



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

# Medical-Legal Partnership Logic Model

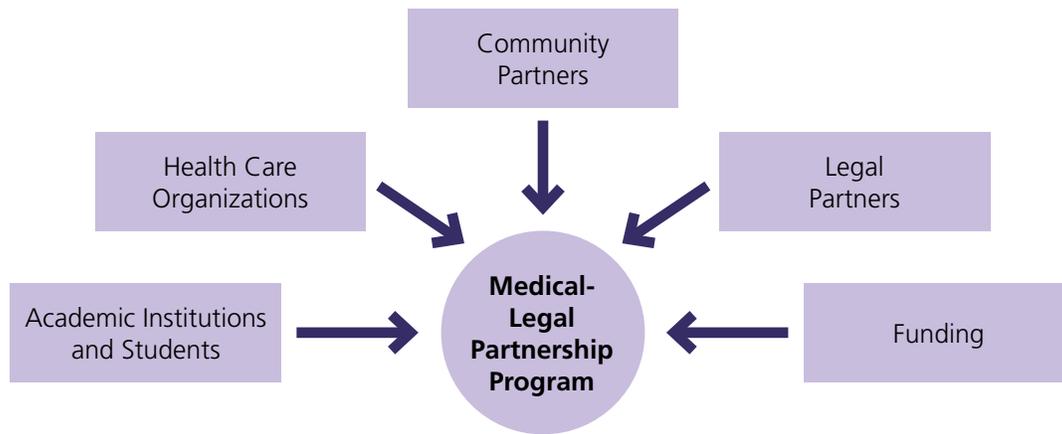
## AAMC **AHEAD**

*Accelerating Health Equity,  
Advancing through Discovery*

The AAMC Accelerating Health Equity, Advancing through Discovery (AHEAD) initiative seeks to identify, evaluate, and disseminate effective and replicable AAMC-member institution practices that improve community health and reduce health inequities. Medical schools and teaching hospitals routinely engage in practices that focus on improving community health and could therefore have significant, long-term impacts on local health inequities. One such practice with significant potential benefits for patients, communities, and the health system is a medical-legal partnership (MLP).

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Association of  
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### Activities

- Education and training for physicians, legal partners, medical students, law students
- Needs assessment
- Develop patient referral system
- Media presence
- Collection of training/education feedback
- Referrals to legal aid
- Patient data collection
- Community input

### Areas of Impact

	Short-Term Outcomes	Medium-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes
<b>Learner Outcomes:</b> Student, resident, and/or fellow educational outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge about social determinants of health</li> <li>• Increased recognition and knowledge of how legal care fits into health care</li> <li>• Increased knowledge about how to identify patients' needs (i.e., screening)</li> <li>• Increased knowledge about how to make referrals</li> <li>• Increased screening for patients' legal needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased referrals to medical-legal partnerships</li> <li>• Decreased stress about managing patients with unaddressed health-harming legal needs</li> <li>• Increased competency for medical learners that aligns with undergraduate medical education entrustable professional activities and general physician competency requirements</li> <li>• Increased understanding of interdisciplinary practice for law students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of knowledge about social determinants of health to broader practice</li> <li>• Sharing of knowledge about MLPs with other care providers</li> <li>• Broader integration of formalized social determinants of health and medical-legal partnership education into medical, nursing, social work, and law education</li> </ul>
<b>Patient and Community Health:</b> Health outcomes for the patient and surrounding community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolved legal problems affecting health of individuals</li> <li>• Increased screening and involvement by health team in identifying and helping patients resolve social problems affecting health</li> <li>• Increased patient knowledge of the impact social problems have on health</li> <li>• Increased policy/advocacy and self-efficacy skills (on behalf of self and families)</li> <li>• Increased patient/client satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased self-reported health</li> <li>• Decreased exposure to toxic stress</li> <li>• Improved housing safety and stability</li> <li>• Improved nutrition/reduced food insecurity</li> <li>• Appropriate education/high school graduation rate—overall school success, including for children with special needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent, appropriate use of health care</li> <li>• Improved physical and mental health for medical-legal partnership patients and community</li> <li>• Increased access to legal/advocacy services that affect health and policy (medical-legal partnership as standard of care)</li> </ul>
<b>Health System Savings:</b> Institutional cost savings, benefits, and efficiencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers refer patients for legal assistance</li> <li>• Health care providers allocate time to other health care needs because of interprofessional collaboration</li> <li>• Legal issues affecting health are addressed/resolved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More efficient use of health care resources—may include decreased per patient cost</li> <li>• Increased access to appropriate level of health care services</li> <li>• Contributions to community benefit requirements—include benefits of medical-legal partnerships on Schedule H (hospital)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest value of health outcomes is achieved</li> <li>• Highest value of health status is achieved</li> <li>• Value-driven return on investment findings to health system is demonstrated—institutional and financial support increase</li> </ul>

An MLP is an approach to health care delivery that combines the expertise of health and legal professionals to identify, address, and prevent health-harming legal needs<sup>1</sup> for patients, clinics, and populations. A clinical care team can't do much about a landlord's refusal to abate the asthma-inducing mold in a patient's apartment, but a lawyer can. Similarly, a lawyer might be able to intervene when a patient is wrongfully denied nutritional support or health insurance coverage.

Coordinating the efforts of legal and health care systems through MLPs provides opportunities to address the health and legal needs of vulnerable populations at the policy, system, and population levels. Currently, there are more than 290 hospitals and health centers with active MLPs,<sup>2</sup> yet there is a gap in the evidence about MLP effectiveness in addressing patients' needs, service quality, and system-wide and policy-level changes to improve population health, often because of time and resource constraints.

The goal of AAMC AHEAD Cycle 1: Medical-Legal Partnerships<sup>3</sup> is to assist established medical-legal partnerships at AAMC-member institutions with developing and disseminating a body of evidence that measures the impact of MLPs on health inequities at the local level. A learning cohort has been created comprising three AAMC-member institutions and the MLPs to which they belong—Children's National Health System—Healthy Together; Emory University School of Medicine—Health Law Partnership; and Indiana University School of Medicine—Eskenazi Health Medical-Legal Partnership—to create a body of evidence concerning the impact of MLPs on the following domains:

- Learner outcomes
- Patient and community health
- Health system savings

During the first year of the three-year grant period, the MLP cohort worked to develop specific outcomes, metrics, and measures that they will use to prospectively evaluate the impact of the three MLPs across the domains. To guide their measurement, the cohort developed a logic model to lay out how their MLP activity will affect learners, patients, and the health system in the short, medium, and long term. (See inside)

1. A "health-harming legal need" is a social problem that adversely affects a person's health or access to health care and that is better remedied through joint legal care and health care than through health care services alone. It is a type of social determinant of health. National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, "Medical-Legal Partnership Integration Self-Assessment," <http://medical-legalpartnership.org/resources/integration/>.
2. National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, <http://medical-legalpartnership.org/partnerships/>.
3. AAMC AHEAD 2015: Medical-Legal Partnerships is supported by the Association of American Medical Colleges and Cooperative Agreement Number 3U36OE00004-03W1 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services.