

Keep in Touch

News, Highlights, and What's Ahead



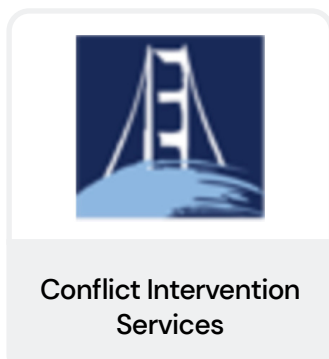
California Panel Partner Grants Program Funds Three Innovative Projects

The AAA-ICDR Foundation is proud to announce the approval of three grants through our pilot California Panel Partner Grants Program. Launched in partnership with select California AAA panel members who are Foundation supporters, this initiative supports regional organizations using alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to address critical community needs. The Foundation plans to expand this program beyond California.

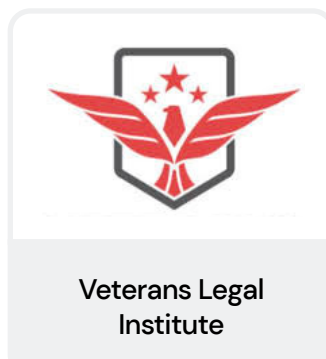
We're honored to fund the important work of:



Community
Boards



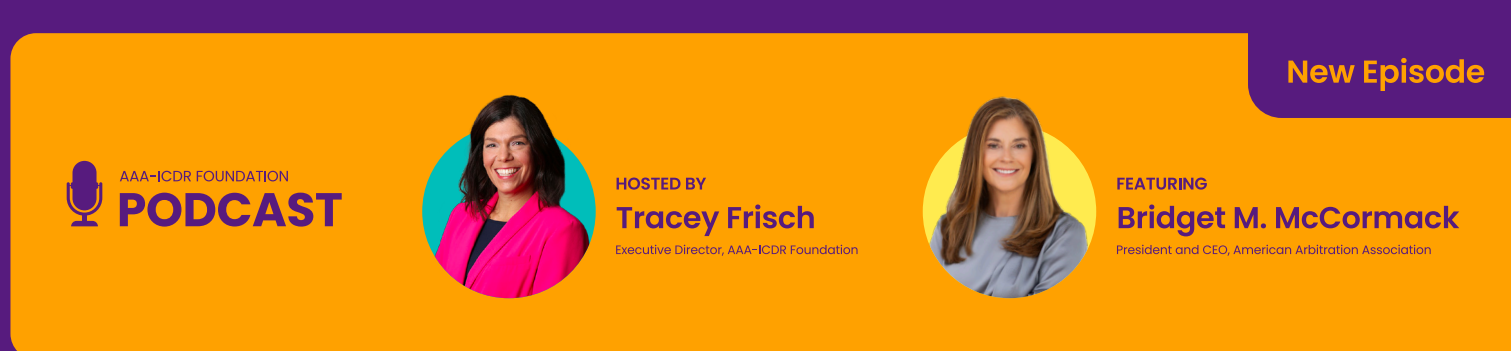
Conflict Intervention
Services



Veterans Legal
Institute

Special thanks to Neil Currie, AAA Vice President, for his leadership, and to AAA panel members Gary Benton, Rebecca Callahan, Cedric Chao, Diana Kruze, Doug Noll, Janice Sperow, and Gary Galton for their essential role in launching this pilot.

Introducing the newly launched AAA-ICDR Foundation Podcast



In **Episode 2** of the Foundation's podcast, Mission Advancement, Foundation Director Tracey Frisch sits down with Bridget McCormack to explore how the Foundation is bringing dispute resolution skills to the forefront of community problem-solving. Learn how proactive partnerships are creating lasting change in conflict-prone areas.

[Listen Now](#)



Now Accepting Applications: Field Mediation Technical Assistance

With support from the Foundation, Dignity Best Practices is offering 15 months of grant-funded technical assistance to help two cities or counties launch field mediation teams—unarmed, mediation-trained responders for nonviolent 911 calls.

[Click here to learn more and apply.](#)



Applications open through October 1, 2025



Technical assistance begins January 2026

What is field mediation? Field mediation is a rapid, on-scene response to nonviolent interpersonal conflicts—such as family tension, neighborhood disputes, or noise complaints. Instead of law enforcement, trained mediators respond to help resolve issues peacefully and sustainably. This innovative approach is gaining traction as a safer, more constructive alternative.

New Resource: [Field Mediation Toolkit](#)

This practical guide includes templates, tools, and steps to build or expand a mediation response team.

Questions? Contact Dan Kornfield: daniel.kornfield@dignitybestpractices.org

Implementation Guide: Dayton's Mediation Response Unit

Interested in starting an alternative response program in your city or county? The Dayton Mediation Response Unit Implementation Guide shares lessons from the City of Dayton Mediation Center, a pioneer in using mediators—not police—for certain 911 calls. This step-by-step resource helps communities design a response that reflects their unique needs.

Sharing Insights: Webinar Highlight: Stories of Civic Space and Belonging

In Remaking the Commons, Everyday Democracy's Merle McGee hosts a powerful conversation with Shamichael Hallman and blew kind on how civic spaces are being preserved and reimagined in today's fractured social landscape.



Though over an hour in length, the discussion offers meaningful insight into how place, trust, and belonging shape democracy at the local level. [Watch the webinar.](#)

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION

If you're inspired by our work and would like to make an additional contribution to help further the Foundation's mission, [click here](#). We are incredibly grateful to all our partners, donors, and supporters who make our work possible.

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