

Agenda

Joint Meeting - Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement | Committee on Finance and Budget
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Public Access Participation Information:

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 145 624 3897

Notice Regarding Public Comment: *Members of the public wishing to make comments must email Eric Huse at Eric.Huse@da.wi.gov at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the Public Comment session to make your comments.*

1. Call to Order
2. Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice
3. Call of the Roll
4. Public Comment
5. 2022 Department Budget Presentations – discussion/action
 - a. Department budget requests (except community agency TRY Mediation) can be found on the [County Budget Webpage](#)*
 - i. TRY Mediation p. 2
 - ii. Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
 - iii. Sheriff's Office
6. Set Future Meeting Date(s) – discussion/action
 - a. Joint meeting - Committee on Finance and Budget & Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement: July 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM
7. Set Future Agenda Item(s) – discussion/action
8. Adjourn



TRY MEDIATION, INC.

Dear Committee on Judiciary & Law Enforcement:

On July 8, 2021, our office submitted our 2022 budget request to the Eau Claire County Finance Department. The amount requested was \$133,619. There has been no increase in this amount for many years, dating back to at least 2017.

TRY respectfully asks that the committee consider our long history of financial responsibility while never compromising service.

As in past years, our proposed contracted fee includes all Eau Claire County custody and placement mediations, as well as every Small Claims mediation. We also present the court ordered Families in Transition (F.I.T.) parenting class three times a month.

As with other county agencies, we have experienced the challenges that the COVID pandemic presented. This resulted in some increased expenditures. However, we were able to make reductions in other areas that resulted in a balanced budget proposal to our Board. This also created new avenues to handle mediations more efficiently.

As the newly appointed Director, I am exploring other possibilities that TRY mediation could assist other entities in cooperation with diversion and restorative justice efforts.

We proudly stand by what we believe to be a very positive return on Eau Claire County's investment from a cost versus benefit analysis.

I look forward to meeting with you on July 28th. I am available if a committee member has a question or concern.

Please see the included 2022 budget request.

Respectfully submitted:

Todd A. Johnson

Director-TRY Mediation, Inc.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
2022 BUDGET
OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION REQUEST**

Organization	TRY Mediation, Inc.
Prepared by:	Todd Johnson
Phone #	39-6295
E-Mail	TryMediation@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Request for Eau Claire County County Funds for the year beginning January 1, 2022:
\$133,619.00

Organization Purpose:

TRY Mediation, Inc. is a private, not for profit agency that began its partnership with Eau Claire County in 1985 in an effort to provide a cost-effective alternative to using the judicial system to resolve disputes.

List the major goals of your organization for 2022 and beyond:

1. TRY Mediation will continue to provide exceptional mediation services to citizens of Eau Claire County.
2. TRY Mediation will provide cost effective alternatives to litigating civil matters in court, reducing the court's caseloads.
3. TRY Mediation continues to seek outside revenue sources.
4. TRY Mediation will retain our highly motivated, exceedingly skilled volunteer Community Mediators for small claims actions.
5. TRY Mediation will continue shared services relationship with Buffalo, Chippewa, Dunn, and Pepin Counties.
6. TRY Mediation will continue to provide evening mediation appointments on a limited basis.
7. TRY Mediation will continue to provide mediation appointments in the virtual platform by Zoom.
8. TRY Mediation will continue to provide the Families in Transition Class in the virtual platform by Zoom.

List the programs provided to Eau Claire County residents:

1. Family Mediation:

TRY Mediation is the designated provider of all court-ordered family mediations for contested child custody and/or placements disputes (State Statute 767.405). Parents of children involved in disputed placement litigation meet with the mediator in an effort to create a placement plan. In 2020, 261 family mediation files were referred to TRY Mediation from Eau Claire County Courts. This compares with 243 files in 2018 and 260 in 2019.

2. Small Claims Mediation:

TRY Mediation is the designated provider of all court-ordered small claims mediation. Local Rule mandates small claims mediation before a hearing can be

scheduled in Court. In 2020 there were 226 small claims mediations referred to TRY Mediation. This compares to 470 in 2018 and 400 in 2019.

3. Families in Transition Class:

TRY Mediation’s “Families in Transition” program is in accordance with State Statute 767.401 and Eau Claire County Local Rule (dated January 22, 2009). Parents are ordered by the Court to attend training to more effectively communicate so as to keep their children from harmful discourse. In 2020, 303 parents attended the Parenting Program. This compares with 360 in 2018 and 328 in 2019. We have successfully implemented two evening classes, in addition to the afternoon class, to accommodate working parents. Due to COVID-19 we started offering the Families in Transition Class in the virtual platform by Zoom and we will continue to offer this platform going forward.

4. Community Mediation:

TRY Mediation provides (at no cost) community mediation services to the Eau Claire area. Community mediations include landlord/tenant cases, disputing neighbors, car accidents, etc.

5. Financial Mediation:

In situations where the parties are disputing variable expenses TRY Mediation will work with the parties to assist with resolving the past expenses and to put together a plan for future variable expenses.

6. Voluntary Mediations:

TRY Mediation has received a number of mediation requests from citizens who are not filing motions with the courts. These Voluntary Mediations are fee based and, if requested by the participants and appropriate to do so, the mediation agreement is sent to the appropriate court with jurisdiction. There were 4 Voluntary mediations in 2020. This compares with 2 in 2018 and 11 in 2019.

Provide revenue and expense figures for your total organization's actual 2020 activity, estimated actual 2021 activity, and 2022 budget request. Actual revenue and expenditures should not be budget amounts but reflect actual activity.

REVENUES AND EXPENSES	ACTUAL 2020	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 2021	REQUEST 2022
REVENUES:			
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY REQUEST	133,619	133,619	133,619
USER FEES	27,927	31,582	29,684
ALL OTHER REVENUE	51,313	51,300	51,400
TOTAL REVENUES			
EXPENSES:			
SALARIES, WAGES & FRINGES	187,749	190,742	195,464
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	24,289	25,700	23,855
CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES			

Briefly describe what is included in ALL OTHER REVENUE above.

All other revenue includes in-kind rent, our partnering counties, and interest income.

What funding alternatives do you have in the event Eau Claire County funding is reduced or eliminated?

If funding was eliminated, TRY Mediation would be forced to change venues and continue serving our partnering counties.

If funding were to be reduced but services continue in Eau Claire County the Director's position would need to be reduced from full time to part time.