



Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) FAQ

Q: What are community dispute resolution programs (CDRPs)?

A: Community dispute resolution programs (CDRPs) are nonprofit organizations that offer free or low-cost dispute resolution services to Minnesotans. Employees or volunteers trained in dispute resolution serve as independent third parties to help parties voluntarily work through differences and seek mutually agreed upon solutions.

In Minnesota, All CDRPs must be certified under [Minnesota Statute 494](#) and related operational guidelines. These rules and guidelines help ensure quality services for Minnesotans. Any organization in Minnesota that meets 494 requirements may apply to become a CDRP.

Q: Why are CDRPs important?

A: CDRPs serve a unique and critical function in Minnesota because they:

- are free or low-cost
- provide services Statewide
- reduce the number of cases in the Court and improve experiences in court including cases involving families, youth, housing, harassment and business-consumers.
- create safer schools
- work with families to assist in conflicts and communication
- help families work out parenting time and other family conflicts
- offer tailored services depending on the disputants' needs
- train volunteer mediators, increasing conflict resolution practice across the state
- provide interpretation and culturally-relevant practices to Minnesota's immigrant communities

Q: What services do CDRPs offer?

A: CDRPs support dispute resolution through a variety of services including mediation, facilitated dialogues, restorative practices, and training and skill-building. Each is described in more detail [here](#).

Q: Who do CDRPs serve?

A: CDRPs can serve anyone in Minnesota who has a dispute.

Q: What kinds of disputes do CDRPs handle? Are there disputes that CDRPs are not allowed to handle?

A: Issues range from neighbor property disputes, to conflict between extended family members, to resolving conflict between business owners, to helping mediate parenting time for never-married parents and post-decree parenting time changes. Under MN Statute 494, CDRPs are precluded from providing mediation in some circumstances, such as disputes involving domestic violence.

Q: Which organizations in Minnesota are CDRPs? How are they related to Community Mediation Minnesota?

A: Minnesota currently has seven centers that have 494 certification:

- [Conflict Resolution Center](#) (Hennepin, Stearns, Beltrami)
- [Community Mediation & Restorative Services, Inc](#) (Hennepin)
- [Mediation and Conflict Solutions](#) (Olmsted)
- [Dispute Resolution Center](#) (Ramsey)
- [Restorative and Mediation Practices](#) (Rice, Dakota, Scott)
- [Mediation and Restorative Services](#) (Anoka and beyond)
- [Center for Multicultural Mediation](#) (Statewide, culturally-focused)
- [Community Mediation Minnesota](#) is a nonprofit membership organization that serves as the umbrella organization for Minnesota's CDRPs to advocate for, and coordinate collective work.

Q: What areas of the state do CDRP services cover?

A: In-person services (mediation, training, facilitated dialogues, restorative practices) are provided in and around the locations listed above. In addition, services can be accessed remotely from anywhere in Minnesota using [remote mediations](#), which are coordinated by Community Mediation Minnesota.

Q: Do other states have CDRPs?

There are community mediation centers across the United States that are similar to the CDRPs in Minnesota. Nationally, most community mediation centers are non-profit entities. Although each center is unique, they tend to share the characteristics of utilizing volunteer mediators to provide low-cost services to their community and finding creative ways to resolve disputes without going to court.

Q: How are CDRPs funded?

A: CDRP funding sources include: a biennial grant program jointly provided by the Minnesota Judicial Branch ("the Court") and the Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution (MN Department of Administration); foundation grants; private grants; contracts with businesses, State government and local government; and nominal client fees.

Q: What is the impact of their work?

A: In the area of housing, in FY 23-24, the CDRPs provided housing stability services for 2545 households throughout Minnesota. These services included mediation, housing resource navigation and access to RentHelpMN Targeted Assistance. Through RentHelpMN Targeted Assistance, CMM and the CDRPs accessed \$14.14M of direct rental assistance that benefited both the renter and the rental property provider.

More information about the CDRPs can be found here: [Community Dispute Resolution Programs \(mncourts.gov\)](#); [Minnesota Judicial Branch - ADR | Mediation \(mncourts.gov\)](#); [Community Mediation Minnesota | Is Mediation Right for You? \(communitymediationmn.org\)](#); [Minnesota State 494](#)