



Judicial Council of California

Advisory Committee on Providing
Access & Fairness

courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm
accessfairnesscomm@jud.ca.gov

Request for ADA accommodations
should be made at least three business days
before the meeting and directed to:
JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN ELECTRONIC MEETING

Open to the public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c) and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: October 7, 2025
Time: 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Public Access: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/4818>

Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the advisory body webpage on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the open meeting portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be emailed to lap@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of June 17, 2025, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness
Language Access Subcommittee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means. As such, the public may make comments in writing.

Written Comment

In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be emailed to lap@jud.ca.gov, attention: Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth. Only written comments received by

12:15 p.m., October 6, 2025, will be provided to subcommittee members prior to the start of the meeting.

Remote Public Comment

Members of the public requesting to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting must provide the speaker's name, the name of the organization that the speaker represents if any, and the agenda item that the public comment will address. Requests to make a remote public comment must be received by 12:15 p.m., October 6, 2025, via email to lap@jud.ca.gov. The chair will establish speaking limits at the beginning of the public comment session. While the subcommittee welcomes and encourages public comment, time may not permit all persons requesting to speak to be heard at this meeting.

III. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Presenter: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair; Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three

Info 2

Review 2025 and Potential 2026 Language Access Projects

The subcommittee will review the status of its 2025 Annual Agenda projects and discuss potential language access projects for the 2026 Annual Agenda of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

Presenters: Mr. Douglas Denton, Principal Manager, Language Access Services
Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Senior Analyst, Language Access Implementation (LAI)

Info 3

2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study

Language Access Services staff will provide a presentation on the [2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study](#), which includes analysis of regional and statewide data on the most commonly interpreted languages; interpreter certification and employment status; case types; in-person vs. remote interpretations; and projections of future language need.

Presenters: Ms. Eunice Lee, Supervising Analyst, LAI
Ms. Aggie Wong, Senior Data Analyst, LAI
Mr. Russell McGregor, Senior Analyst, LAI

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



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www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm
lap@jud.ca.gov

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

June 17, 2025

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Amy Guerra (ITAC Liaison), Ms. Shirley Luo, Ms. Fariba Soroosh, Ms. Katy Van Sant, and Hon. Julie Weng-Gutierrez

Advisory Body Members Absent: Ms. Julie Paik

Others Present: Mr. Rahul Dalia, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Tatjana Gruner, Ms. Hema Krishnamurthy, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Rose Livingston, Ms. Cristina Llop, Mr. Russell McGregor, Ms. Jacquie Ring, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Ms. Aggie Wong, Ms. Charina Zalzos

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., and staff took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Info 1: Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Justice Rodriguez shared updates on several language access initiatives, including:

1. Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) webinars: Staff worked with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct VRI webinars to support courts in their efforts to leverage technological solutions to meet interpretation needs, including a webinar on May 14, 2025 regarding VRI basics for American Sign Language interpreters and a webinar on May 15, 2025 with the Language Access Representatives where the Los Angeles and Ventura Superior Courts shared innovative uses of VRI in specific case types.
2. California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program: The Cohort 2 application launched on March 28, 2025. The council received over 1,000 applications and staff shared recommendations with the 17 participating courts who will make final selections. All Cohort 2 applicants will be notified of their status by June 30, 2025, and Cohort 2 will

start on January 1, 2026.

3. New language access contract: Language Access Services is developing a new, multi-year contract with the NCSC to support the program with several key projects, including ethics training for court interpreters; VRI best practice guides and trainings; court staff resources for interpreter usage data collection; skills-building trainings for aspiring interpreters; and skills assessment of court interpreters to identify areas for improvement and evaluate interpreting abilities when a skills-based complaint has been filed against an interpreter.
4. Multilingual resources on Self-Help Guide and Language Access Services website: Limited English proficient court users can now access resources through the drop-down menu and language tiles on the [Self-Help Guide](#). A new dedicated card, “Court Resources in Your Language,” has been added to the program’s [home page](#). The card directs court users to the translated resources, including information about availability of and requesting an interpreter, remote hearings, filing complaints, and other legal topics like fee waivers and serving court papers.
5. Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7 (Fiscal year 2025-26): The PAF, Information Technology Advisory Committee, and Technology Committee approved the draft recommendations and allocations to fund 17 courts for signage and technology projects. The draft report with recommendations and proposed allocations will go to the council for approval at its business meeting on July 18, 2025.

