

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Member community mediation centers have the following characteristics:

- Being a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ascribing to the mission, vision and goals of the Association;
- Having a governing or advisory board that sets policy and direction for the organization and hiring and firing authority for the Executive Director;
- Providing mediation and conflict resolution services primarily to an identified local geographic area and only secondarily to broader areas of Virginia;
- Having goals to serve diverse populations, types of disputes and sources of referral;
- Using governing or advisory boards, staff and mediators who represent the diversity of the community served;
- Using trained community volunteers, who are not required to have academic or professional credentials, as the primary providers of mediation services;
- Providing direct access to the public through self-referral and striving to reduce barriers to service, including physical, linguistic, cultural, programmatic and economic barriers;
- Providing mediation and conflict resolution services to clients regardless of their ability to pay (e.g. free, low cost or sliding scale fees);
- Initiating, facilitating and educating for collaborative community relationships to effect positive change;
- Engaging in public awareness campaigns and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation;
- Providing a forum for dispute resolution at the earliest stage of a conflict;
- Providing a variety of mediation and conflict resolution processes through one or more programs to serve the needs of the community; and
- Providing an alternative to the judicial system at any stage of a conflict.