

## Program Overview

The [JAMS Foundation](#) and [National Association for Community Mediation](#) (NAFCM) are pleased to announce the 2021-2023 funding track of the Community Mediation Mini-Grant Program (“Program”).

**Strengthening Community Connections:** This is an opportunity to assist one or more of the communities you serve by helping this community to develop a long-term process focused on healing their current or long-standing community divide. The proposed project should expand how your organization currently serves your communities (through mediation, restorative justice practices, conflict coaching, conflict management training or dialogue processes), by offering a new or enhanced process to help people, institutions, and the community as a whole on their path toward re-connection.

Systemic changes developed as part of this process should be able to be replicated by community mediation centers as a path for sustainability and growth for the field of community mediation, as well as to inform the development of training, evidence-based strategies, policy, and research at the national level as well.

The Program is designed to encourage creativity and variation based on research. Service strategies will be developed through the implementation of the “Listening for Action” Leadership Process and strengthened by at least one policy or procedure change developed and locally implemented over a two-year period. Program recipients will work together throughout the grant period anchored in the Learning Community. The Learning Community is a structured and collaborative peer working group facilitated by NAFCM. This structure serves as an incubator for innovation by aiding in the development of “good practices.” Written materials developed through these grants will be shared with community mediation centers and mediators across the continent. By distributing these materials, sharing programmatic resources, providing training, and developing national partnerships, NAFCM supports the replication of these service models and ensures the Program’s impact on an international level.

The Learning Community will meet twice a month for the first five months, and monthly thereafter using a specified on-line meeting platform. This community will follow the “Listening for Action” structured guidance offered by NAFCM that is intended to strengthen the unique work of each project as well as create an executive learning environment that allows the members to grow both individually and professionally.

## 2021 Solicitation of Interest (SI) Overview

The 2021 Program selection process has two distinct phases.

Phase 1 begins with the release of this 2021 Solicitation of Interest (SI) protocol. This phase is open to any organization which works to incorporate the 9 NAFCM Hallmarks of Community Mediation and believes that this funding and technical assistance support opportunity is a good fit for the needs of their work and those with whom they work.

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A community mediation center is an entity that works to achieve the following nine hallmarks of a community mediation center:

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 persons.
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, 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.
9. Engaging in public awareness and educational activities about the values and practices of mediation.

Phase 2 begins in April 2021 and is open only to those who submitted a response to the SI during the prior phase and have been invited to submit a full proposal.

This 2021 Program is for those Community Mediation Centers wishing to embed the core values identified by community mediators and recorded in the [2019 State of Community Mediation Report](#): Fairness, Peacemaking and Violence Prevention.

### **2021 Submission of Interest (SI)**

Community mediation is community mobilization. Together, both nationally and locally, we must aggregate the wisdom of our work, amplify the voice of community members so each can be heard, and advance the transformative value of community mediation. To live out this mission, the selected Program participants will participate in a learning community as described above.

Grants will be awarded by **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021** for an initial twelve-month funding period and are renewable for an additional year of funding by the agreement of the Program recipient, NAFCM, and the JAMS Foundation. Funding is intended primarily for staff time dedicated to program development activities, including participation in the learning community and the development of source materials.

### **There are three priority considerations in the Solicitation of Interest (SI)**

Priority will be given to projects that:

- build on relationships already established through the work of the center (Hallmark 1).
- seek to support the community to address positive system change through initiating, educating, and facilitating issues (Hallmark 8) through a lens of fairness, peacemaking and violence prevention.

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- work to engage in public awareness and educational activities about the values of using community mediation (Hallmark 9).

### **Funding Parameters and Criteria for the 2021 Funding Cycle**

- Grants of \$12,000 per year will be awarded to up to five organizations to be used as incentive funds to support the expansion of the Center's work with issues regarding community division.
- The funding for the projects may be up to two-years, but decisions on funding for a second year will be contingent on evidence of benchmark accomplishments at the end of the first year of funding.
- Preference for funding is given to those applicants who have previously demonstrated an ability to bring projects to a level of scalability and sustainability.
- Eligible organizations include nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, educational institutions, and public or for-profit agencies working in conjunction with nonprofit institutions or organizations.

