

September 1998

**REMINDER: Annual Meeting Of State Offices Of Dispute Resolution
October 14th, 9am - 3pm at the Portland Hilton
20 States Attending**

At the meeting of the State Offices, we will spend some time brainstorming about what have been the biggest obstacles to building ADR in each state. This will be a beginning point for a project we will be pursuing entitled, "States Mediating Change: Rethinking Approaches to Policy Disputes." In preparation for this conversation, we ask that you reflect on the following questions:

- How important is legislation authorizing government ADR in your state?
- What are the thorniest legal issues you face in trying to convince agency attorneys or Attorneys General to try ADR?
- How have you overcome these problems?
- How have you succeeded in obtaining funding for ADR programs and services for state agencies?

AWARDS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Each year, a few awards are given by various organizations for innovation in government. We believe that State Offices of Dispute Resolution would be prime candidates for any of these awards. If you are interested in more information about these, please get in touch with PCI for information and assistance:

1. The Council of State Governments Innovations Awards for 1999 will go to 8 programs from around the country which are no more than 5 years old, creative, effective, significant, applicable and transferable to other states. Award winners are showcased in CSG publications and recognized at the CSG annual meeting. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 1999. For information and applications, contact Debbie Powell at 606-244-8249.
2. The Innovations in American Government awards are \$100,000 awards made to 10 innovative state and federal government programs annually by the Ford Foundation via the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Council for Excellence in Government. The awards honor programs that address important social and economic issues. Applications deadline is usually January. More information can be found on the website <http://ksgwww.harvard.edu/innovat>. Email: innovations@harvard.edu, phone number: 617-495-0558.
3. The Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation: the nonprofit must have been created after January 1, 1994 and must provide an innovative program or project that has made a difference in the lives of the people it serves. The winner receives \$25,000 and a professionally produced short documentary of the program/project. Their website features detailed and updated materials about the award and applying for it: <http://www.pfdf.org>. They can also be called at The Drucker Foundation, 212-224-1174.
4. A new program has been created to publicize innovative and successful government programs. It is being coordinated by the Council for Excellence in Government and is called the Partnership for Trust in Government. The Council has received a two-year Ford Foundation grant of \$570,000 to

run the partnership. The number of the Council is 202-728-0418. Its email address is partners@escelgov.org, and its website is:www.trustingov.org.

Legislative Work Group

On August 21, PCI's Board met at the Minnesota State Capital. One of the highlights of the meeting was the participation of four legislators, all of whom share interest in use of collaborative approaches to policy making. As an outgrowth of the discussions, PCI will create a legislative work group. This group of legislators will be involved in discussions about bringing ADR to the states, raising awareness of other legislators through presentations, developing skills and networking. Please send us names of ADR-friendly legislators in your state who we could invite to participate in PCI's Legislative Work Group.

Job Announcement in Hawaii

The Judiciary, State of Hawaii is hiring an Assistant Director for the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution. The Assistant Director helps plan, implement, and conduct the Center's programs, projects, and activities, and is responsible for facilitation and mediation services, ADR program design, and developing innovative dispute resolution processes. Requirements: Bachelor's degree, completion of mediation & facilitation training, 8 years of experience in DR, and management and supervisory experience. Submit resume to Ken Nakamatsu, s/o Judiciary Personnel Office, PO Box 2870, Honolulu, Hawaii 96803-2870, by September 28, 1998.

Congressional Exchange

FYI, a new organization may be a resource for legislators and other elected officials who want to connect with the public. Congressional Exchange is a "sister organization" of the Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC). SCRC carries out its mission by promoting the use of small-group, democratic, highly participatory discussions known as study circles. Congressional Exchange complements the work of SCRC by working with citizens and members of Congress who wish to organize study circles in which elected officials and their constituents discuss critical local and national issues. For more information, see the enclosed brochure.

New additions to PCI's web site:

States Mediating Change: This publication, designed to speak to state leaders, highlights five case studies of the successful use of collaborative problem solving techniques.

State Offices of Dispute Resolution: An Overview: Find out about Offices of Dispute Resolution that serve state needs, their locations, funding sources and programs.

New Articles: Taken from past NIDR publications, these have useful information about State Offices and the challenges they face.

*******We have more copies of the PCI publication, "States Mediating Change."*****
If these would be useful to you, please let us know and we will send you more.**