



FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
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GEORGE H. COHEN
DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, with Executive Order 13522 on labor-management forums, President Obama acted on his commitment to establish a cooperative and productive form of labor-management relations throughout the executive branch. Since the order was issued in 2009, FMCS Director George Cohen, in conjunction with OPM Director John Berry, initiated a program to support the National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations' effort in promoting the development and support of labor-management forums.

Many agencies and labor organizations have utilized initial EO 13522 training offered jointly by the FMCS and FLRA. Agencies have also utilized the services of FMCS mediators to help them establish and implement successful forums.

Earlier this year, also in conjunction with OPM, we implemented the Train the Trainer program to broaden the reach of FMCS services by teaching agencies' labor and management representatives to act as trainers in further disseminating information within their organizations on the steps necessary to set up labor-management forums.

In furthering and expanding this earlier initiative, I am pleased to announce FMCS now has another method for providing training and outreach to federal labor-management groups in the area of setting up labor-management forums: through the generous funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs we now have an online training program.

The hope is that this online training will enable us to reach new customers and give those who are unfamiliar with EO13522 a foundation to get started. Moreover, we believe the convenience of online training could inspire more of our existing customers to utilize FMCS assistance in establishing their forums. With the help of a group of FMCS field mediators and National Office staff, we have created scripts, vetted lessons, and recorded narration. The new online training is comprehensive, can be delivered individually or in a group, and can also be broken up and delivered in smaller lessons over time.

I am confident that this training will advance President Obama's EO 13522 goal as well as the FMCS mission to promote the development of sound and stable labor-management relationships.

The FMCS Labor-Management Forums Development training can be accessed through the OPM's HR University's website: http://www.hru.gov/course_catalog.aspx?mgr=false

I encourage you to visit the training site, to review the materials and to help spread the word about this new and useful resource for federal agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George H. Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George H. Cohen