



March 1, 2023

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
Relating to Community Dispute Resolution Centers**

**Clackamas County supports SB 600:** Oregon’s communities benefit from services that provide quick access for pressing needs, including stable housing, community safety, and safe and healthy relationships. Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRC) provide mediation and training services to residents around the state who are in need of accessible, equitable, and timely dispute resolution processes.

State residents receive services from CDRCs for a variety of issues including neighbor-to-neighbor disputes, domestic relations mediation, small claims mediation, restorative justice dialogue, and landlord-tenant and eviction avoidance mediation. Training is available to those interested in becoming community mediators with the support and mentorship of CDRC staff and seasoned volunteer mediators. Simply by participating in mediation, parties observe and learn constructive communication skills that help them navigate future difficult conversations or disputes.

In Clackamas County, Resolution Services is participating in a one-year Eviction Demonstration Project funded through the University of Oregon School of Law/Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution. Free mediation is currently available allowing landlords and tenants to work through issues in advance of an eviction action. This is saving landlords money, keeping tenants housed, and helping parties maintain productive communication with skills and resources to address any potential future issues. The funding for this demonstration project will sunset on June 30, 2023.

Without this funding, Clackamas County is at risk of losing most, if not all, of the valuable and sought after community mediation services we provide today. As costs increase without an increase in funding, positions and services are eliminated. SB 600 will allow Resolution Services to continue to provide quality mediation and dispute resolution training services to residents of Clackamas County next year and beyond. County residents will benefit from being part of the solution in their own lives, and participating in their communities as problem-solvers and peace keepers.

We urge a “yes” vote on SB 600.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.