

Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus

Memphis Children's Health Law Directive



About the Grant Recipient

The Memphis Children's Health Law Directive (Memphis CHILD) helps patients and families with low incomes in the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee navigate a wide range of legal obstacles and systemic barriers resulting from health and racial inequities in housing. The Memphis CHILD medical-legal partnership brings together an interdisciplinary team of physicians, attorneys, and social workers to provide legal representation, advocacy, therapeutic care, wraparound services, and case management.

Founded in 2016, Memphis CHILD is a partnership between:

- Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
- Methodist Le Bonheur Community Outreach
- University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
- Memphis Area Legal Services

About the Award

Using \$178,307 awarded through the Medical-Legal Partnerships Plus (MLP+) demonstration program, Memphis CHILD will expand its capacity to provide an additional 50 families with:

- Expanded access to an experienced social worker and two new social work interns to identify clients' housing needs and connect them to housing resources and social services.
- Legal representation from a new, full-time, dedicated housing attorney to address legal issues related to housing, including code enforcement, evictions, and denials of health, disability, and education benefits.
- Healthy home assessments conducted by Memphis CHILD staff to document, address, and prevent poor housing conditions, like lead hazards in homes.

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.