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Massachusetts Appleseed Awarded \$100K Cummings Foundation Grant

Boston, MA- Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice was recently awarded a grant of \$100,000 from the Cummings Foundation. This grant will support the Center's initiative [Keep Kids in Class: Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline](#). This project positions Massachusetts Appleseed at the forefront of understanding the intersection of school discipline practices, zero tolerance, and youth entering the juvenile justice system. The goal is to mitigate effects of zero tolerance, remove barriers to access to public education, and support at-risk youth to literally *keep kids in class* where they are safe, supported, and involved in learning.

"This grant will enable MA Appleseed to advocate for robust implementation of school discipline policies and regulations, and provide community education for the benefit of all Massachusetts' students," said Sondra Peskoe, Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships at MA Appleseed.



Amanda Bradford, Advancement Director, MA Appleseed; Dennis Clarke, President and CEO, Cummings Properties; Carolyn Crowley, Senior Vice President, Eastern Wealth Management, and board member, MA Appleseed.

Cummings Foundation, a private operating foundation based in Woburn, awarded \$100K grants to 100 local area nonprofits in 2013. This funding will support human services, education, healthcare, and social justice causes in Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Cummings Foundation was established in 1986 by Bill and Joyce Cummings of Winchester, MA. It is one of the largest private Foundations in New

England. Cummings Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, and in 2011 created two grant-making affiliates: OneWorld Boston, Inc. and Institute for World Justice, LLC.

To learn more about the Cummings Foundation and the "[\\$100K to 100 Grant](#)," please visit www.cummingsfoundation.org.

About the Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice:

Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice is a public interest law center. Our mission is to promote equal rights and opportunities for Massachusetts residents by developing and advocating for systemic solutions to social justices issues.

The Massachusetts Appleseed Center dedicates itself to remedying social injustices for vulnerable groups, such as at-risk and underserved children and youth. Working with volunteer lawyers, community partners and others, we address gaps in services and barriers to access to justice in areas such as education and homelessness. We advocate for change to the systems that perpetuate such gaps. We develop solutions through in-depth research, consensus building and community problem solving. We seek change that levels the playing field, empowers the disenfranchised and transforms communities. We make change happen.

To learn more about [Massachusetts Appleseed](#), please visit our website www.massappleseed.org.

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