



### **Mission**

Mountain Mediation Center brings people together to prevent conflict, resolve disputes, and build a more inclusive community.

### **Project Name**

Access to Justice for Wasatch Back Families

### **Community Need**

Low-income women, particularly women of color, face a high risk of eviction, leading to devastating consequences such as loss of home, community displacement, and children switching schools. Evictions also result in court records, making future renting difficult. The Women's Giving Fund will support Mountain Mediation Center's (MMC) Landlord/Tenant Homeless Prevention Program, developed during COVID-19, which aims to prevent eviction filings through one-on-one consultations, mediation, and tenant education. In 2023, 63% of those seeking help from MMC were women, with all families assisted falling within very low-income limits. Most MMC clients are local workers and over 60% are Spanish-only speakers. MMC's services have become more urgent following the closure of People's Legal Aid, which provided legal services regardless of status. Grant funding will support bilingual staff and materials to reach 500 people. Additionally, MMC will launch a Domestic Mediation Program in partnership with Legal Aid of Salt Lake City to help women and children move forward from unhealthy relationships.

### **Project Overview**

The Landlord/Tenant Homeless Prevention Program by MMC aims to prevent evictions among low-income women, particularly women of color, in Summit County. The program offers one-on-one consultations, bilingual mediation services, and tenant education to help tenants remain in their homes and avoid the long-term consequences of eviction. With the closure of People's Legal Aid, MMC's services are increasingly vital, especially for the local workforce and Spanish-only speakers. The program includes community outreach, educational videos, and partnerships with organizations to disseminate information and provide resources. Additionally, MMC is launching a Domestic Mediation Program to support women and children in unhealthy relationships, offering mediation services to those under 150% of the federal poverty guidelines regardless of documentation status and ensuring legal support for finalized agreements.

### **Impact**

The project aims to reach 1,100 individuals through various interventions, including outreach education for 500 people, 400 views of MMC educational videos, 50 mediations (landlord/tenant and family), 40 one-on-one landlord/tenant consultations, a pilot education program for 50 participants, and 36 free domestic mediations. Desired outcomes include keeping eviction filings low in Summit/Wasatch counties, helping 200 low-income tenants understand lease provisions and improve landlord communication, encouraging 8-10 landlords to seek mediation before filing evictions, and providing 10-12 free domestic mediations to assist women in exiting unhealthy relationships. All families earning below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines will have access to free domestic mediation services. MMC will measure and report success based on collected data, projecting a 10% annual growth.