Info 2: Update on Development of Training for Court Staff on the Appropriate Use of Machine Translation Tools

The NCSC, under contract with Language Access Services, provided an update on development of training resources for court staff on the appropriate use of machine translation tools. Ms. Jacquie Ring and Ms. Cristina Llop presented on the multi-phased project which included: a landscape review of national/state policies, best practices and legal frameworks for the use of machine translation tools and voice to text (VTT) solutions for language access; a comparative review of machine translation tools and VTT solutions used in other state court language access programs; survey, focus groups and site visits with California courts using the California Courts Translator App. The findings from the review and research assisted with the development of training resources to support court staff with the effective use of the Translator App. The resources were discussed in detail and include: 1. six training modules covering the overview of language access and the role of the Translator App, Translator App set up options and best practices, use of the Translator App in the clerk’s office, use of the Translator App in Self-Help Centers, troubleshooting common communication issues, and considerations for Language Access Representatives, supervisors, and managers; 2. multilingual explainer videos for the public to assist with using the Translator App, in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, and Vietnamese; and 3. tip sheet for machine translation and voice-to-text tools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on X.

Draft

PAF Language Access Subcommittee 2026 PAF Annual Agenda Projects

#	New or One-Time Projects								
To add a project, highlight the entire row you wish to copy (e.g., the #1 project), then press Ctrl + C or right-click and select Copy . Next, click underneath the row you want to add projects to and press Ctrl + V or right-click and select Paste . Group the projects by priority number for better organization.									
1.	Project Title: Develop a Video Remote Interpreting Directory of Interpreters in High Demand Emerging Languages (Implementation Project)	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: Select the branch goal(s) of the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan that the project most closely aligns with.									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>			I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Project Summary: The PAF Language Access Subcommittee will work with Judicial Council staff from the Leadership Support Services' (LSS) Language Access Services Program to develop a directory of video remote interpreting (VRI) interpreters in high-demand emerging languages that can assist court staff and litigants. The 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study indicated that emerging languages like Hindi and indigenous languages, including Mam and Mixteco de Guerrero, are on the rise and now on the list of the 30 most interpreted languages. A VRI directory of interpreters for high-demand, emerging languages, including relay interpreters who can assist litigants remotely, will enhance access to justice and reduce costs and delays. As part of the project, training needs for interpreters will be assessed.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: December 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Staff resources in Language Access Services (LSS).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Court stakeholders (e.g., court interpreter coordinators and court Language Access Representatives).</p> <p>AC Collaboration: PAF Language Access Subcommittee.</p>									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities						
To add a project, highlight the entire row you wish to copy (e.g., the #1 project), then press Ctrl + C or right-click and select Copy . Next, click underneath the row you want to add projects to and press Ctrl + V or right-click and select Paste . Group the projects by priority number for better organization.							
1.	Project Title: Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 8 (<i>Implementation Project</i>)						Priority: 1
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:							
I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>		III Modernization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
V Education <input type="checkbox"/>		VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>		VII Funding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Project Summary: In coordination with the PAF Language Access Subcommittee, Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), and Technology Committee, LSS's Language Access Services Program will disburse on an annual basis \$2.35 million from the 2018 Budget Act as grants to trial courts for language access signage and technology initiatives. The grant program was approved by the council in September 2019. For fiscal year 2026–27, the grant cycle (Cycle 8) will commence in Spring 2026. Council staff will continue to develop annual reports on the grant program.</p> <p>This grant project was approved on PAF's 2020 Annual Agenda and will result in recommendations to the Judicial Council.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Staff resources from Language Access Services (LSS), Information Technology, and Branch Accounting and Procurement; ongoing monies from 2018 Budget Act.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Trial courts and public, including limited-English-Proficient (LEP), deaf, or hard of hearing court users.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: PAF Language Access Subcommittee and ITAC.</p>							

**PAF Language Access Subcommittee
2026 PAF Annual Agenda Projects**

I. LIST OF [PREVIOUS YEAR] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Provide highlights and achievements of completed projects included in the previous year's Annual Agenda. Provide brief, broad outcome(s) and completed date.

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7: The Cycle 7 Grants launched for FY 2025–26 in February 2025. On July 18, 2025, the council approved funding to 17 courts for language access signage and technology projects. Status: Ongoing.
2.	Develop Training for Court Staff on Appropriate Use of Machine Translation Tools: The National Center for State Courts, under contract with Judicial Council Language Access Services, worked in collaboration with council staff in Language Access Services and Information Technology to develop training resources for court staff on the appropriate use of the California Courts Translator application, which uses voice-to-text technology to enable communication between court staff and limited-English-proficient court users. The resources developed include: six (6) training modules and a tip sheet to assist court staff with using the application, as well as multilingual explainer videos for court users. The developed resources are available to the courts on the California Courts Translator SharePoint site. Status: Completed.

