

# Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus

## Montana Health Justice Partnership



### About the Grant Recipient

The Montana Health Justice Partnership (MHJP) helps patients and families with low incomes throughout the State of Montana. Due to its large, remote, and rural geographical make up, residents of Montana can face barriers to accessing much needed health, social, and legal services. The MHJP brings together an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, health care providers, and social workers to achieve better health outcomes by addressing the health-harming civil, legal, and social needs of the patients and families they serve.

Founded in 2015, MHJP is a partnership between:

- Montana Legal Services Association
- Montana Primary Care Association
- Community Health Centers
- Providence St. Patrick Hospital

### About the Award

Using \$214,000 awarded through the Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus (MLP+) demonstration program, MHJP will expand the size and capacity of its network to increase the number of families served, enhance its ability to coordinate social services, and expand its services to Montana's geographically isolated residents by:

- Providing patients with a new, full-time intake navigator to strengthen partnerships with social services providers and connect patients and their families to these services.
- Providing patients with access to an attorney for remote and in-person healthcare provider legal consults, office hours, and direct legal services to address health-harming civil legal problems.
- Developing and providing training for MHJP staff on screening and referral procedures to better identify patient needs and to connect patients to social services organizations throughout the state.

### 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 funding 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 supports to help improve their 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.