

Regional Funding

Fiscal Year 2018 - Partner Funding Application

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center

Application Status: Submitted

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center

Agency Information

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General Information

Agency Name	Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center
Physical Address	3 South Fourth Street, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 809, Warrenton, Virginia, 20188-0809, U.S.A.
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 809, Warrenton, VA 20188-0809
Agency Phone Number	(540) 347-6650
Federal Tax ID #	541661815
Web Address	www.PiedmontDisputeResolution.org
Agency Email Address	lawrie.pdrc@verizon.net

Agency Mission Statement

The Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide affordable mediation, restorative justice and other dispute resolution services, training, education and information in such areas as the Board of Directors may decide. Areas currently include the Counties of Fauquier, Culpeper, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania and Stafford; Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Vision Statement: We desire to promote the peaceful and just resolution of conflicts and restoration of relationships to strengthen everyone in our community.

Number of Years in Operation	26
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Main Contact

Main Contact Lawrie S. Parker, phone: (540) 347-6650, email: lawrie.pdrc@verizon.net

Job Title Executive Director

Localities Served

Please select any/all localities your agency serves.

Caroline

Fredericksburg

King George

Spotsylvania

Stafford

Collaborative Impact

Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your agency were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.

PDRC provides mediation to court-referred persons. If PDRC were dissolved, the courts would find their dockets fuller and parties would have to wait longer to have their cases heard. Courts might need to hire more staff and judges. Citizen satisfaction with the judicial system would be negatively impacted. At present, there are no other mediation providers servicing the Stafford courts and the Spotsylvania General District Court. In fact, PDRC's involvement in Stafford Juvenile Court began at the request of the judge in 2009 after the dissolution of the local Rappahannock Mediation Center. Expansion into the General District Courts followed two years later, in 2011.

Community Impact

Please provide at least 2 examples of how your services have impacted members of our community.

Example 1

A local homeowner and local contractor came to general district court over an \$8,000 lawsuit. The judge referred them to one of PDRC's in-court mediators. That day, they were able to settle their differences in mediation and avoided returning to court and a trial before the judge. The terms of their agreement were a win-win. The homeowner achieved his renovation goal and the contractor received compensation for his work, as well as avoiding a negative image of his company.

Example 2

PDRC believes that families in crisis deserve a chance to come together to fashion their own resolution without costly and painful litigation. Many of the families cannot afford attorneys and some are simply afraid of the court process. Family Mediation allows parents to: Have a voice; Make decisions about their child(ren)'s future; Take the long view; Work together; Learn about their child(ren)'s needs and how to co-parenting.

A typical family case referred by Stafford Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court involves parents who have poor communication and yet must decide on child custody, visitation and support issues. The opportunity to talk without loud arguments frequently leads to understanding and the discovery that an agreement can be forged. A full agreement removes a case from the docket when the judge accepts the mediated agreement and enters it in as a court order.

Mediation helps communication because the mediator removes roadblocks to conversation and provides a safe place to talk without arguing.

One example is parents who were referred by the judge after it became clear that they were putting their five-year old child in the middle of their custody dispute by saying negative things about each other in front of their son and asking him choose which parent with whom he wanted to live. In mediation, they were able to talk candidly in way not possible in the adversarial courtroom. They were able to listen to one another too. Most importantly, they redefined their relationship, no longer as a couple but as parents who wanted the best for their child. They agreed not only on custody but also on how they would work together to keep their young son out of the middle.

Example 3 (Optional)

A local landlord was suing a tenant for back rent and the poor condition of the property. In mediation, they were able to set up a payment plan and thus avoided a trial, judgment and negative impact on the tenant's credit report. The tenant also painted the interior of the house and vacated it in excellent condition.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Locality Information

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Locality Notes

Please use the spaces below to provide any locality specific notes or statements that may be relevant to your application.

Caroline County

City of Fredericksburg

King George County

Spotsylvania County

PDRC has been providing mediation services for general district court for the past six years and is asking for local financial support due to increased program costs and referrals. Court case referrals increased by 32% in FY 2016, compared to FY 2015, from 26 to 33. In addition, PDRC volunteer mediators have increased their monthly court-sitting days so that more citizens can have instant access to this important service when a judge refers a case from the bench at their first court hearing. In FY 2016, 84 citizens were served.