2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study Highlights

Eunice Lee, Supervising Analyst
Aggie Wong, Senior Data Analyst
Russell McGregor, Senior Analyst

Language Access Services
October 7, 2025 – PAF LAS Meeting



Background & Overview

Mandated under
Gov. Code § 68563

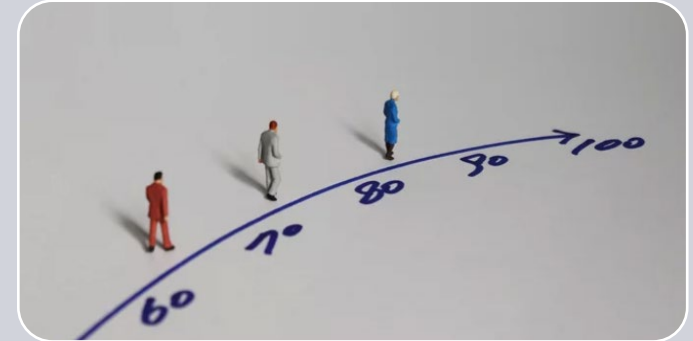
Fiscal years 2020–21
through 2023–24

Court Interpreter Data
Collection System
(CIDCS) or reporting
template

2.5 million
interpretations

Remote and
telephonic methods
peaked in FY 2020–21

Summary of Court Interpreter Pool



Continual need for interpreters to meet public's needs

- 1,856 certified & registered interpreters as of March 2025

Interpreters cover a myriad of languages

- 114 spoken languages and ASL are represented

Pool of interpreters are reaching retirement age

- 32% of interpreters are over the age of 65

Most Interpreted Languages

Top Interpreted Languages

- Spanish
- Mandarin
- Vietnamese
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Punjabi
- Cantonese
- Arabic
- Korean
- Russian
- Armenian (Eastern)
- Farsi
- Tagalog
- Portuguese (#19)

Top interpreted languages in study are already designated by the Judicial Council as certified languages



