

**To:** Marissa Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP, State Health Commissioner  
**From:** Linda Redmond, PhD, Chair, Advisory Council on Health Disparities & Health Equity (ACHDHE)  
**Date:** October 11, 2016  
**Subject:** ACHDHE Recommendations for Program Enhancement

In response to July 12, 2016 ACHDHE meeting presentations on VDH Language Needs Assessment (LNA) and Health Literacy/SIPsmarterER project by local health departments in south eastern Virginia and Virginia Tech, we respectfully also make the following recommendations:

- VDH request additional state, federal or other funding to expand and sustain both use of the Language Needs Assessment tool and outcome measurement.
- To better understand the needs of clients and obtain consistent LEP service data, VDH should provide standardization of data collection processes and staff training.
- VDH secure additional funding to expand and continue the health literacy and the SIP smarter program.
- VDH provide ACHDHE members with information on best practices or recommended strategies to disseminate accurate information (obtained at meetings and from other sources) to promote effective local programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these important recommendations to enhance health equity.

Linda L. Redmond, PhD, Chair

cc: ACHDHE members