

Conflict Resolution Guidance

Collaboration Best Practices

The following links are federal government sources of best practices to implement collaborative planning efforts and resolve conflict:

[Conflict Resolution in Public Participation | US EPA](#) – Provides a comprehensive guide to public participation incorporating best practices

[Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#) – Provides information on DOI's policies and implementing efforts regarding alternative dispute resolution and public participation and engagement

[Collaboration and Consensus Seeking Services for DOI Bureaus, Offices and Tribal Nations | U.S. Department of the Interior](#) – Provides information, resources, and best practices for implementing government-to-government consultation with tribal governments

[Partners: Federal, State and Other Stakeholders | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#) – Provides information on the best practices for partnering that have been implemented by BOEM and examples of successful outcomes due to this partnering

[US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution \(army.mil\)](#) – Provides an example of a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution of the Morris K. Udall Foundation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources (IWR) that can be used as a model for other partnerships

In addition, consultants, non-profits, and other private resources that can offer recommendations for best practices, as well as direct support if desired.

Collaboration and Conflict Resolution Assistance and Resources

Sources of funding available from government agencies that are either directly or indirectly aimed at helping communities and local governments implement collaboration efforts are identified below.

- Funding to support Restoration Advisory Boards and Technical Assistance for Public Participation -- [Restoration Advisory Boards \(RABs\) and Technical Assistance for Public Participation \(TAPP\) - DENIX \(osd.mil\)](#)
- EPA Funding Programs for Support/Collaboration for Community Level Cleanups
 - [Assessment Grants](#) provide funding for brownfield remediation including inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach
 - [Cleanup Grants](#) provide funding to carry out brownfield site cleanups
 - [Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\) Grants](#) capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfield sites
 - [Multipurpose \(MP\) Grants](#) provide funding to conduct assessment and cleanup activities at brownfield sites
 - [Area-Wide Planning Grants](#) allow communities to research, plan, and implement brownfield cleanup and revitalization strategies

- [Technical Assistance, Training, and Research Grants](#) allow organizations to conduct research, provide training, and implement technical assistance to help communities address their brownfields
- [Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training \(EWDJT\) Grants](#) provide environmental training for community members impacted by brownfields
- Other federal government resource programs
 - [U.S. Department of Treasury American Rescue Plan \(ARPA\) provides Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, including green infrastructure](#)
 - [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Bay-Watershed Education & Training Regional Programs](#) - NOAA's B-WET program offers funding through its regional offices
 - [EPA Announces New Funding of \\$6.5 Billion for Water Infrastructure Projects](#) -- Funding is available through the agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program and the State Infrastructure Financing Authority (SWIFIA) program
 - [Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program](#) -- A voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife on public and private lands
 - [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program \(EJ TCTAC\) \(66.309\) The Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program](#) – To establish/operate Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (Technical assistance, training, and other eligible forms of assistance, resources, and support to program participants). The new technical assistance centers will provide training, assistance, and capacity building on writing grant proposals, navigating federal systems such as Grants.gov and SAM.gov, and effectively managing grant funding. These centers will also provide guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants.
 - [DOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) discretionary grant program](#) -- Funded with \$1 billion over the next 5 years. The program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to restore community connectivity equitably and safely through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development.
- Maryland Resources
 - Upon request and on a case-by-case basis, the Maryland Department of Planning, in partnership with other state agencies, is available to help Maryland military installations and their surrounding communities establish collaborative decision-making processes and resolve conflicts. To learn more, please contact Sarah Diehl, Southern Maryland Regional Planner, at sarah.diehl@maryland.gov.
 - Other Maryland Conflict Resolution and Mediation Resources
 - University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, [Center for Dispute Resolution \(C-DRUM\)](#) provides training, expertise, and direct mediation services to help individuals and communities that are facing conflict. While C-DRUM's services historically focus on civil legal disputes, communities and military

stakeholders could strengthen partnerships if members of collaborative groups completed C-DRUM's training programs. If a conflict has already arisen, both sides might benefit from professional mediation services as well.

Examples of Successful Collaborative Efforts

Some successes outside of Maryland are located at these websites:

[Environmental Restoration Success at Fort Rousseau | Article | The United States Army](#)

[Restoring bird habitats while sustaining ours | Article | The United States Army](#)

[Ft.APHill.pdf \(achp.gov\)](#)

[Success Stories | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](#)

[Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration > Resources > Reports and Fact Sheets \(repi.mil\)](#)

[Lake sturgeon partnership success | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)

[New USFWS Collaboration Expands Science Tools To Sage-Steppe - Sage Grouse Initiative](#)

[ReefSmart Hawaii: NOAA Highlights Coral Reef Success Stories in Hawaii](#)

[Success Stories | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Success Stories from the USDA Forest Service](#)