



Legislative Information Hearing: Continuation of Emergency Declarations and Limited Executive Orders

Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA) urges the extension of Executive Order 12D: Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic—Post-Moratorium Requirements Related to Evictions and Notices to Quit.

Impoverished communities and communities of color have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic.¹ GHLA has worked with countless individuals who have been deprived of work, childcare, educational opportunities, and even loved ones due to Covid-19. For many, these losses place an unbearable strain on household finances and can result in clients falling behind with rent payments and risking displacement via the eviction process.

Executive Order 12D and the UniteCT program provide a lifeline to our clients as they seek to recover from the pandemic.

- Clients utilize the Executive Order's 30-day stay provision to obtain emergency rental assistance, save money, or make alternative housing arrangements in order to avoid the devastating effects of eviction.
- Landlords who file UniteCT applications per the Executive Order requirements are provided an avenue to the payment of rent arrearages.
- Tenants and landlords who engage with the UniteCT process find channels for negotiation that often result in repayment agreements suitable to both parties.

By extending the Governor's Executive Orders, the General Assembly can ensure that Connecticut's tenants are provided an opportunity to access UniteCT before an eviction moves forward.

¹ Kasturi Pananjady, *Survey: Pandemic Recovery Highlights Inequalities in Connecticut*, CT MIRROR (Oct. 7, 2021), <https://ctmirror.org/2021/10/07/survey-pandemic-recovery-highlights-inequities-in-connecticut/>.