

➔ APPLESEED'S PRIORITIES IN THE COMING YEAR



IMPACT PRIORITY AREA:

Increase access to legal information, services, and protections for youth and their allies



IMPACT PRIORITY AREA:

Advance educational justice and reduce discriminatory discipline



IMPACT PRIORITY AREA:

Ensure fair access to courts and government agencies for all Massachusetts residents

Dear Friend,

Every day across Massachusetts, people are denied their rights and lack fair access to the government and legal systems meant to support them. Our sense of urgency has never been greater. As we look ahead to 2026, we want to share our priorities for the coming year, raise awareness about the urgent need for justice across the Commonwealth, and highlight the ways Appleseed is advancing a future free from injustice. We hope you will join our growing movement of people committed to advancing justice for those who need it most—whether by investing in our work, volunteering your time, or connecting us with partners who may benefit from Know Your Rights trainings. Please reach out to us at inquiry@massappleseed.org.

In solidarity,
The Massachusetts Appleseed Team

IN 2026 WE WILL CONTINUE TO BELIEVE

We are stronger together

We will continue to work in coalition alongside 50+ organizations across MA through our work in 10+ coalitions.

When awareness grows, action follows

We will continue to grow our online community and partner with local media to spotlight inequity.

Justice grows when we act together

We will continue to mobilize our community of supporters through our annual Good Apple Awards Reception on October 29, 2026 to honor change makers who stand for justice.

Our Mission

Massachusetts Appleseed's mission is to promote equal rights and opportunities for Massachusetts residents by developing and advocating for systemic solutions to social justice issues. Recognizing that our legal and government systems too often fail those who need them most, we work in coalition with communities, partners, and policymakers to expose the often overlooked and unseen root causes of injustice, empower individuals to understand and exercise their legal rights, and advance policies to create a more equitable Commonwealth.

Our Vision

We envision a future where justice is accessible to all, and our government and legal systems serve every resident of the Commonwealth.

**THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND FUNDERS WHOSE COMMITMENT
HELPS FUELS OUR WORK.**



**Please
consider
investing in
justice by
donating
today**

www.massappleseed.com/donate

Increase access to legal information, services, and protections for youth and their allies

In 2026 we will:

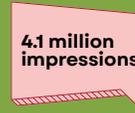
- Launch the Justice in Action Volunteer Corps, mobilizing volunteers statewide to put life-changing legal information directly into the hands of youth and their allies.
- Update the 20-chapter Massachusetts Homeless Youth Handbook (HYH)—clear, current, and easier to use—and launch our first-ever free on-demand Know-Your-Rights webinars on housing, education, employment, and healthcare.
- Strengthen the Massachusetts Homeless Youth Legal Network (MHYLN) to expand statewide legal coordination and address systemic barriers facing unhoused youth.
- Participate in community events to distribute HYH resources and engage directly with youth, allies, and supporters, while developing and disseminating HYH half-sheets and other materials and implementing a tracking system to monitor distribution across designated high-traffic locations.
- Partner with government and nonprofit organizations as a named member of the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission (UHYC) and its Minors Work Group.

The Need is Clear

Youth and their allies across Massachusetts are urgently seeking accessible legal information.



In 2025, the HYH was viewed more than 2,400 times.



In 2024, our public awareness campaign generated 4.1 million impressions.

“We found [Appleseed’s Know-Your-Rights workshop] extremely valuable and learned a great deal about tenants’ rights and how young people can protect those rights. Our youth council found the [Handbook] to be an invaluable resource.”

–Appleseed partner organization

Advance educational justice and reduce discriminatory discipline

In 2026 we will:

- Advance policy reforms to reduce racial and gender disparities in school discipline, focusing on girls of color, guided by our 2021 original research report, “*I Just Want to Learn.*”
- Disseminate A Parent’s Guide to Truancy, developed with Boston University School of Law’s Access to Justice Clinic, to help families navigate school attendance challenges.
- Expand public access to DESE school discipline data to strengthen transparency and inform reform.
- Shift harmful narratives through proactive communications that counter the criminalization of Black and brown students and build awareness of student rights.

Ensure fair access to courts and government agencies for all Massachusetts residents

In 2026 we will:

- Advance implementation of “*Justice Disrupted: Language Access at the MA Trial Courts*” recommendations to strengthen language access in the courts.
- Serve as a leading organization and steering committee member of the Mass Speaks Coalition to address language access failures across Massachusetts state agencies, particularly in child welfare systems.
- Partner with government and nonprofit leaders through the Access to Justice Commission’s Language Access Subcommittee.
- Elevate the real-world consequences of language access failures in public discourse and media.



Interested in volunteering to help bring life changing legal information to youth and their allies? Opportunities are self-led and location flexible!

Please consider investing in justice by donating today

