

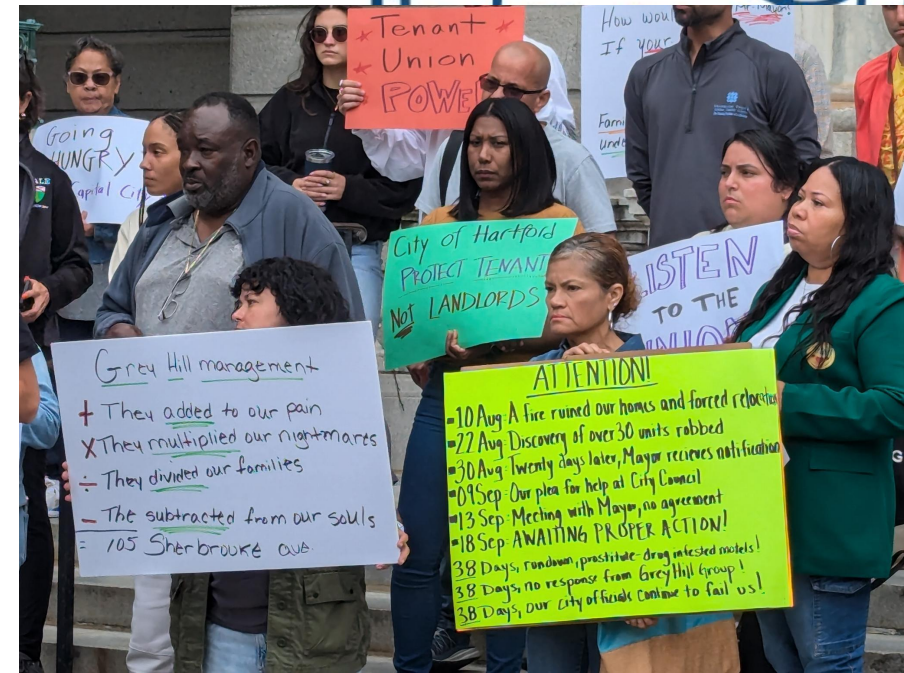


Connecticut  
**FAIR HOUSING  
CENTER**

# Tenant Organizing in Connecticut

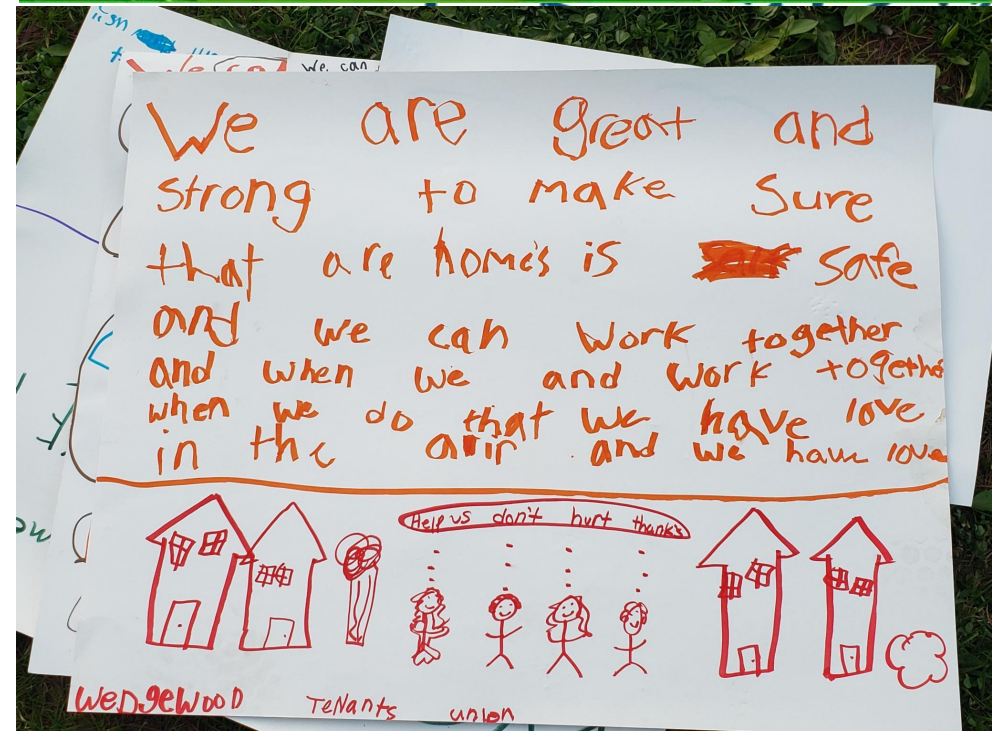
# Building Organizing - Concord Hills Tenant Union

- 50 families displaced after fire housed in rundown, unsafe motels by Hartford. Landlord Greyhill failed to secure building and belongings were stolen, and kept trying to charge rent.
- Organized super majority union with Connecticut Tenants Union to win safer temporary housing from the city and improved relocation assistance.
- Bargained with landlord, and many tenants able to move back in with lower rent or to new apartments with subsidy from the landlord.
- Landlord referred for criminal prosecution



# Local Legislative Campaigns

- Revitalizing & improving Fair Rent Commissions, which can freeze or lower rent in response to tenant complaints
  - Advocating for collective complaint process and recognition of tenant unions
  - Reviving dormant commissions & creating new ones
- Improving housing code enforcement in New Haven and Hartford
  - Hiring more inspectors
  - Increasing fines & penalties



# State Legislative Campaigns

- Right to Counsel for Tenants in 2021 - led to first building-based tenant unions, followed by Cap the Rent campaign in 2023
- Current Just Cause campaign with bill pending now to expand to all renters living in complexes with 5+ units
  - Campaign for expanded Just Cause emerged out of tenant union organizing, especially Blake Street Tenant Union, which fought mass no-fault evictions to win a collective bargaining agreement with the landlord
  - Just Cause will improve conditions for tenant union organizing



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