OREGON OFFICE for COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Advancing State-funded investments by promoting problem-solving, learning, and growth towards a connected community.

2022 BIENNIAL REPORT
“Mediation not only produces better solutions, it does so with less cost and with preserving the relationships of the parties.”
-Lincoln County Legal Aid Regional Director Blair Bobier

INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The federal government invested in new tools to address community conflict by embedding mediation in the 1964 Civil Rights Act in an effort to address racial, ethnic, class, and gender inequalities throughout the courts and legal action. To provide neighborhoods with localized conflict resolution services, organizations sprouted nationwide, and community mediation began to take root.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

- Providing upstream alternative dispute resolution services
- Utilizing equity informed mediation tailored to the community
- Connecting people to local providers, e.g. financial resources, legal aid, rehousing & credit counseling
- Providing conflict resolution education for youth

Restorative Justice

Local community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) implement restorative justice models in partnership with juvenile justice centers that reduce recidivism rates and increase restitution rates.

Decrease in discipline referrals for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) at Phoenix Oregon High School

Source: Resolve, Restorative Justice in Schools, 2019
The school district connected a Dispute Resolution Center with a group of renters facing eviction. Three undocumented single fathers, each raising one child, none of whom speak English was facing eviction. One of the fathers was badly injured and could not contribute to the household bills. The others pooled their resources to cover his medical expenses but still came up short.

With help from community resources, an anonymous donor, and the promise of the state-wide rent assistance program, amount owed became manageable.

After understanding the circumstances that caused the delay in payment, the housing provider became more sympathetic and more comfortable with dismissing the eviction before the remaining rent was paid, and the court date was canceled.

For renters, mediation can address the specifics of each of their cases to see if arrearages can be made and tenancy stabilized, or a plan for moving out can be created.

For housing providers, mediation can address rent arrearages and reduce costs associated with an eviction.

For communities, mediation increases access to justice and is a site of referral to local resources.

Eviction prevention systems rely on mediation as an efficient and effective tool to keep people housed.

82% mandatory cases created agreements
76% voluntary cases created agreements

Source: OOCDR, 2017-19 Statewide
15 COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

799 COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAMS

51,613 COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED

9,206 TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES

21,012 VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,194 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

Source: OOCDR, 2019-2021 Statewide