

# Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus

## Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i



### About the Grant Recipient

The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawaii (MLPC-HI) provides free, on-site legal services to families primarily at a trusted health center in Kalihi Valley on O'ahu. MLPC-HI also partners with their mostly immigrant and migrant patient communities to identify and address systemic advocacy issues.

Founded in 2009, MLPC-HI is a partnership between:

- John A. Burns School of Medicine
- William S. Richardson School of Law
- Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services

### About the Award

Using \$214,000 awarded through the Medical-Legal Partnership Plus (MLP+) demonstration program, MLPC-HI will strengthen organizational capacity to reach more children and families, especially children with disabilities and families navigating the special education system. MLPC-HI will also work to support families affected by the devastating wildfires on Maui. MLPC-HI will achieve this by:

- Adding a specialized staff attorney in disability and education law to handle individual cases and to provide community education and self-advocacy trainings for parents and community groups.
- Adding a managing staff attorney who will (1) expand direct services; (2) support community education; and (3) enhance systemic advocacy impact by strengthening community partnerships.
- Providing wraparound services to disaster-impacted families on Maui, including assisting mostly immigrant and migrant communities through direct service and outreach clinics.

### About the Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus (MLP+) Program

In fiscal year 2023, the [Office of Community Services](#) (OCS) within the [Administration for Children and Families](#) at the U.S. [Department of Health and Human Services](#) launched MLP+, a brand new demonstration program. OCS awarded \$1.6 million to eight MLPs across the country to build, expand, and strengthen their capacity to serve vulnerable families and improve health outcomes. This is the first-ever federal program dedicated to medical-legal partnerships, and will impact households in Connecticut, Hawaii, Montana, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. This funding will help existing MLPs increase their capacity to serve families and households in their communities by providing legal services and wraparound social services to help improve health and wellbeing and address the causes and consequences of poverty.

### About Medical-Legal Partnerships

Medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) bring legal services into health care settings to help families, clinicians, social workers, and others identify and prevent the health-harming social conditions that can keep people from thriving.

MLPs meet individuals and families with low incomes where they are and help connect them to other essential services such as housing support; educational access; and child-care to improve their overall health and wellbeing.