

LANGUAGE ACCESS TOOLS

ARE YOUR SERVICES LINGUISTICALLY ACCESSIBLE?

TAKE A QUIZ (F://Progdata/Immigration/Website/web site – additional resources/Take the Language Accessibility Quiz)

HERE ARE THE FACTS ON LANGUAGE ACCESS RIGHTS:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating based on national origin by, among other things, failing to provide meaningful access to individuals who are limited English proficient (LEP)
- Every entity receiving federal funding or assistance should have a written language access plan/individual assessment
- “Limited English Proficient” LEP means individuals who, on account of their national origin, do not speak English as their primary language and who identify themselves as having a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand the English language.

WHO MUST COMPLY WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT FEDERAL LAW?

- All programs and operations of entities that receive federal or state funds or assistance:
- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Private and non-for-profit organizations
- Cannot isolate programs – if one program receives state or federal funding, entire organization must provide limited English proficient services
- Failure to comply may be national origin discrimination under Title VI or violation of state law

SAMPLE LANGUAGE ACCESS PROMISING PRACTICES:

- **MLAM (Multi Lingual Access Model):** The Asian Women’s Shelter program in San Francisco’s innovative program recruits and trains bi-lingual and bi-cultural volunteers from almost thirty different Asian communities. These trained interpreter advocates provide culturally appropriate advocacy and peer support to women in their own languages. The huge success of the program has led to its duplication in five other agencies in the San Francisco community. For further information please consult the publication *The Multilingual Access Model: A Model for Outreach and Services in Non-English Speaking Communities* http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=812&category_id=10

- **Interpreter Collaborative:** The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence flagship program recruits and trains volunteers from the various immigrant communities (Somali, Central and South American countries, East European and Asian) in their catchment area. The trained interpreters provide services as requested. They do not provide cultural brokering. The Collaborative has a system of checks and balances as well as accountability procedures when interpreters do not provide adequate services. For more information e-mail: info@dccadv.org

RESOURCES ON LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY:

- **FVPF Multilingual Brochures for Immigrant and Refugee Women**
<http://fvpfstore.stores.yahoo.net/rightobefrefr.html>
- Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, **Interpretation Guidelines for Asian Battered Women**
<http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/CriticalIssues/interpretation.htm>
- *The Multilingual Access Model: A Model for Outreach and Services in Non-English Speaking Communities*
http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=812&category_id=10
- Legal Momentum, Limited English Proficiency Materials
http://www.legalmomentum.org/site/PageServer?pagename=iwp_74
- National Latino Alliance on Domestic Violence, Developing Linguistic and Culturally Responsive Materials for Latina Survivors of Domestic Violence
http://www.dvalianza.org/pdfs/r_devlinguistic.pdf