



CENTER FOR DISPUTE
SETTLEMENT
peace it together

ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2022



ABOUT US

- Established in 1973 in response to community disputes during the Civil Rights movement
- 1st Community Dispute Resolution Center in NYS

Our Mission: *To use and promote peaceful dispute resolution processes throughout our communities*



OUR PEOPLE

Who we are

- 24 staff
- 54 volunteer mediators
- 14 Board of Directors

Did you know...?

- Our mediators have an average of **10 years of experience**
- Two of our staff are **certified mediation trainers** through the Unified Court System's Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution



OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING (DEIB)

Agency Champions:

- Staff Racial Equity Leadership Committee
- Board DEIB Committee
- *Interrupt Racism* Change Team



Last year we:

- Established a partnership with Untrapped Ministries (violence prevention group)
- Onboarded 7 members of underrepresented communities
- Provided fee waivers and free trainings to dozens of community members
- Offered 8 in-services relating to race, disability, LGBTQ, and other identities
- Published an agency DEIB statement

BY THE NUMBERS

Counties served: 8
Cases closed: 1,792
Trainings delivered: 28
People served (approx.): 4,500



REFERRAL SOURCES

Family Court	38.5%
City Court	7.5%
Supreme Court	1.9%
Town/Village Court	1.8%
School	11.8%
Public Agency	8.6%
Prior Client	9.2%
Walk-In/Word of Mouth	10.5%
Website Form	6.2%
Other	4.0%

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) SERVICES

- Custody & Visitation Mediation
- Divorce Mediation & Arbitration
- Community Mediation
- Restorative Practices/
Restorative Justice
- Peer Mediation
- Conflict Coaching
- Training and Technical Assistance

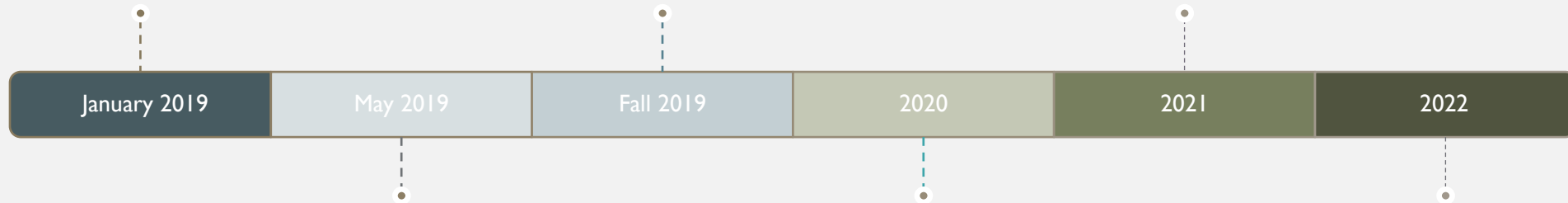


BACKGROUND: PRESUMPTIVE ADR

Most civil cases
presumed eligible for
early referral to court-
sponsored mediation
- Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

ADR Plan Development
& Training

ADR within house
providers, CDRCs and
Rosters of Neutrals
ongoing...



Decrease cost and delay
and improve case
outcomes
-Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

ADR: part of the
solution to challenges
faced by courts and
communities

Presumptive ADR is an
indispensable component of
the state courts' return to full
operations going forward.

- Hon. Lawrence K. Marks

NEW IN 2021-2022



Divorce Mediation Diversion Pilot Program



Although the Center began offering divorce mediation in the early '80s, the program relied on self-referrals. Beginning on January 18, the Center will begin a pilot diversion project in partnership with Monroe County Supreme Court to provide divorce mediation services to parties prior to their preliminary court appearance.



Our **Surrogate Decision-Making Committee (SDMC)** services have expanded to cover Western NY, in addition to the Finger Lakes region. Our volunteers assist with major medical treatment and end-of-life decisions for individuals who are unable to provide informed consent.



The **Transforming Justice Fellowship** is offered to two Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Monroe County residents in order to gain training and mentorship in conflict resolution, mediation, and restorative practices. This program is in partnership with Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PiRI) and the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence.

New!

Landlord-Tenant Mediation

We now offer assistance that could eliminate court appearances to parties who wish to negotiate alternate solutions for housing claims, in a neutral and confidential setting.

