



NEWS AND UPDATES

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION

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919-890-1415

Commission Awarded IOLTA Grant

The Commission has been awarded a \$100,000 Grant from IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts) for the District Criminal Court Pilot Program (DCC). The Commission certifies mediators who volunteer with community mediation centers to conduct low level, non-violent, criminal misdemeanor mediations in district court.

For the past few years, the Commission's Criminal Subcommittee had been working on trying to better the DCC Program. The committee requested at the April 2023 Commission meeting to allow staff to apply for grants. Since that approval, staff has worked on researching and applying for grants to cover the cost of the mediator's fee in district criminal court mediations. The IOLTA grant was awarded to the Commission in December of 2023 to provide for the \$60.00 mediation fee for the community mediation centers participating in the DCC Pilot Program. The fee has been a barrier for mediations in district criminal court due to the inability of citizens to pay the mediation fee. The goal of the Commission is to work with the centers to extend this program by eliminating the fee and offering accessible mediation services to those who may have financial limitations. In order to retrieve good statics from the pilot program, the Commission approved working with a limited number of community mediation centers and their corresponding districts. The criminal subcommittee considered the following factors in selecting the pilot districts:

- The District Attorney's and Judges who elect to work with a community mediation center. The subcommittee narrowed the recommended participating districts to those who already have a working relationship with a local center.
- Counties that currently conduct DCC mediations.
- The number or mediators that are, or will be, certified at each center.
- The population of the county.
- The location of the county.
- The demographics of the county.

The Commission will serve as the fiscal sponsor, and will play a crucial role in managing the financial aspects of the program by confirming the funds are appropriately distributed to the community mediation centers while collecting data. Once the pilot program is complete, the Commission will review the data and determine the next step toward securing funds to cover the cost of the mediator's fee in District Criminal Court mediations. The Commission is not receiving any of the grant funds for Commission use.

Reporting CME Hours FOR FY 2024-25

Mediators may now record their FY 2024-25 CME Hours on their Mediator Profile page.

To find a currently list of approved CME trainings, visit the Commission's [Continuing Mediator Education](#)

