



## MLP Safe & Healthy Housing Cohort

Medical-legal partnership (MLP) attorneys play a crucial role in ameliorating health-harming housing conditions by seeking court enforcement of housing and other protective laws. From this individual client perspective, MLPs are ideally suited to use their knowledge and experience to lead and/or guide prevention-focused efforts to improve housing safety and quality at a population level. This cohort will include MLPs seeking to improve housing in their communities through upstream efforts, ranging from informing implementation and enforcement strategies, to spearheading impact litigation, to contributing in large and small ways to legal changes.

By convening this cohort, the Network for Public Health Law (NPHL) and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (NCMLP) aim to support MLPs working at the intersection of individual patient/client needs and population health. The conveners will facilitate opportunities for peer discussion and will provide legal technical assistance to support MLP efforts to improve health through housing.

### Partnership Responsibilities

The NPHL and NCMLP commit to working with identified MLPs on developing a legal strategy to improve access to safe and healthy housing. We will partner on legal strategy implementation by providing up to 20 hours of legal technical assistance, connecting MLP leadership with state and local health departments, and facilitating three virtual meetings of the MLP Safe and Healthy Housing MLP cohort. We will have periodic progress checks with an identified project point person. These meetings will serve as an opportunity to adjust legal strategy, brainstorm solutions to obstacles, identify new contacts, and celebrate accomplishments to date.

The selected MLPs will commit to identifying three action steps to be taken with the support provided through this program. In addition, MLPs commit to attending and engaging in the three virtual meetings, identifying a project point person to periodically meet by phone with a Network attorney, and participating in the 2020 Public Health Law Conference (September 15-18) in Baltimore, MD, where the cohort will convene in person. Finally, the MLPs commit to working with Network staff to evaluate the program and make recommendations for improvement.



This program will run from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Please see the approximate program timeline set forth below.

- Jan. 30: Call for applications opens
- Feb. 21: Applications due
- Mar. 13: NPHL & NCMLP notify MLPs selected to participate in the cohort
- Apr. 1: Initial meeting between MLP & NPHL attorneys will take place in early April. Establish recurring meeting time to touch base on progress and technical assistance needs.
- May: First virtual meeting of full cohort
- June: Second virtual meeting of full cohort
- July/Aug.: Third virtual meeting of full cohort
- Sep. 16-18: In-person meeting of full cohort at Public Health Law Conference (Baltimore, MD)
- Sep. 30: Program concludes
- Oct. 1-31: Program evaluation

**MLP Safe and Healthy Housing Cohort  
Application**

**MLP Program Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Health Organization Name(s) & Type (e.g., hospital, Federally Qualified Health Center)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Organization Name(s) & Type (e.g., LSC-funded legal agency, law school)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other Partners (please specify discipline)** \_\_\_\_\_

**How long has your MLP been operating?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location(s) (city and state)** \_\_\_\_\_

**MLP Strategic Priorities (e.g., legal issues, priority populations)**



**Safe and Healthy Housing Goal**

**What obstacles have you faced in achieving safe and healthy housing goals?**

**What strategies have been employed to overcome obstacles?**

**What legal or policy barriers have you encountered in your work in this area?**

**What strategies have you employed to overcome these legal barriers?**

**Do you have a clearly identified public health partner (e.g., a state, local, or tribal health department or similar)?**



**MLP's Safe and Healthy Housing Cohort Point Person**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you be interested and willing to serve as a discussion leader / facilitator for the full cohort virtual meetings and in-person meeting at the Public Health Law Conference? Yes No**

**Comments:**

Send applications and questions to Colleen Healy Boufides at [chealyboufides@networkforphl.org](mailto:chealyboufides@networkforphl.org).