



MLPB

ADVANCING HEALTH
THROUGH JUSTICE

December 12, 2023 Newsletter



Meet the newest members of our team:

**LAW & POLICY
CONSULTANTS**



STEPHANIE

SARAH

**Welcome to the team,
Stephanie and Sarah!**



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We are thrilled to welcome two new Law & Policy Consultants, Stephanie Duggan-Lykes and Sarah Yan, to MLPB! Read more about Sarah and Stephanie [here](#).



BRIDGING DIVIDES



MLPB Executive Director Amy Copperman recently penned a blog post about the shelter crisis in Massachusetts.

[Read it here.](#)

AROUND TOWN

On Nov. 29, 2023, MLPB was pleased to join Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and the Brown University School of Public Health for the 5th annual [RI Life Index](#) Launch.

The Index measures perceptions of community life and quality of community elements, including affordable housing, education and good jobs. Dr. Melissa Clark, PhD, Professor of Health Services, Policy & Practice and Director of the Survey Research Center at Brown University School of Public Health presented the results, including:

- Since 2020, there were large declines in scores related to **cost of living, affordable housing, and access to healthcare.**
- The largest declines over the past five years have been in **access to nutritious food.**
- There were large five-year declines in healthcare access for younger adults and access to nutritious food for older adults.
- There were notable decreases across all domains for Latinx respondents and nearly all domains for Black respondents.

[Dr. David Williams](#) of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health delivered an inspiring presentation detailing the ways economic status, race, stress, and racism are deeply entwined.

The results of the RI Life Index are a sobering reminder that there is much work to do to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to the resources and supports needed to live healthy lives. MLPB is proud to serve on the RI Life Index Coalition.





DIGITAL DIGEST

Some states offer utility customer shut-off protections during the winter months.

These seasonal protections vary from state to state and generally only apply to customers who meet certain requirements. Winter moratoria have already started in some states. Visit MLPB's Digital Digest to learn more about protections in MA, RI or Federal protections.



[MA Digital Digest](#)

[RI Digital Digest](#)

[Federal Digital Digest](#)



Warm Winter Wishes
FROM MLPB

We know 2023 was a hard year for too many in our communities, our country, and across the globe. In the midst of what can feel like too many unsurmountable challenges, we at MLPB are trying to use this year's holiday season to pause and reflect. All of us at MLPB want to express how grateful we are for our supporters, advisors, partners and collaborators—we are inspired by your dedication to make progress towards a more healthy, equitable and just world. We wish each one of you a peaceful 2024, and we look forward to continuing our work together.

