

Program Goals

- To provide qualified interpreters to government, business and service organizations for Alaskans with limited English proficiency
- To train and certify interpreters and translators
- To develop and implement a system for linking customers with qualified interpreters and translators
- To offer training for groups and agencies on the roles, responsibilities and professional ethics of qualified interpreters

For more information, please contact:

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Language Interpreter Center

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organizations:

Alaska Bar Association
Alaska Court System
Alaska Department of Health
& Social Services (DHSS)
DHSS Division of Juvenile Justice
Alaska Department of Transportation
& Public Facilities
Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
Alaska Public Defender Agency
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
Anchorage School District
ConocoPhillips
Municipality of Anchorage
United Way of Anchorage

If you are interested in becoming a
stakeholder in the center, please contact
Robin Bronen at 279-2457.

Language Interpreter Center



Alaska
Immigration
Justice
Project

Introduction

Many government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses in Alaska serve customers and clients with limited English proficiency. In a 2004 survey conducted by the Alaska Court System, these entities cited a need for qualified language interpreters to help them provide better service to these individuals. At the time, there was no comprehensive system for identifying qualified interpreters and linking them to those in need of their services. In addition, there were too few qualified language interpreters in the state, no programs for providing necessary training, and no system for screening, testing and certifying qualified interpreters.

The **Language Interpreter Center** is a collaborative, multi-agency, public-private effort to create a pool of qualified language interpreters for public and private entities statewide.

Interpreter/Translator Candidates

The Language Interpreter Center is recruiting interpreter candidates for the most common foreign and Alaska Native languages spoken by Alaskans with limited English proficiency. The Center is also developing a comprehensive training program to help candidates learn the skills necessary to become qualified. Bilingual individuals who are interested in learning more about becoming an interpreter are encouraged to contact Program Manager Barb Jacobs at 907-279-2457 (barb.jacobs@akimmigrationjustice.org).

I have been working as an interpreter in Alaska for over 15 years and even though it is my greatest passion, it has also been my greatest heartache... Alaska's non-English speaking community is growing by leaps and bounds and interpreters are now a very sought after commodity. But with no way to track, train or assure that someone is as fluent in a language as they claim to be, the danger of injustice toward non-English-speaking people is growing just as fast.

Grace Anderson
Interpreter

Institutions that serve Alaskans with limited English proficiency have long understood the need for qualified interpreters. The ability to understand and be understood is fundamental to everything from education and commerce to medical care and justice delivery. The Language Interpreter Center provides a vital service to all who endeavor to ensure that Alaskans are treated fairly and equally.

Stephanie Cole, Administrative Director
Alaska Court System

Program Location

The Language Interpreter Center is located at the Alaska Immigration Justice Project in Anchorage. The project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and the only agency in Alaska that provides low-cost legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees. The mission of the Alaska Immigration Justice Project is to protect the human rights of immigrants and refugees by providing legal services, educational seminars, and other charitable services.