Stafford County

Since 2009, volunteer mediators donate about 15 hours weekly for the sole purpose of helping families—especially the children caught in the middle—resolve painful child custody, visitation and support disagreements in a respectful manner allowing families to maintain their dignity and provide an incentive to adhere to their agreements. Juvenile court referrals held steady in FY 2016 with 30 cases. Referrals from general district court are for civil cases including landlord-tenant and consumer-merchant. Mediators are available on specific days for In-Court Mediation, thus citizens have instant access to mediation and resolution. Cases are dismissed pursuant to the agreement. Referrals increased by 11.6% in FY 2016 compared to FY 2015, from 43 cases to 48.

A total of 240 citizens were served through these two mediation program.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Agency Budget

In the boxes below provide an overview of the administrative costs associated with your agency budget. Include revenue that defrays administrative costs; this is non programmatic revenue and should not include any revenue associated with programming.

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Expenses

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Salary	233,361.00	242,608.00	248,673.00
Benefits	17,000.00	18,560.00	19,000.00
Operating Expenses	74,331.00	79,642.00	80,000.00
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Expenses	38,000.00	41,907.00	42,000.00
Total	362,692.00	382,717.00	389,673.00

Revenues

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Caroline			
Fredericksburg			
King George			
Spotsylvania	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Stafford	7,652.00	7,652.00	8,000.00
United Way			
Grants	24,900.00	30,000.00	15,000.00
Client Fees			
Fundraising	15,960.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Other (Click to itemize)	336,154.00	331,865.00	336,840.00

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Total	384,666.00	379,517.00	372,340.00

Surplus / Deficit

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Surplus or Deficit	21,974.00	-3,200.00	-17,333.00

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Agency Budget Narrative

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Administrative Expenses

Provide an overview of the administrative costs for your agency.

Administrative costs comprise 47% of the executive director's salary and 40% of the service director's salary. These costs are related to new program development, financial management and interfacing with the Board of Directors.

PDRC is not seeking administrative funding from this application. Rather our funding requests compensate the Center for volunteer management and required reporting to the Supreme Court of Virginia which regulates court-annexed mediation program.

If your agency is requesting an increase or decrease in administrative funding, please describe in detail the reasons for these changes.

PDRC is not seeking administrative funding from this application. Please see above explanation.

Please provide justification for and specific amounts of administrative costs that are defrayed by locality funds.

N/A

Capital Expenses

Please provide an overview of the capital costs for your agency.

None.

Please provide justification for and specific amounts of capital costs that are defrayed by locality funds.

N/A

Salary & Benefit Expenses

Please provide an overview of any increases or decreases in general personnel expenses for your agency.

PDRC anticipates a 2.5% salary increase for personnel.

Please provide a description of any changes to agency benefits structure or cost.

None. PDRC does not provide benefits other than FICA.

Budget Issues

Provide any legislative initiatives or issues that may impact the agency for the upcoming year.

For many years, the Virginia Department of Child Support Enforcement (DCJS) has granted the Virginia Supreme Court Division of Dispute Resolution Services (DRS) funds to assist in supporting local coordination of mediation programs, include \$1500 for the Stafford and Spotsylvania courts. It is anticipated these funds will be eliminated in FY 2018.

If you are aware of “outside” funding sources that will expire or be reduced on a set cycle or date, please note those below and how you are planning for them.

A \$15,000 grant to work with the Warrenton Police Department and Warrenton's African American community is expiring in FY 2017. A \$19,000 grant from the Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services to work with Fauquier County Public Schools in Restorative Justice will be decreased by 25% in FY 2018.

Please detail any identified agency needs or areas of concern that are currently not being addressed in your funding request.

PDRC believes it is important for Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties to know that 75% of the people served by PDRC fall within the federal poverty guidelines. Furthermore, court-referred mediation clients are provided these services without cost to them. While we receive some compensation from the Supreme Court of Virginia, income from local government support is critical to providing these services.

Equally important, court-referred mediators must be specially trained, mentored and supervised. They are required to be certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia's Division of Dispute Resolution Services (DRS). Court-annexed mediation programs are regulated by DRS which requires extensive reporting. All of this takes staff time and is costly to maintain.

