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**MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
AWARDS \$425,000 IN GRANTS TO MEDICAL-LEGAL
PARTNERSHIPS IN 17 STATES**

BOSTON, MA – November 9, 2006 – The Medical Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC), launched this past spring at Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine, announced today that, thanks to funding from the W.K. Kellogg and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations and the receipt of dozens of competitive proposals to support integrated service delivery for vulnerable children and their families nationwide, it will distribute over \$300,000 in funding for 15 sites in 12 states. Additional funding from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust will support a New England regional coalition of five medical-legal partnerships. Additional sites will receive funding in a second round in Spring 2007.

“The Medical-Legal Partnership for Children is spearheading a radical change in health care delivery for pediatric patients in this country,” said Ellen Lawton, Esq., Executive Director of MLPC. “Experience tells us that lawyers and healthcare professionals working together can often prevent illness and can give sick kids a better shot at recovery because they can address the full continuum of children’s needs, including housing, food, education, health care and a safe, stable environment.” Close to fifty sites are part of the MLPC network, with dozens more in the planning stages.

This unusual partnership of law with medicine results from the recognition that child health cannot be effectively improved by relying only on medical interventions. Since its founding in 1993, MLPC has successfully introduced “preventive law” into the clinical setting to help pediatricians prevent and treat illness, such as asthma, injuries, malnutrition, and other problems affecting child health – and has supported the replication of medical-legal collaborations in 28 other states through technical assistance and training.

For the nationwide funding, MLPC received proposals from sites in 16 states, emanating from a variety of settings both rural and urban.

The national sites selected to receive up to \$25,000 in funding are:

1. Tucson, AZ—Tucson Family Advocacy Program
2. San Mateo, CA—The Peninsula Family Advocacy Program
3. Alameda County, CA—Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Alameda County
4. Jacksonville, FL—The Jacksonville Medical-Legal Center
5. Toledo, OH—Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Toledo
6. Siouxland, IA—Iowa Legal Aid Health & Law Project
7. Baltimore, MD—Project HEAL
8. Billings, MT—Montana Children and Family Advocacy Program:
9. Asheville, NC—Health, Education and Legal Support Project
10. Durham, NC—Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Durham
11. Newark, NJ—Health Advocacy Project
12. New York, NY—Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center
13. Syracuse, NY –Family Advocacy Program | Syracuse
14. Nashville, TN— Medical-Legal Collaboration at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital
15. Charlottesville, VA—Family Advocacy Program | Charlottesville

The New England sites selected to receive \$25,000 each are:

1. Worcester, MA—Family Advocates of Central Massachusetts
2. Manchester, NH—New Hampshire Health Law Collaborative
3. Hartford, CT—Medical-Legal Partnership Project
4. Providence, RI—Medical-Legal Partnership for Children | Providence
5. Portland, ME—KIDS Legal

MLPC's mission is to promote the optimal health and wellbeing of children by introducing legal advocacy into clinical settings nationwide through technical training and funding assistance. Now, thanks to substantial financial support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, Atlantic Philanthropies, and others, MLPC can offer medical and legal professionals at local sites nationwide access to expertise developed at BMC through technical training, website resources, and conferences.

MLPC will host its sixth annual fall conference for new partnerships in Boston on November 14, 2007. The second annual spring summit of medical-legal partnership sites will be in Toronto on May 4, 2007.

The Medical Legal Partnership for Children (MLPC) is a national program, founded by and directed from Boston Medical Center to promote the health and wellbeing of low-income children and families by confronting the non-biologic factors that influence health. MLPC draws on lawyers and their legal advocacy skills to address children's basic needs for food, housing, education, health care and safety/stability -- thus creating home environments that support long term health improvement. For more information about MLPC, log on at www.MLPforChildren.org.