



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S LANGUAGE ACCESS RESOURCE GUIDE



Who is a person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)?

An individual with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) is someone who does not speak English as their primary language and has limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. These individuals are entitled to receive language assistance when accessing services, benefits, or any additional encounters with the Virginia Department of Health or Local Health Districts.



Legal Reference Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

NO PERSON in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.



Identifying the Preferred Language of individuals with LEP at VDH and Local Health Districts:

When an individual visits the Virginia Department of Health or a local health district, staff will use an **"I Speak"** card to help the individual identify their preferred language. Once the language is identified, staff will check if there is a qualified interpreter available at the location. If an interpreter is unavailable, staff will reach out to one of the vendors already established to arrange interpretation services. The preferred language should be recorded in the individual's history, ensuring that staff are aware of their interpretation needs for future visits.



Oral Language Access Services (including ASL):

A list of approved vendors providing over the phone, video, and on-site interpretation, the process for creating an account, and pricing information can be found on the [VDH Language Access Hub](#) on the intranet. The hub also provides resources for working with interpreters, including [American Sign Language interpretation](#).



Bilingual employees who are interested in taking qualified interpreter training can submit a registration form (with their supervisor approval) [Interpreter Training 2025](#).



Written Language Access Services:

The Language Access Hub includes a translation library with documents in various languages that are regularly used. You can request translations for critical frequently used documents at no cost by emailing the VDH translation and interpretation [manager](#). For other translation projects, you can use the comparative chart with vendor prices available on the Language Access Hub under the "Translation" section. It's recommended to request quotes from at least two vendors, as prices may vary. **VDH's top 12 languages for translation:** Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Korean, Pashto, Dari (Farsi in Iran), Urdu, Haitian Creole, Tagalog, Amharic, and Russian.



Complaints about Language Access Services:

Individuals wishing to file a complaint regarding language access services can refer to the [VDH Non-Discrimination Policy – Virginia Department of Health](#). If the incident happened at an agency, hospital or another entity outside VDH, they can be referred to the [US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights](#).



Questions in Regards to Language Access:

For any questions regarding Language Access, you can contact:

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