Regional Funding

Fiscal Year 2018 - Partner Funding Application

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center

Application Status: Submitted

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center **Court-Referred Mediation**

Program Budget Narrative

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Please indicate in details reasons for increases or decreases in the amounts requested for FY 2018.

PDRC is requesting that funding from Stafford County be restored to the FY 2015 level of \$8,000 to compensate for an increase in court case referrals. This amount supplements funds received from the Supreme Court of Virginia.

PDRC is requesting \$2,500 from Spotsylvania County to support the program in general district court to supplement funds received from the Supreme Court of Virginia and to support an increase in court referrals from Spotsylvania General District Court.

If an increase is being requested, please describe the impact not receiving an increase would have on the program.

The program will be hampered in recruiting more volunteer mediators to meet the needs of the courts served.

In particular, please describe in detail if any increase is sought for new positions or personnel.

The increase is not being sought for new positions or personnel, rather for additional volunteers.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Collaborative Impact

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Efforts and Partnerships

Describe in detail examples of collaborative efforts and key partnerships between your program and the other programs or agencies in the area.

Key partnerships for the mediation programs include the judges of Stafford and Spotsylvania General District Courts and the judges of Stafford Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court as well as the Clerk's Offices for these three courts. Outreach and public education partnerships include the Central Rappahannock Regional Library where PDRC has conducted mock mediation presentations at two branches to better inform citizens of the benefits of mediation and how it works. In addition, volunteer mediators have been developing relationships with the Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging to expand into the field of Elder Mediation & Decision-Making, to further serve the area.

Collaborative Impact

Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your program were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.

If PDRC were dissolved, the courts would find their dockets fuller and citizens would wait longer to have their cases heard. Courts might need to hire more staff and judges. Citizen satisfaction with the judicial system would be negatively impacted. At present, there are no other mediation providers servicing the Stafford courts and the Spotsylvania General District Court. In fact, PDRC's involvement in Stafford Juvenile Court began at the request of the Judge in 2009 after the dissolution of the local Rappahannock Mediation Center. Expansion into the General District Courts followed two years later.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Program Overview

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General Information

Program Name Court-Referred Mediation

Is this a new program? No

Program Contact

Name Lawrie S. Parker

Title Executive Director

Email lawrie.pdrc@verizon.net

Phone (540) 347-6650

Program Purpose / Description

Provide an overview of this program

This program serves citizens with open court cases in Stafford Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and Stafford and Spotsylvania General District Courts.

Mediation is offered to litigants filing for child custody, visitation and/or support through the Stafford Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDR). Parties who reach signed mediation agreements are not required to attend their court hearing. The judge reviews the agreement and enters it as a Court Order. The program strengthens family ties by reducing current and future conflict: When parents argue and fight, it's the children who are hurt.

PDRC's mediation in Stafford & Spotsylvania General District Courts for civil cases primarily landlord-tenant and consumer-merchant. Mediators are available on specific days for In-Court Mediation, thus citizens have instant access to mediation and resolution. Cases are dismissed pursuant to the agreement.

The Court-Referred Mediation Program conserves judicial resources to the greater satisfaction of Stafford and Spotsylvania citizens.

Client Fees

Please describe the fees clients must pay for the services by this program.

There are no client fees involved. Pursuant to the Supreme Court of Virginia Office of Executive Secretary, citizens with open court cases may be referred to mediation by the court at no cost to them.

Justification of Need

Please state clearly why this service should be provided to the citizens of the region and why the localities should consider this funding request.

The court-referred mediation program conserves judicial resources to the greater satisfaction of Stafford and Spotsylvania citizens. Mediation JDR: The Supreme Court of Virginia's annual State of the Judiciary Report has ranked the 15th Judicial District #1 in Virginia for new case filings for custody/visitation petitions and child support petitions (Stafford County's population comprises one-fourth of the overall population of the 15th Judicial District). The report also listed the area as 4th in the state for general district court civil petitions. Equally important, 75% of clients fall within the federal low income guidelines. Resolving court cases reduces time away from work for a trial, as well as reducing the emotional stress of court and/or unresolved conflict. Mediation in tangible ways strengthens the communities.

If this is a new program, be sure to include the benefits to the region for funding a new request.

