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## Hope Row Resource Center

In 2011, the Weingart Access Center moved a few blocks north to 501 East Sixth Street and changed its name to the Hope Row Resource Center. ICLC's walk-in clinic there is open three days a week. We serve about 40 clients each month. ICLC's Advocates work with homeless and low-income people on a variety of issues including access to government benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, eviction defense, and consumer issues. Here is an example of a case that came to us through the Weingart Access Center:



Four families came to ICLC because they wanted information about their rights. They lived in a 4-unit apartment building that had just been foreclosed upon. All the units had serious electric, plumbing and structural problems, as well as cockroach, rat and bedbug infestations. The tenants included:

- A single mother who works as a street vendor and has three young children.
- A couple with four young children. The husband works in construction, but work has been slow for the past two years because of the economic downturn.
- A couple with three young children. The husband works as a day laborer, which has also been slow of late.
- An elderly couple with severe health issues living with their adult children.

ICLC Advocate Aura Yuson helped these clients to file complaints with the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) and negotiated with the management company's attorney to waive collection of rent until the building was repaired. During the time that the rent was waived, the clients deposited their rent into ICLC's client trust account.



Under pressure from ICLC and LAHD, the property manager began to make improvements to the property. After more than a year and a half, the habitability issues were almost entirely resolved and the tenants living conditions improved dramatically. Since the landlord repaired the units, our clients resumed paying rent. As a result of our advocacy, each family saved approximately \$16,000 in rent payments and they now live in habitable conditions.