

The Process: Receiving the request from the EPA

The process will start with the receipt of a request for a list of possible Community Mediation Centers that are able and available to serve the geographic region and that have the skill set to facilitate community dialogues and mediations from the EPA's prime SRA.

NAFCM will cull its membership and seek out two to three possible candidates that embed the critical elements of a Center (the Nine hallmarks); works from a team approach; and that currently serves or is able to serve the geographic need. The name of the person provided to the EPA as the lead and main contact should be an employee of the center or individual/solo practitioner who will be pulling together as a team.

Mediation Centers will be selected as follows:

First priority is the Community Mediation Center that serves the geographic area of need and is a member of NAFCM or is willing to become a member. If none then...

Second priority is a Community Mediation Center that is near to the work /community area designated as a need by the EPA and is a member of NAFCM or is willing to become a member. If none then...

The third priority is the individual/ solo practitioner who is both a member of NAFCM (or is willing to become a member) and can pull a team together.

The Process: What the Center must initially show if contacted by NAFCM

All candidates must be able to send in written documentation that demonstrates the following:

1. A private non-profit or public agency or program thereof, with mediators, staff and governing/advisory board representative of the diversity of the community served.
2. The use of trained community volunteers as providers of mediation services; the practice of mediation is open to all people.
3. Providing direct access to the public through self-referral and striving to reduce barriers to service including physical, linguistic, cultural, programmatic and economic.
4. Providing service to clients regardless of their ability to pay.
5. Providing service and hiring without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, disabilities, national origin, marital status, personal appearance, gender orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, or source of income.
6. Providing a forum for dispute resolution at the earliest stage of conflict.
7. Providing an alternative to the judicial system at any stage of a conflict.
8. Initiating, facilitating and educating for collaborative community relationships to effect positive systemic change; demonstrating a high level of trust with and by the community.
9. Engaging in public awareness and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation

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Because the EPA will request a quick turnaround, NAFCM suggests that you gather your documentation regarding the Nine hallmarks listed above now and place them in a zip drive. This will allow you to respond very quickly if you should be contacted by NAFCM regarding a possible opportunity to assist.

If the Nine hallmarks are addressed by your Center, after review by the NAFCM designee, then a phone call will be held between the candidate and the NAFCM designee to explore in detail the possible opportunity.