



## 2022 Legislative Agenda

Washington's 21 Dispute Resolution Centers (DRCs) strengthen communities and empower individuals to create practical solutions that work for them, with services focused on equity and access for all of Washington. Community-based mediation services and training resolve conflict upstream, before it escalates to courts, eviction, or police intervention.

### **Resolution Washington requests the Legislature invest in Washington's communities:**

- **\$4.1M toward closing the gap for Dispute Resolution Center general operating support**

Demand for dispute resolution services continues to rise steeply in response to the pandemic, economic uncertainty, and social-political conflict. The year 1 partial funding increase in the current FY 2021-2023 budget allowed DRCs to better support communities and reduce burdens on courts and social services. This budget level left these community-based service organizations still significantly underfunded, well below the \$17.1 M for services envisioned by state law.

- **\$5,636,262 for DRC Eviction Resolution Pilot Program additional implementation funding**

The landscape of uneven economic recovery, rental assistance delivery, and the eviction moratorium extension impacted the magnitude of need for eviction resolution services and the pilot development of the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program created by E2SSB 5160. DRCs have adapted and are currently preventing evictions and stabilizing housing across Washington, addressing conflict around rent owed through trained staff and certified mediators. Approximately 89% of cases have been resolved before going to court. Additional implementation funding would expand and improve capacity to meet needs statewide.

- **Support for partner agendas prioritizing equity and access to justice**

Resolution Washington and the DRCS are committed to championing policies that advance equity, dismantle poverty, address systemic racism, and support housing stability through our own work and by supporting partners.

#### Dispute Resolution Centers at a glance:

- Statewide services with 21 Centers
- Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP)
- 60,000+ people directly served annually
- 5,000+ mediation cases annually
- 80% of clients reported mediation improved their situation

*Before they came to the ERPP, this landlord and tenant spent a year struggling and felt they would never resolve their differences. Through an in-person mediation and de-escalation with the DRC, they quickly reached an agreement on a repayment plan and stabilized the housing.*

—Successful ERPP Resolution, DRC in Spokane

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