

# Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus

MedLaw Partnership of Western New York



## About the Grant Recipient

The MedLaw Partnership of Western New York (MedLaw Partnership) provides equitable access to legal and social services and helps patients of all ages address their unmet medical, legal, and social needs. MedLaw Partnership helps to improve the wellbeing of children and families by increasing access to medical, legal, and social services related to housing instability, income support, family stability, immigration, and environmental health.

Founded in 2016, MedLaw Partnership is a partnership between:

- Center for Elder Law & Justice
- Erie County Medical Center Corporation
- Kaleida Health
- Western New York Breast Health

## About the Award

Using \$214,000 awarded through the Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus (MLP+) demonstration program, MedLaw Partnership will assist on an additional 100 legal cases for children and families and expand its capacity to integrate legal and social services into healthcare settings by:

- Providing legal representation from a new, part-time staff attorney to address legal issues related to public housing, benefits, and healthcare.
- Expanding access to a new, dedicated social services navigator to identify the needs of patients and directly connecting them with wraparound social services to address their health-harming legal and social needs.
- Providing ten trainings to MedLaw staff, partners, and community stakeholders to increase awareness and knowledge on the issues patients are facing related to social determinants of health.

## 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.