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**NATIONAL MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
AWARDS \$140,000 TO
CULTIVATE MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP IN 12 STATES**

Boston, MA — July 24, 2008 — The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children’s National Center (MLPC) announced today that, thanks to funding from the W.K. Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations, it will distribute \$140,000 to medical-legal partnerships in 12 states to introduce and integrate legal service delivery in medical settings for vulnerable families nationwide.

“We know from experience that when doctors and lawyers partner to address families’ unmet basic needs – for food, housing, education, health care and family stability – families are more likely to get and stay healthy,” said Ellen Lawton, Executive Director of MLPC. “We’re thrilled to support local partnerships that are transforming the way health care is delivered to vulnerable families. The generous support from Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson has been key in connecting more doctors and lawyers in this effort.”

MLPC was founded in 1993 with the recognition that not all health problems can be treated with a prescription or a vaccination. A lawyer is needed to help address the environmental and social stressors which interfere with the effectiveness of medical treatment.

“As doctors, we see time and time again that unmet basic needs interfere with our patients’ health,” said Dr. Barry Zuckerman, Chief of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center. “Prescribing a medication that requires refrigeration will be of little use if the patient’s utilities are shut off. Patients reach out to their doctors for help because of their medical symptoms, but their problems, like utility shut off, often have *legal* remedies. Working together, doctors and lawyers intervene in a preventive posture to treat, not just symptoms, but the source of patients’ unmet basic needs.”

In 2005, MLPC launched a National Center to cultivate medical-legal partnerships across the country. Doctors and lawyers are now partnered at more than 120 hospitals and health centers nationwide in a variety of clinical settings treating both children and adults.

For the nationwide funding, MLPC received dozens of competitive proposals from local partnerships. Grants were awarded both to individual sites to help establish partnerships and to regional and statewide networks focused on the evaluation and sustainability of their programs.

Two regional and statewide medical-legal partnership networks were selected to receive \$20,000 grants:

1. California Bay Area Regional Coalition
2. The Medical-Legal Partnership Ohio

Eleven medical-legal partnerships were selected to receive grants up to \$10,000:

1. Santa Ana, CA (UCI-LASOC Medical-Legal Partnership)
2. Wilmington, DE (Delaware Medical-Legal Family Advocacy Program)
3. Des Moines, IA (Iowa Legal Aid Health and Law Project)
4. Lexington, KY (Medical-Legal Collaborative for Kentucky's Children)
5. New Orleans, LA (Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | New Orleans)
6. Kansas City, MO (The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Kansas City)
7. Omaha, NE (Nebraska Medical-Legal Partnership for Children)
8. Albuquerque, NM (Medical-Legal Alliance for Children)
9. New York, NY (Family Advocacy Partnership)
10. Cincinnati, OH (Cincinnati Child Health-Law Partnership)
11. Austin, TX (Legal Advocacy for Community Health)

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The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) is a national program of Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine founded to reduce health disparities for vulnerable populations by addressing social determinants of health. MLPC combines the strength of two powerful professions by partnering lawyers with frontline health care staff to ensure that families' basic needs—for housing, food, education, health care and stability—are met. For more information about MLPC's Boston service delivery or its National Center, please visit: www.MLPforChildren.org.