

## What guides Language Access in the U.S.?

- Title VI of Civil Rights Act, 1964;
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990)
- Affordable Care Act and Section 1557 (ACA, 2010); 45 CFR 92.101

## What drives Language Access in the U.S.?

- **830+** languages spoken in the US
- **67M+** use a language other than English at home in the U.S.
- **26M+** are considered Limited English Proficient
- **1M+** Deaf individuals in the US; another **9M+** are considered Hard of Hearing

## Who is subject to language access and effective communication laws in the U.S.?

If you are federally funded or subject to the ADA, you must provide language access at no cost and effective communication to Deaf, Hard of Hearing and LEP individuals.

## What are the most spoken languages in the U.S.?

Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Bengali, Vietnamese, Korean, Hmong, Ukrainian, Dari, Farsi, Pashto and Polish.

## Legal Rights

Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and those with limited or no proficiency in the English language have the right to communicate with you in a language they understand. This right is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other relevant state and federal laws.

## Legal Responsibility

It is a legal requirement that any entity receiving federal funding for any of their programs provides meaningful language access and effective communication through interpreting and translation services to Limited English Proficient (LEP), Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals in a language they understand at no cost to them. It is your legal obligation to provide such access under the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other relevant state and federal laws.

## How to Meet This Legal Responsibility

Federally funded entities have an obligation by law to ensure that a qualified interpreter is present when their services are requested by Limited English Proficient (LEP), Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, so they may communicate in a language they understand, at no cost to them. Your legal obligations under the applicable language access laws include the translation of any written information and communication into the languages these populations understand, including but not limited to letters to parents, notices, and website content. Such translations must be done proactively.

Services must be arranged for, scheduled and provided with the assistance of an interpreter whether onsite or remotely by video, phone or some other technology.

**To learn more about language access rights and legal requirements, go here:**

