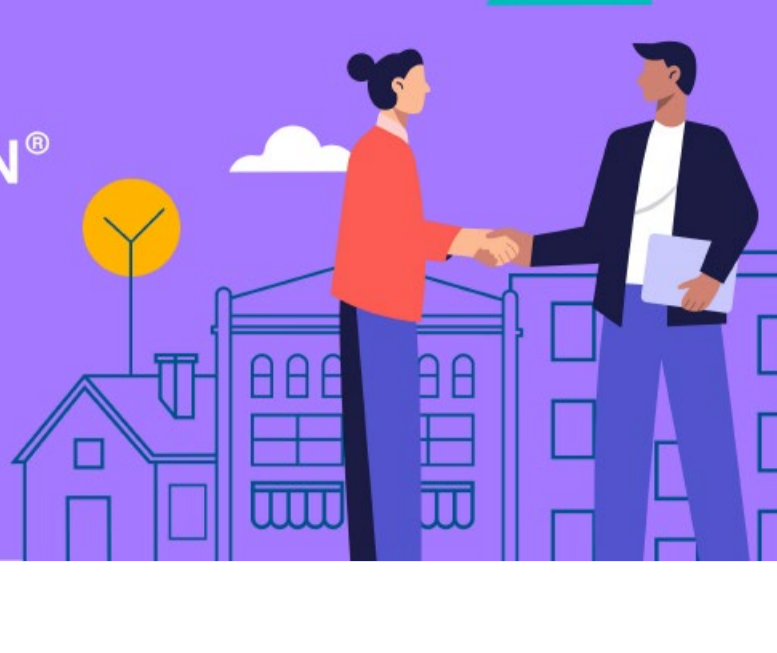


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## AAA-ICDR FOUNDATION® GRANTEES IN ACTION



**The work we are doing aligns perfectly with the AAA-ICDR Foundation’s goal to give people voice and choice as they navigate their mental health concerns.”**



**Yolanda Lewis**  
 Executive Vice President for Justice and Health and Executive Director, Center for Justice and Health

### In the News: Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

The AAA-ICDR Foundation awarded [Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute](#) (MMHPI) a three-year grant totaling \$750,000 to create the Person-Centered Triage Approach National Collaborative, incorporating the ADR bedrock principle of party self-determination, to transform mental health crisis response in 911/988 centers. MMHPI recently announced that this pilot project would be launched in Cleveland, Ohio, with University Hospitals (UH), Chagrin Valley Dispatch, and Geauga County Sheriff’s Office, among others. The project trains dispatchers in Geauga County and the Chagrin Valley to ask a series of questions to 911 callers.

The questions are designed to help dispatchers quickly determine if the call involves a mental health crisis and, if so, the best response to the situation – whether that involves medical care, a police response, or a mental health-focused response, among other options. The project aims to improve emergency response in Ohio for those experiencing a mental health crisis. Through incorporating ADR based skills and principles, the project aims to improve emergency response in Ohio for those experiencing a mental health crisis. To see the full article, [click here](#).

### Webinar Featuring School District Community Dialogue Toolbox

The AAA-ICDR Foundation provided the [National Association for Community Mediation \(NAFCM\)](#) with a grant of \$136,500 to support the development of a new toolbox in partnership with [Living Room Conversations](#) and community organizations that help school boards and communities bridge conflict and mend social divisions through civil discourse.



The project selected five communities to use the toolbox and engage local community mediation centers, school boards, and education advocacy groups in a Learning to Action process focused on forming a supportive cohort to promote constructive dialogue. The team members presented their first public conversation about the School/Community Tool Box on May 9, 2024. In this conversation, communities shared how to approach a school district and the school toolbox’s initial impact on their district/community. Please [click here](#) to listen to this recorded webinar.



### Better Public Meetings City Reports from Arizona, Colorado, and North Carolina

The [National Civic League](#) recently released three city reports funded by a \$187,047 AAA-ICDR Foundation grant. This grant supported the [Center for Democracy Innovation](#) program by helping communities implement better engagement practices in public meetings and hearings, measuring the progress of these efforts through a Civility Index, and scaling the emerging tools, practices, and lessons through a national network of local leaders.

Three reports from Boulder, Colorado; Mesa, Arizona; and Fayetteville, North Carolina, capture the result of working with the three pilot communities across the United States to advance collaborative best practices in official public meetings. Please click the links below to learn more about each community and recommendations.

