

WASCLA SUMMIT
WASHINGTON STATE COALITION FOR
LANGUAGE ACCESS

JUNE 17, 2006
INTRODUCTION:
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According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 14 percent of Washingtonians over the age of 5 years speak a language other than English at home.[1]

[1] Census 2000 Summary File 3, U.S. Census Bureau, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf3.htm>.

HISTORY

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■ WASCLA (Washington State Coalition for Language access)

■ The Department of Justice allocated funds to create a Northwest Regional Six-State Summit in May 2005.

■ Purpose of the May 2005 summit was to develop plans to improve access and delivery of services to immigrant victims in their states.

HISTORY (cont'd)

■ WA representatives identified an action plan to improve interpreter/translation services for immigrant survivors accessing legal services, medical care, and other community services.

■ Some of the original participants: *Northwest Justice Project; Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; King County Superior Court Interpreter Services; Chays; Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division Columbia Legal Services; King County Sheriff's Office; Department of Social and Health Services; KC Protection Order Advocacy Program; Consejo; Seattle University Access to Justice Institute; Seattle Police Department; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*

LONG TERM GOALS

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- Educate groups about legal requirements to provide interpreters
- Increase the pool of qualified interpreters and develop a centralized database
- Develop quality control standards and requirements for ongoing training
- Develop a model curriculum for interpretation services and cultural sensitivity training
- Secure funding to support interpreter services and training
- Develop a model curriculum for training for service providers

WHERE IS WASCLA NOW?

Where is WASCLA Now?

- www.wascla.org
- ❖ Talking points
- ❖ Participation form
- ❖ Sample policies & resources
- Task force
- Regular meetings & subcommittees
- Organized summit

TITLE VI

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

- Under DOJ regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, et seq. (Title VI), recipients of Federal financial assistance have a responsibility to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). See 28 CFR 42.104(b)(2).

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

- Initial guidance on DOJ recipients' obligations to take reasonable steps to ensure access by LEP persons was published on January 16, 2001.
- That guidance document was republished for additional public comment on January 18, 2002. See 67 FR 2671.
- Based on public comments filed in response to the January 18, 2002 republication, DOJ published revised draft guidance for public comment on April 18, 2002. See 67 FR 19237.

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

JUNE 18, 2002 FEDERAL REGULATIONS
EFFECTIVE June 12, 2002

Policy guidance document.

- ☑ This particular policy guidance clarifies existing statutory and regulatory requirements for LEP persons by providing a description of the factors recipients should consider in fulfilling their responsibilities to LEP persons.

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

- ☑ Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, provides:

- ☑ that no person shall "on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

- ☑ Department of Justice regulations forbid recipients from "utilizing criteria or methods of administration which have the effect of subjecting individuals to discrimination because of their race, color, or national origin..." 28 CFR 42.104(b)(2).

PURPOSE

PURPOSE (CONT'D)

- REFLECTION
- BRAINSTORMING
- IDENTIFYING
- NETWORKING
- COLLABORATION
- SHARING
- TRAINING

PURPOSE (CONT'D)

■ Today's summit is NOT:

- ❖ To create experts
- ❖ To recommend specific interpreters
- ❖ To endorse or require that certain policies be implemented, created, or enforced

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

■ WHO IS COVERED?

Law requires all recipients of Federal financial assistance from DOJ to provide meaningful access to LEP persons.

TITLE VI (CONT'D)

FACTORS TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE:

- The number or proportion of non-English speakers served or encountered in the eligible service population
- The frequency with which non-English speakers come into contact with the program
- The importance of the benefit, service, or information to non-English speakers
- The resources available to the recipient and the costs of service

TITLE VI (cont'd) POINTS

- Written Language Assistance Plan
- Five Elements of an LEP
- Policy Providing Interpreter Services without Charge
- Use of Family Members or Friends as Interpreters is Discouraged
- Written Language Services—Translation

TITLE VI (CONT'D)
COMPLIANCE TOOLS

- Developing a Comprehensive Written Policy
- Determining and Tracking Language Needs
- Training and Competency Protocols
- Monitoring and Evaluating Language Needs

TODAY'S SCHEDULE.....

Immigrant Population in Washington State

- 90% of recent immigrants coming from non-English speaking countries
- Over 631,500 immigrants in Washington State (2005)
- 10.3% of the state population (2005)
- Immigrant pop. Age (1999)

7%	0 to 17
22%	18 to 24
46%	25 to 44
13%	45 to 64
11%	65+

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LEP Population in Washington State

School District Statistics (2002)

- 181 Languages spoken statewide
- 62% Spanish speaking
- Additional 24% concentrated in seven other languages
- Seven other languages spoken by at least 1000 students (Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Korean, Cambodian, Somali and Tagalog)
- 21 districts served over 1000 LEP students
- 22 districts had at least 25% LEP students

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Some Emerging Trends . . .

- Steady growth of Spanish speaking residents
- Bosnian, Somali (and other East African languages) and Ukrainian are growing
- Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao continue to decline
- Spread of multiple languages out of western part of the state, e.g. Spokane Richland, Central Kitsap, Kennewick serve more than 20 languages

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And Surprising Facts . . .

- Cape Flattery school district has 178 Makah speaking students
- Central Kitsap has Finnish, Arabic, and Gujarati among its 20 languages
- Colville has 22 Russian speakers in its schools, Moses Lake 2 Swahili speakers
- Kennewick has Mandingo, Yoruba and Kakwa among its 20 languages
- Longview has Thai, Tongan and Gujarati among its 16 languages