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Statewide Partnerships through Community Mediation Center Grant Program

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The Community Mediation Center Grant Program is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration to advance the public mission of community mediation in the Commonwealth.

The aims of the program are to:
- Increase access to justice and conflict resolution statewide as a cost effective public service
- Provide a consistent stable funding source with performance based accountability to avoid uncertainty and instability of Center operations
- Promote diversified funding sources for long terms sustainability of the Centers

The state funding is distributed among 13 Community Mediation centers (CMCs) through performance based grants.
# Community Mediation Center Grant Program

## The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Trained in conflict resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2M</td>
<td>Invested in MOPC and centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24M</td>
<td>ROI to Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>Trained in conflict resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,193</td>
<td>Mediations conducted</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Massachusetts court divisions served</td>
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<tr>
<td>15,578</td>
<td>Mediation participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>School conflicts resolved</td>
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Approach and Methods

MOPC prioritizes evidenced based work to develop a sustainable funding model for community mediation.

Following a research based legislative study completed in 2011 “A Framework to Strengthen Massachusetts Community Mediation as a Cost Effective Public Service” MOPC established a 12 point model around evidence based best practices to define and qualify Community Mediation Centers which reflect the following values:

- Serving the community
- Providing accessible services
- Providing quality services
- Reflecting diversity

Using a utilization focused evaluation system, MOPC has produced three evaluation reports that included an economic assessment and an indicator-based assessment of impact.

To facilitate program evaluation, reporting and research, a specially customized case management database has been implemented at the 13 Centers.

This database known as MADtrac, allows Centers to collect data on cases in one place and to meet their multiple reporting needs to demonstrate the impact of their services by tracking among many things, locations and demographics served, outcomes, resources-needed and leveraged.
Massachusetts Community Mediation Center Grant Program

In addition to general operating grants from the CMC Grant Program, MOPC administers additional grants to centers for work in specific areas which encourage collaboration with local partners based on community need, provides additional data for evidence based statewide programming and leverages support from community partners, sponsors and funders.

Parent Mediation Program

The Parent Mediation Program (PMP) helps to resolve child access, visitation and parenting plan disputes for Massachusetts families.

The goal of the program is to increase parenting time for families where the parents are not together but still want to co-parent, and promote cooperative parenting and increased understanding of children’s needs and interests.

Seven Community Mediation Centers funded by the CMC Grant Program also provide services for the Parent Mediation Program:

• Community Dispute Settlement Center
• Family Services of Central MA Mediation
• Martha’s Vineyard Mediation Program, Inc.
• MetroWest Mediation Services, Inc.
• The Mediation & Training Collaborative
• North Shore Community Mediation, Inc.
• Quabbin Mediation, Inc.

Youth Peer-Mediation

As part of the Community Mediation Center Grant Program, the MA Office of Public Collaboration awarded four (4) community project grants on youth violence/conflict prevention. The projects all utilize a Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework, which includes peer mediation and other youth-focused conflict resolution in schools, communities, and/or families.

Municipal Needs Assessment

This study, commissioned by the Legislature shows examples of Massachusetts municipal officials managing public conflicts using various approaches. In addition, this research documents the impact of those approaches and presents preliminary findings about the impact of public conflict that is not managed well, and that can become “destructive,” causing significant harm to government institutions and the social fabric of communities.

This needs assessment will help align MOPC and Centers public mission and expertise to better serve municipalities and public agencies dealing with difficult local and regional issues, and add measurable value to communities and the state in transforming destructive public conflict.