

# NURSING-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

## A new approach to improving maternal-child health

The Nursing-Legal Partnership is a new program that brings together lawyers and nurses to improve the lives of mothers and children living in poverty.

The successful Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) model has existed for years, primarily in hospitals and health centers. The Nursing-Legal Partnership incorporates MLP elements and transforms the model by bringing legal services into the homes of some of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach families in America.

Beginning in 2016 in Philadelphia, a team of public interest lawyers is working hand-in-hand with public health nurses who educate and support new parents through the evidence-based *Nurse-Family Partnership* and *Parents As Teachers* home visiting programs.

This interdisciplinary team works to ensure that pregnant women and new mothers have the opportunity to raise their children in safe, healthy homes, with uninterrupted health insurance coverage and other benefits.



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Serve at least 300 mothers and children
- Improve housing conditions for families living in unsafe and substandard homes
- Ensure pregnant women and babies have health insurance
- Improve economic well-being of vulnerable families
- Decrease toxic maternal stress
- Evaluate program results
- Build a movement for statewide and national replication



**NATIONAL  
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Mabel Morris Family Home Visit Program  
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# HOW IT WORKS



The Nursing-Legal Partnership capitalizes on home visiting nurses' special status as trusted family advisors. Lawyers with expertise in public benefits as well as housing and consumer law collaborate with nurses to screen mothers for unmet legal needs that harm maternal-child health, using the five following "I-HELP" categories:

- I: Income Supports
- H: Housing & Utilities
- E: Education
- L: Legal/Immigration Status
- P: Personal & Family Stability

Lawyers and nurses work together to resolve the legal needs of families enrolled in the *Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership* and *Mabel Morris Family Home Visit* programs. They also collaborate to pursue systemic policy issues impacting the health and well-being of families.

## Nurse Home Visiting

The *Philadelphia Nurse-Family Partnership* and *Mabel Morris Family Home Visit* programs transform the lives of mothers and their babies. Public health nurses educate and support new parents using the evidence-based *Nurse-Family Partnership* and *Parents As Teachers* models. In Philadelphia, these programs serve more than 700 families every year.

## For more information

The Nursing-Legal Partnership is a collaboration between the **National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC)** and the **Health, Education & Legal assistance Project (HELP:MLP)**.

For more information, contact Dr. Katherine Kinsey, Nurse Administrator, at [kkinsey@nncc.us](mailto:kkinsey@nncc.us) or 215-287-2114.

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