

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



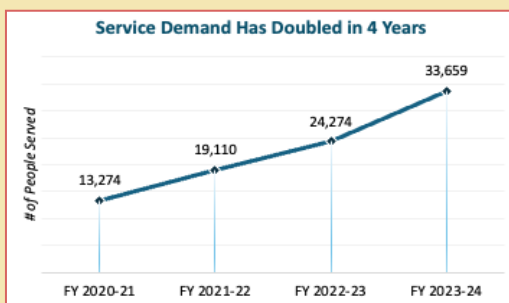
The statewide association of
Dispute Resolution Centers

Dispute Resolution Centers (DRCs) offer trauma-informed, community-based mediation and services to **resolve conflict upstream before it escalates to courts, eviction, or police intervention, and provide direct referral to essential low-income legal aid.**

Tailored to each county's unique needs, DRCs provide services such as tenant and landlord mediations that increase housing stability, creative resolutions for families facing changes including separation and co-parenting, and youth and community restorative practices to repair relationships and reduce further harm. Per RCW 7.75, we offer free or affordable dispute resolution services through our 21 Dispute Resolution Centers statewide. DRCs facilitate communication and dispute resolution that:

- Support equitable access to justice;
- Preserve and repair relationships;
- Resolve disputes efficiently with self-determination; and
- Promote civility and compassion.

RESOLUTION WASHINGTON'S STATEWIDE DRC FUNDING NEEDS ARE \$13.5M IN FY26 AND \$16.5M IN FY27 TO MEET SERVICE DEMANDS. HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT AND REQUEST THAT THE LEGISLATURE MAINTAIN THE CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL OF \$10.5M ANNUALLY FOR THE 2025-2027 BIENNIUM.



DRC caseloads more than doubled over the past four years and training demand increased by 28% last year. With current state funding, DRCs cannot continue to meet this increased demand for conflict resolution in our communities.

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Funding supports:

- Access to justice in rural communities;
- Service needs of residents experiencing technology and language barriers;
- Statewide equity, diversity, access, and inclusion work for DRCs to reflect the communities we serve and deliver culturally appropriate services as promised by RCW 7.75;
- Strengthening core capacity to enable statewide initiatives to respond to emerging community needs and issues; and
- Meeting community demand for mediation and for restorative practices, circle-keeping, conciliation, and conflict coaching.



87%

OF CLIENTS SAY MEDIATION IMPROVED THEIR SITUATION

63,194

PEOPLE DIRECTLY SERVED

76%

OF EVICTION CASES RESOLVED BEFORE GOING TO COURT

67%

SETTLEMENT RATE FOR FAMILY CASES IN FY24



“ Having a mediator allows for a conversation to occur in a guided way, so that the contentiousness of the situation is removed, a written plan can be put in place... and the way forward is clear.
– Housing stability client, Whatcom County ”

“ Being able to sit and listen to both sides and having someone help both of us understand each other’s point of views is eye opening.
– Parenting plan client, Yakima & Kittitas Counties ”