OUR PARTNERS

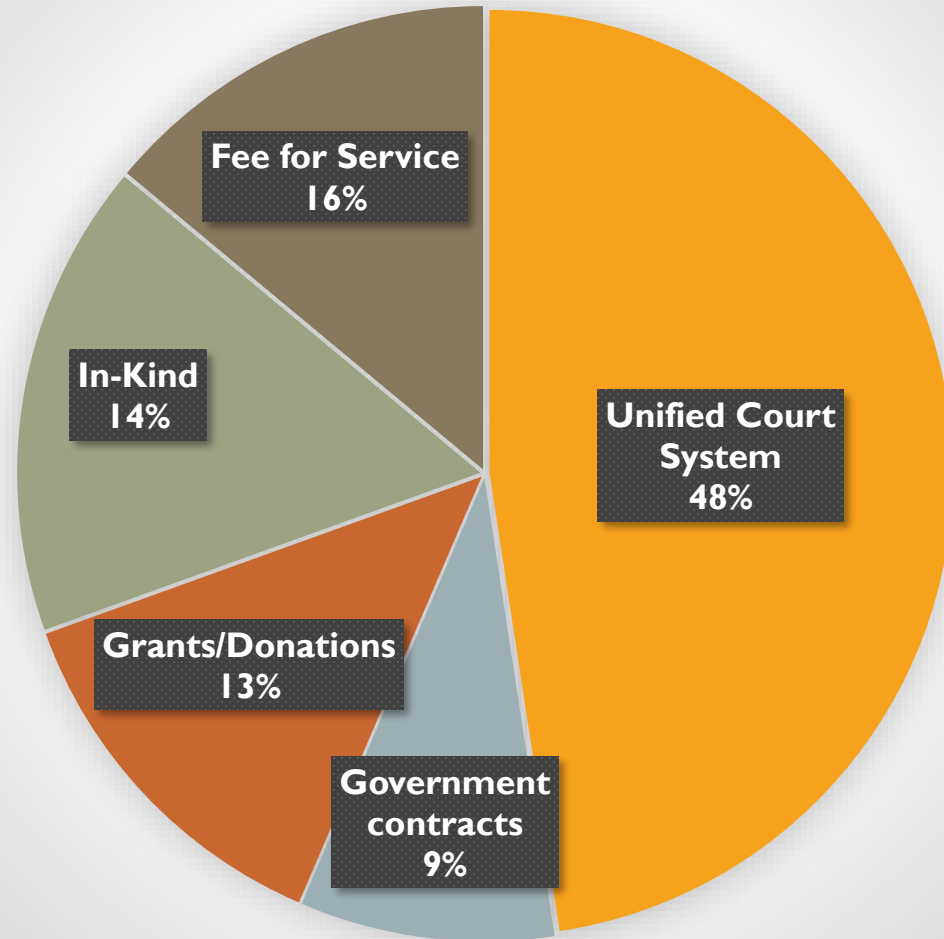
- Canandaigua Central School District
- Geneseo Central School District
- Geneva Central School District
- Greater Rochester Association of Realtors
- Hillside Family of Agencies
- Hobart William Smith College
- Monroe County FACT
- Monroe County Pre-Trial Services
- NYS Dispute Resolution Association
- NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
- NYS Unified Court System, 7th J. District
- Ontario County Probation
- RochesterWorks!
- Steuben County Department of Social Services
- Steuben County Probation

- SUNY Brockport
- Town of Irondequoit
- Untrapped Ministries
- Urban League of Rochester

Coalitions:

- Domestic Abuse Review Team
- Finger Lakes Regional Youth Justice Team
- Justice for All Leadership Advisory Group
- Ontario County Restorative Justice Coalition
- Monroe County Criminal Court Diversion Interest Program
- Monroe County Criminal Justice Council
- Rochester Restorative Administrators Group
- Y-ReCONNECTS through Cornell University

REVENUE SOURCES



CLIENT SATISFACTION

- 93% of our mediation clients were satisfied with their experience and would recommend mediation to others
- 97% of clients said the mediator listened and understood their concerns

"My experiences with court have been relatively traumatic and I don't enjoy going to the courthouse. This was so comfortable, effective and healing. Very grateful for this experience."

–Custody and Visitation client

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- \$1,000 Provides one **school** with a Peer Mediation Program
- \$700 Provides one **workplace** with Implicit Bias Training
- \$500 Provides one **community** with a Restorative Justice process
- \$250 Provides one **small business** with a retainer for an Arbitration process
- \$125 Provides one **nonprofit professional** with workplace conflict consultation
- \$50 Provides two **neighbors** with a Community Mediation
- \$25 Provides one **co-parent** with Conflict Coaching



PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING!

- Donate online at www.cdsadr.org and click **Donate**
- Mail your check to:
Center for Dispute Settlement
16 E. Main St., Suite 800
Rochester, NY 14614

- QR code:

