



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Address:
206 Prospect St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact:
(360) 676-0122
<https://www.whatcomdrc.org>

Organization's General Goals:
The mission of the WDRC is to provide and promote constructive and collaborative approaches to conflict.

Date of Award:	Level:
2024 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org



Marilyn Sheldon, Director
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Subject: Grant Report Q3 2024 14.2
Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, <https://www.whatcomdrc.org/>

Dear Marilyn,

The staff and Board of the WDRC are honored to have received ██████ in funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund to support our 2025 operations. The WDRC's vision for Whatcom County -- to be a community in which conflict is approached in creative and healthy ways -- inspires our organization to actively contribute to building a more peaceful community, creating connections, resolving differences, and strengthening relationships one conversation at a time.

With help from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, we were able to offer a diverse array of conflict resolution services to the Whatcom County community in 2025, including Mediation (for Housing Stability, Family, Small Claims, and Community related conflicts), Supervised Visitation, Facilitation, Adult Trainings, Youth Workshops, and Youth Juvenile Court Diversion. This support ensured the accessibility of all programs to low income and underserved individuals through 1) Education and Outreach to make clients aware of our services and resources, and 2) Staffing and Overhead expenses, allowing us to continue our legacy of never turning away a client due to a lack of funds.

Over the course of 2025, the WDRC was able to serve well over 11,000 individuals throughout Whatcom County by providing wide range of dispute resolution and educational services. We were successful in all of the goals set forth in our funding application:

- 1) We continued our legacy of never turning an individual away due to lack of funds
- 2) As demand for services rose, we were able to fully staff all departments including increasing number of staff and their hours
- 3) We were able to allocate enough funds to outreach in order to reach new clientele, including prioritizing outreach in low-income and rural parts of Whatcom County

Some highlights of our 2025 impact include:

- 315 Mediation Sessions, with a 78% resolution rate
- 881 hours of Supervised Visitation, connecting 82 children with a parent
- 185 Workshops presented, reaching 974 Adults and 2,034 Youth
- 83 Community Presentations, with 1,849 people reached
- 16 Facilitation Sessions, with 360 individual participants
- Over 3,047 Volunteer Hours, completed by 58 volunteers

In all, the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center served 11,230 individuals through direct services and educational outreach in 2025. Of those who responded to a voluntary survey, approximately 54% of WDRC clients fell within the Very-Low to Extremely-Low income brackets, as defined by the City of Bellingham. This number increased to

68% when analyzed specifically for our Housing Stability program, and 77% for our Supervised Visitation program.

WDRC's programs have an impact on both an individual and community-wide level. **One story that illustrates the profound difference that our services can make comes from our Housing Stability program:**



Erik had been living in the same hotel room for over two years. Prior to that, he had been experiencing homelessness. An insufficient credit report and an eviction on his record made it all but impossible for him to qualify for a long-term apartment lease. Michelle, the general manager of the hotel, was concerned because Erik had a rent balance of nearly \$5000, while receiving no communication from him. Erik said he was apprehensive about talking with Michelle directly because of some embarrassment about the balance and some fear of what might happen. Although Michelle would typically do the court eviction process for someone with a balance that high, she decided to try mediation.

Through the mediation process, the parties were able to finally have some direct communication with one another. They worked out a payment plan with very clear parameters. In addition, they agreed to a work trade, with Erik doing some work on the property to pay back the balance. Finally, Michelle offered that if the balance could be paid off, Erik could move into the apartment building next door with the same ownership, meeting Erik's need for increased long-term housing stability.

When it comes to community-wide impact, much can be said for our Youth Program and the benefits of teaching vital skills that support prosocial behavior, connection, and social-emotional wellbeing. These skills can contribute to long-term reductions in poor mental health, violence, and other negative outcomes from unresolved conflict. Through conflict prevention and intervention, we help young people build these skills and set the stage for a healthier future community.

In 2025 we greatly increased the number of youth served through the program with 2,034 students receiving workshops in 2025, up from 1,200 in 2024. Quotes from our youth participants include:

- "I learned how to effectively communicate when I'm angry."
- "I learned how to share how I feel in a conflict without blaming others."
- "I learned that when someone is angry, there is always a driving emotion that we don't know, and explaining that feeling can help peaceful communication."
- "I thought about how my words can really affect people."

In all, the impact that Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center had in 2025 would not have been possible without community support. We are incredibly grateful for Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for helping to make this work possible.

Thank you for your support,

Moonwater, Executive Director
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