



August 2026 NEWSLETTER

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THANK YOU!

We are pleased to announce that we recently received renewed funding from both the [Massachusetts Bar Foundation](#) and the [Boston Bar Foundation](#). We are grateful for the ongoing support from the legal community that will enable Legal Key to continue to serve our Massachusetts and Boston-area partners.



AND MORE THANKS!

When an organization operates virtually, as Legal Key does, we can be nimble in our work and reach wider audiences. But there are occasions to gather in person, and meeting space can be an expensive proposition for small nonprofit projects like Legal Key.



Enter [Nelson Mullins](#). Thanks to our Advisory Board Chair Melissa Nott Davis, her firm Nelson Mullins has generously provided Legal Key with meeting space for the past year. We are appreciative of their welcoming space, their fantastic staff, and honestly, their stellar views of downtown Boston.

We also want to give a shout out to [Community Resources for Justice](#), where our Advisory Board member Deb O'Brien is the CEO, which has also hosted several of our meetings at their beautiful Boylston Street location. We are grateful for generous companies who donate their meeting spaces to us!

Legal Key was honored to receive the **Community Partner of the Year** award from [Blackstone Valley Community Health Care](#) at their annual meeting this summer. Legal Key first partnered with BVCHC through their [DULCE](#) program, and last year we transitioned to working with their larger social supports team.

In the past year, we **answered 95 consult questions** for BVCHC staff. Their team is incredibly dedicated to their patients! And we are honored to support them.



Legal Key's Rebecca Kislak and Amy Copperman accept the award from Dr. Morgan Motia.

AROUND TOWN



Legal Key's Jeannine Casselman and Amy Copperman were thrilled to attend [Rooted In Recovery: Rhode Island's First Recovery Workforce Conference](#) held in July. The event was hosted by [RIPRPA](#), which is housed within RICARES, and it was a day of learning and meeting lots of new folks. It was a fantastic gathering! Legal Key has a new project brewing with RIPRPA—stay tuned for more details later this fall.

DIGEST

Legal Key's [Digital Digest](#) is a space spotlighting changes to laws that impact health, and covers a wide range of categories including employment, housing, immigration, and more. Our goal is to translate complicated legal topics into easy to understand language, and offer steps that people, including care team members, can take to help address legal needs. Visit the [Massachusetts](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [federal](#) pages regularly to learn about updates in your area.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Attorney General has issued [guidance](#) for patients and healthcare providers regarding immigration enforcement and healthcare. Visit our [MA Digital Digest-Health Access and Public Health Information](#) page to learn more.



Rhode Island

Rhode Island recently passed a law that bars federal immigration agents from making civil arrests at state courthouses without a judicial warrant. Agents must identify themselves and state their purpose to court security before taking anyone into custody, and violations can lead to contempt of court and civil lawsuits. Visit our [RI Digital Digest- Courts and Criminal Systems Involvement](#) page for more information.

Federal

New public charge rules will take effect September 18, 2026. Most immigrants will NOT be impacted. Only those seeking green cards may be affected. Also, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians and Syrians ended. Care teams can help people review if they have other pending immigration applications, refer them to immigration attorneys, and check [USCIS](#) for further updates. To learn more about these changes, visit our [Federal Digital Digest - Immigration](#) page.



Our democracy depends on knowledge about how our legal systems work.

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Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice envisions a society where information about legal rights and systems is widely accessible and used to help people to thrive. To realize this vision, Legal Key's mission is to create access to legal knowledge for health and social service sectors and empowers those communities to use legal