N/A

Target Audience and Service Delivery

Describe the program's intended audience or client base and how those clients are served.

Family mediation clients are Stafford parents, children, and extended family, such as grandparents involved in child custody, visitation and/or support cases in juvenile court. In General District Court people served are Stafford and Spotsylvania citizens, primarily landlords/tenants and consumers/merchants. The lawsuits referred from general district courts range in value from \$500 to \$25,000. Seventy-five percent of the people we served in FY 2016 had incomes of \$25,000 or less. Services are performed in designated private rooms in the local courthouses.

If your program has specific entry or application criteria, please describe it here.

Entry into the program comes from the judges who refer specific cases to mediators.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Number of Individuals Served

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Localities

Please provide the actual numbers of individuals served in this program during FY2016 and the projected numbers of individuals to be served in FY2018.

Locality	FY2016 (Actual)	FY2018 (Projected)
Fredericksburg City	0	0
Caroline County	0	0
King George County	0	0
Spotsylvania County	84	100
Stafford County	240	260
Other Localities	7,432	8,000
Total	7,756	8,360

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Goals and Objectives

Goals

Goal: Efficient use of juvenile and general district court resources.

Objectives	Objective Results	Year End	Baseline
Increase in petitions for child custody, visitation and/or support, landlord-tenant, consumer-merchant disputes be referred to mediation.	Total # Clients Served	324	360
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	324	360
	% Achieved / Successful	100	100
Increase child custody, visitation and/or support and general district court disputes being resolved in mediation.	Total # Clients Served	324	360
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	210	234
	% Achieved / Successful	64.81	65

Outcomes Narratives

Explanation & Overview

If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case

These programs are on track for realizing the stated objectives.

Updates for FY2018

Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported

PDRC is working with the local office of the Department of Child Support Enforcement (DCJS) to provide no cost parenting classes for parties referred to mediation. This may encourage greater participation in the program.

If you are restating the goals or objectives for FY 2018, please include those here

Goal: Efficient use of juvenile and general district court resources.

Objective 1a: Increase in petitions for child custody, visitation and/or support, landlord-tenant, consumer-merchant disputes be referred to mediation.

Objective 1b: Increase child custody, visitation and/or support and general district court disputes being resolved in mediation.

Goal: Involvement of non-custodial parent in the lives of their child(ren).

Objectives	Objective Results	Year End	Baseline
Increase in mutually agreed upon parenting plans (mediation agreements).	Total # Clients Served	130	150
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	78	98
	% Achieved / Successful	60	65.33
Sixty percent of cases will result in an Increase in non-custodial visitation.	Total # Clients Served	130	150
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	78	98
	% Achieved / Successful	60	65.33

Outcomes Narratives

Explanation & Overview

If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case

This objective is on target and progressing well. Outcome data is consistent with court-referred programs administered by PDRC in other counties. This information is also reported by PDRC to the Supreme Court of Virginia's Division of Dispute Resolution, the agency which certifies court-referred mediators.

Updates for FY2018

Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported

We are working with the Supreme Court of Virginia's Division of Dispute Resolution Services (DRS), the Virginia Dept. of Social Services and the local office of the Department of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) to offer parenting classes for court referred family mediation clients.

If you are restating the goals or objectives for FY 2018, please include those here

Goal: Involvement of non-custodial parent in the lives of their child(ren).

Objective 2a: Increase in mutually agreed upon parenting plans (mediation agreements).

Goal 2b: Sixty percent of cases will result in an Increase in non-custodial visitation.

Piedmont Dispute Resolution Center -

Program Budget

Please detail below the budget request for your program.

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Expenses

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Salary	19,350.00	19,350.00	21,350.00
Benefits	1,480.00	1,480.00	1,635.00
Operating Expenses	5,450.00	5,450.00	5,950.00
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	26,280.00	26,280.00	28,935.00

Revenues

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Caroline	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fredericksburg	0.00	0.00	0.00
King George	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spotsylvania	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Stafford	7,652.00	7,652.00	8,000.00
United Way	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Client Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	600.00	600.00	600.00
Other (Click to itemize)	18,028.00	18,028.00	17,835.00
Total	26,280.00	26,280.00	28,935.00

Surplus / Deficit

	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Budgeted	FY 2018 Requested
Surplus or Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00