defend borrowers against predatory loans.
Repossession and auto lending	We contest repossessions, deficiency balances, and the collections that follow.
Public benefits	We win SSI, SSDI, SNAP, TANF, and unemployment benefits, often with back pay.
Healthcare access	We overturn Medicaid denials and fix housing conditions that harm health.
Fair housing and disability	We challenge housing discrimination and secure reasonable accommodations.
Contracts and warranties	We hold sellers to their contracts when goods or services are deceptive or faulty.
Home repair and homeownership	We pursue contractor fraud, stop tax sales, and preserve housing cooperatives.
Families and survivors	We handle custody and child support and help survivors obtain protection orders.
Veterans and older adults	We advise on VA benefits and represent veterans seeking discharge upgrades.
Antitrust and data privacy	We fight rent overcharges and help residents recover from identity theft.

Why NLSP Is the Right Beneficiary

- **The nexus courts look for.** Class actions put skilled counsel behind people who could not bring their claims alone. NLSP does the same work, one client at a time, and keeps more clients with an attorney through the full life of their case.
- **In the neighborhood since 1964.** NLSP pioneered placing attorneys in neighborhood offices, the model the federal government adopted in 1965 for legal aid nationwide. Today this Black-led organization works from offices in NoMa and Deanwood and free clinics at DC Public Library branches.
- **Built to extend and account for every dollar.** Pro bono attorneys, referral partners, and one of the first community justice worker programs under the DC Court of Appeals' 2026 model multiply our reach. As a Legal Services Corporation grantee, we meet federal compliance standards and track every matter.

Working With Class Counsel

The strongest cy pres designations begin before a settlement is final, and NLSP welcomes early contact from class counsel and settlement administrators. Every award goes to work that matches the interests of the class: a consumer settlement might fund debt collection defense, and a wage-and-hour settlement might fund unpaid wage recovery. We can provide:

- Program descriptions and a use-of-funds plan matched to the claims and the class definition
- Information on our mission, service population, and reach to support the court's review
- Reporting after distribution on how funds were used and the residents they reached

Let's talk about your next settlement.

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Engaging Communities • Eliminating Barriers • Securing Justice