

Eviction Defense Collaborative



PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PROTECT SAN FRANCISCO'S DIVERSITY



Eviction Defense Collaborative



The Eviction Defense Collaborative is the principal organization in San Francisco helping low-income tenants respond to eviction lawsuits. Our team of civil rights lawyers are the last line of defense for tenants facing a fast-paced eviction lawsuit.

The Eviction Defense Collaborative is aggressively collaborative – we are part of a larger network of tenants rights agencies around the City. Our partners around the are the front line of defense for tenants facing all kinds of other eviction threats: ask-outs, buy-outs, harass-outs, and all causes of displacement.

The Eviction Defense Collaborative believes that true collaboration is inclusive and welcomes anyone who will fight against displacement in the cause of preserving San Francisco's neighborhoods and diversity. Our challenge to you today is to join in the fight, and to collaborate with us today and beyond.

Our Services



- **Legal Assistance:**
 - Drop in clinic open to the public 5 days a week, so that tenants can get help with the initial response to the eviction lawsuit— response must be filed within 5 days of tenant being served with lawsuit (shortest summons in civil system!!)
 - Support and counsel tenants throughout legal process; prepare additional legal documents as necessary
 - Attorneys represent tenants in jury trial.
- **RADCo (Rental Assistance Disbursement Component):**
 - Provide grants and interest-free loans to income-qualified families suffering a temporary financial setback.

Our Services



- We assist ANYONE who has been served with an eviction lawsuit.
- 91% of EDC clients are at 50% of San Francisco's Area Median Income (AMI) or below. Nearly half (48%) of those facing eviction live at or below the poverty line – less than \$11,490 per year.
- Clients primarily find out about us through word of mouth, referrals, and the courthouse.

In the past year...



- The EDC prepared necessary paperwork for **2,003** cases.
- The EDC assisted **1,916** households—over **4,000** tenants!
- **397** of these households had at least one child
- Over **400** households received direct financial assistance.
- The EDC WON two jury trials!

Today's Challenge



To empower tenants around the City with the resources to preserve their housing in the face of illegal eviction threats.



Today's Challenge



PART I: EMPOWER

There is widespread anxiety among San Francisco tenants that displacement and eviction from their home is imminent. We need a strong message that tells tenants they have a right to stay.

The first challenge to the participants today is to design a media campaign around the message of “DON’T MOVE” – including the messaging, materials, strategy, and deployment of that campaign.



Today's Challenge



PART II: RESOURCES

There are awesome tenant advocates and counselors all over San Francisco, at more than a dozen agencies. Many of these agencies have great information about tenants rights on their currently existing websites.

However: there is no central, easily accessible way for tenants to get at that information – especially if they didn't previously know of that agency, or if they don't know the right terminology to use when searching.

At a basic level, tenants don't know their rights, and don't know where to go to find out about them, or to get help asserting them.



Today's Challenge



PART II: RESOURCES

The second challenge for today is to utilize the media campaign designed in Part I – and to develop a mechanism to connect all the tenants that are reached through the media campaign to the information and services available at the tenant counseling agencies around the City.



Today's Challenge



PART II: RESOURCES

Basic concept:

“Don’t Move” campaign points tenants to dontmovesf.org or similar platform.

At that site, tenants should be able to easily navigate to the help they need based on where they live, the language they speak, and the particular issue they are having.

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Thank you for being here today.

I want to encourage you to not let today be the only day you help in the fight against displacement.

At EDC, we are committed to providing opportunities for the tech community to bring their talents to and collaborate in the fight for tenants rights. Join us in that fight.



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Ways to get involved:

Contact any of the agencies listed in the brief!

If interested in serving on a long-term
volunteer tech team:

volunteer@evictiondefense.org