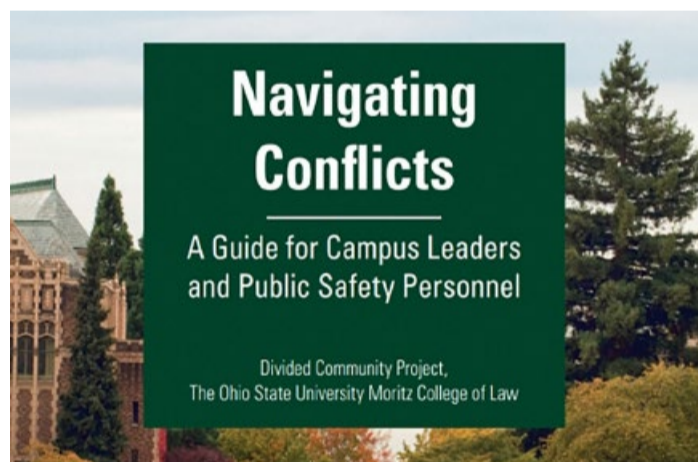
- [2024 Civic Infrastructure Scan and Recommendations Boulder, Colorado](#)
- [2024 Civic Infrastructure Scan and Recommendations Mesa, Arizona](#)
- [2024 Civic Infrastructure Scan and Recommendations Fayetteville, North Carolina](#)

### Western Justice Center Announces New Districtwide Partnership in El Monte City, Calif.

[Western Justice Center](#) (WJC) is launching a new five-year districtwide partnership with El Monte City Unified School District (EMCSD) in California as a result of a \$150,000 grant from the AAA-ICDR Foundation. This comes at a critical time when California teaching standards emphasize the importance of social-emotional learning, and a new state law requires the California Department of Education to report evidence-based best practices for restorative justice implementation in schools.



The AAA-ICDR Foundation is a proud funding partner of the WJC, which is driving transformative change throughout the California education system by delivering conflict resolution education.



### Navigating Conflicts: A Guide for Campus Leaders and Public Safety Personnel

The U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service recently published “Navigating Conflicts: A Guide for Campus Leaders and Public Safety Personnel.” This resource was developed through an AAA-ICDR Foundation Rapid Response grant to [CampusBridge](#) part of the Divided Community Project

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. The Guide is for college administrators and public safety officials to navigate campus conflicts and includes a comprehensive guide, a rapid response toolkit and interactive simulations — available in-person, online or hybrid. To learn more, [click here](#).

### Urban Rural Action Inaugural Facilitator Academy

[Urban Rural Action](#) recently launched its inaugural Facilitator Academy. The AAA-ICDR Foundation provided eight [Diversity Scholarships](#) for community members from urban, suburban, and rural communities to participate in and graduate from the Academy. The goal of the Facilitator Academy is to grow a more diverse network of skilled facilitators through Urban Rural Action’s collaboration skills workshops. Seven sessions covered facilitation practices, the “ABC’s of Constructive Dialogue” and the “Seven Elements of Joint Problem-Solving”.



One of the scholarship recipients said, “This experience will help me to have a wider set of skills as a facilitator and continually improve my ability to bring community members together in an environment where they can develop better relationships and understanding of one another!”

The AAA-ICDR Foundation is proud to have supported the inaugural Urban Rural Action Facilitator Academy and the professional development of the Academy participants.

### Annual Grant Cycle Application Period Closed

On September 9, the Foundation’s 2025 Annual Grants Cycle application period closed after receiving over 160 applications. The Foundation sought proposals between \$50,000 and \$250,000 for programs utilizing ADR to address the Foundation’s [priority areas](#). After an initial review, the Foundation will invite a limited number of organizations to submit a detailed proposal for funding consideration. For more information on the annual grant cycle and what we’ve funded, visit [Annual Grant Cycle - What We’ve Funded](#).

### Funding for the Foundation

The Foundation is funded primarily by the AAA-ICDR and its Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators. The Foundation greatly appreciates the ongoing, generous support of the AAA-ICDR and the AAA-ICDR Panel. These gifts make the Foundation’s work possible and advance our mission to support the prevention and resolution of conflicts by expanding access to ADR.

To contribute, please visit the [Donate](#) page on the Foundation’s website.

**Thank You for Your Support,**  
 The AAA-ICDR Foundation Board of Directors

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