### **Funding Project Process Step 1 – Open to all now until March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- Interested organizations are required to submit a 1-3-page response to the Solicitation of Interest (SI) (using the guidelines on the following page) to NAFCM no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location, **March 15, 2021** to [siminigrant2020@gmail.com](mailto:siminigrant2020@gmail.com)
- An informational conference call will be held on **Monday February 8, 2021- 4:30 PM Eastern Time**. There is a limited number of spaces for this teleconference and you must be registered no later **Friday February 5, 2021**. To obtain the link for the conference please send a notice of interest to NAFCM at [siminigrant2020@gmail.com](mailto:siminigrant2020@gmail.com)

### **Funding Project Process Step 2 – By invitation only**

- The NAFCM Grant review committee will notify applicants if they have been selected to develop a full proposal by **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. For selected applicants a review webinar will be offered on **Tuesday April 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM Eastern Time**. The link for attendance will be sent to those applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal.
- Full proposals (with a required application protocol provided upon notification) will be due to the NAFCM Grant review committee no later than 11:59 PM local time of the organization's legal/main location on **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
- Notifications of the final decision will be made by **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**.

Please address questions about grant program to D.G. Mawn, President, NAFCM, at [siminigrant2020@gmail.com](mailto:siminigrant2020@gmail.com).

## Solicitation of Interest (SI) Response

### MANDATORY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Proposal Descriptions must be submitted online. The subject line of the email must read: JAMS Foundation/NAFCM Grant – [Organization Name]. Applications must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m., local time of applicant on March 15, 2021 to [admin@nafcm.org](mailto:admin@nafcm.org).

***Cover letter: In the body of the email, please provide only the following information:***

Include the following information about the submission:

- the name and street address of the Community Mediation Center;
- the website of the Community Mediation Center; and,
- contact person for this submission including their name, email address and phone number.

The body of the email must also include the following language:

I commit that if we are invited to submit a full proposal, we agree to meet the following requirements:

1. Identify **one team member** who will be responsible for the implementation of the Program and who will participate in **each** Learning Community calls and web-based meetings.
2. Implement program development activities including but not limited to:
  - a. Reviewing research and past programmatic materials developed in the field;
  - b. Conducting local needs assessment;
  - c. Developing stakeholder and referral source relationships;
  - d. Developing and implementing pilot programming and evaluation strategies;
  - e. Training mediators; and,
  - f. Cultivating local funding sources with a focus on sustaining the effort post JAMS Foundation/NAFCM funding.
3. Assist in the development of program materials that will be shared with community mediation centers and mediators, including at least one NAFCM hosted webinar each year.
4. Assist NAFCM in presenting at local, regional, and national ADR conferences and/or other on-line trainings, as requested.
5. Maintain, or be working toward meeting, [NAFCM's hallmarks of a community mediation center](#)
6. Maintain a NAFCM membership for the duration of the funding period.

### ***The Proposal attached in Word***

The proposed project description **shall be no more than three pages**, single spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins. The application must be submitted as a **Microsoft Word document**. Pages should be numbered consecutively from beginning to end so that information can be located easily during the review of the application. The information provided in your application **must** be sufficient for review. Following these guidelines will help ensure your application is complete

and will assist in the review of your application. Do not include any grids, charts or budget information.

***In the body of the Proposal, please provide in no more than three pages the following information:***

**Applicant Information:**

1. Name and street address of the applicant;
2. Contact Person (and necessary contact information) for this proposal; and,

**Project Description:**

1. Present a brief example of your organization's previous work living out the call of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to aid communities and individuals in resolving disputes, disagreements or difficulties relating to practices that impair the rights of persons in their communities and thereby threatening peaceful relations among them.
2. Discuss how your current work as a community mediator or that of your organization has been strengthened or could be strengthened with the knowledge you gained from the overview presented in the [State of Community Mediation 2019 report](#).
3. The State of Community Mediation 2019 presents 10 Summary sections, discuss two of these summary sections that made or make you curious about how you could inform your community of influencers and obtain their support that would 1) support your work with your community to address positive system change through initiating, educating, and facilitating issues (Hallmark 8) through a lens of fairness, peacemaking and violence prevention and, 2) work to help you engage in public awareness and educational activities about the values of using community mediation (Hallmark 9).
4. Describe the community you and your organization currently serves with community mediation services (mediation, restorative justice practices, conflict coaching, conflict management training or dialogue processes), and then briefly raise one possible community divide that may be able to be moved towards a more fair, peace-filled, less violent reality by participating in the JAMS Foundation/NAFCM Program and builds on relationships already established through the work of the center (Hallmark 1).
5. Discuss what benefits you and your organization hopes to obtain from the participation in the NAFCM Learning Community which focuses on sharpening the skills of the participants in areas of listening, holding space, data collection and analysis, systemic change, program implementation and sustainability.

Questions regarding this Program and this SI can be directed to D.G. Mawn ([siminigrant2020@gmail.com](mailto:siminigrant2020@gmail.com)).

**Please be aware that applications that do not include all of the above requirements are considered incomplete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed for consideration.**

**We look forward to your response to this Solicitation of Interest (SI).**