Regional Differences of Languages

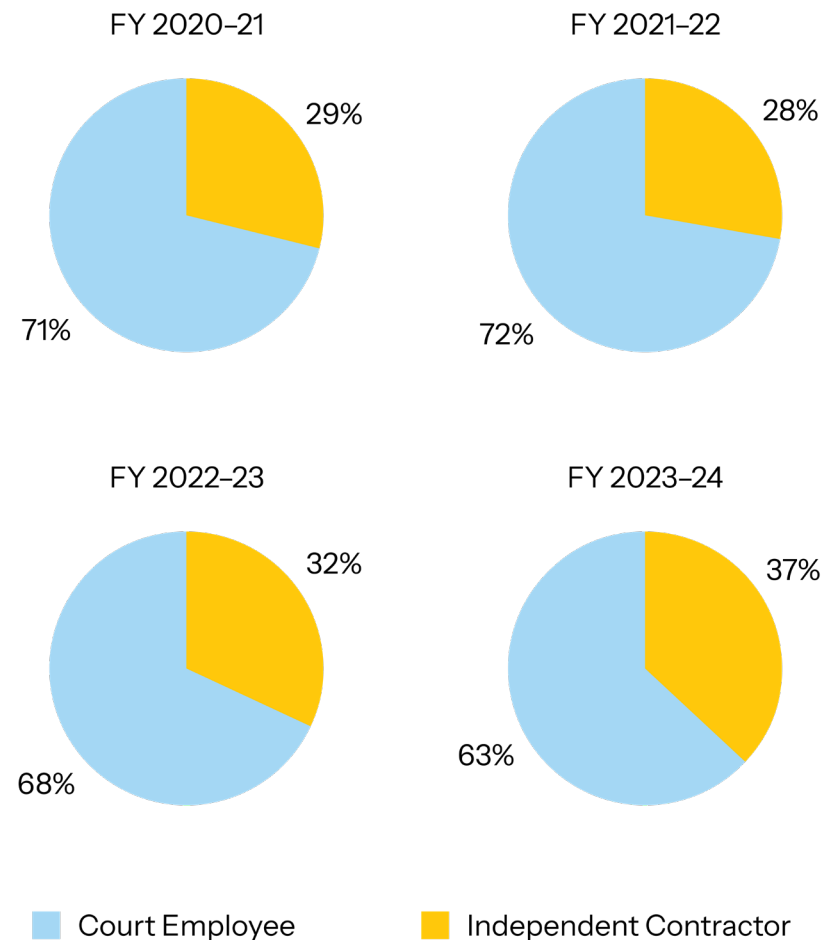


- Study data covers FY 2020–21 through FY 2023–24
- Due to COVID-19 and reduced case filings, overall usage declined 45% compared to 2020 Study
- Spanish accounted for about 88% of all interpretations
- The most interpretations overall occurred in Region 4

Certain languages are **highly concentrated in specific regions**. For example, Hmong in Region 3 (nearly 98% of total statewide interpretations).

Usage by Employment Status

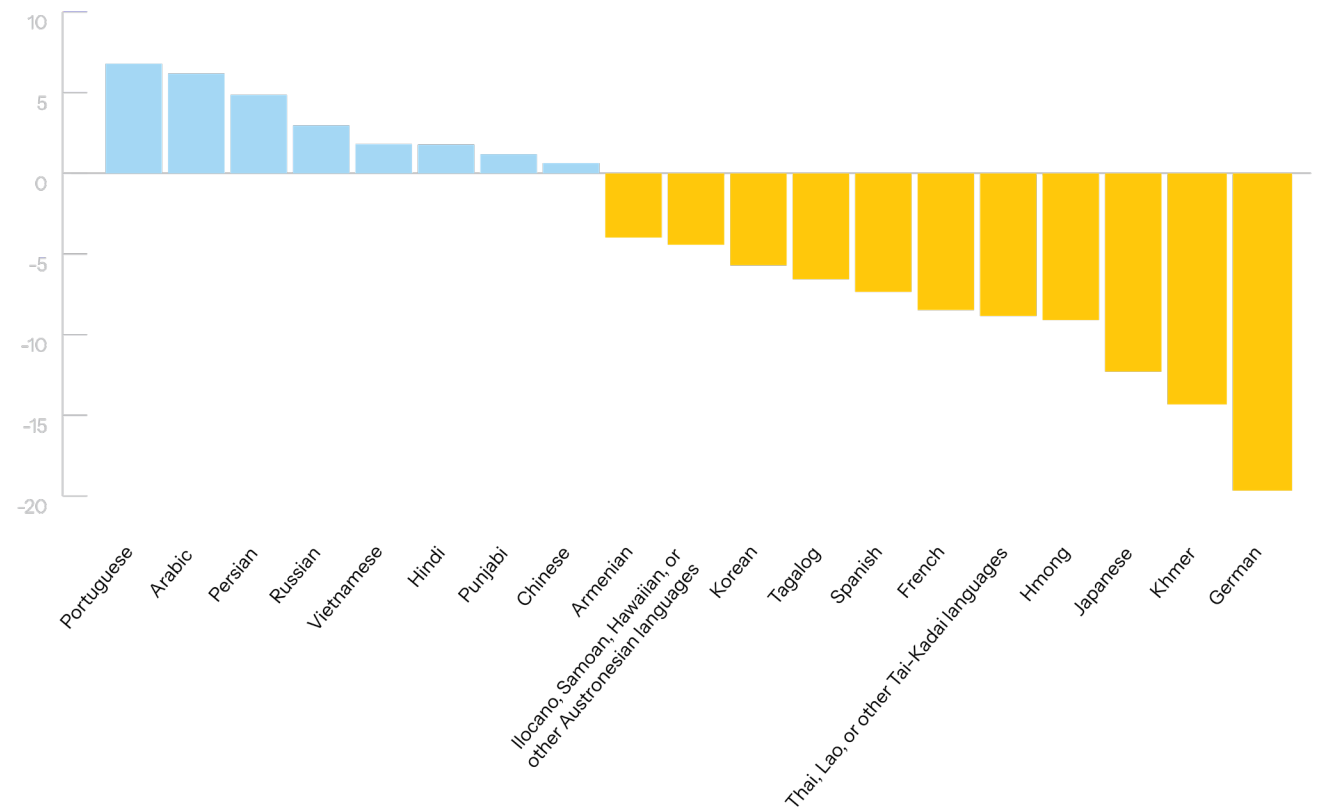
Percentage of Interpretations by Employment Status



- The usage of contractors by percentage has grown from 29% in FY 2020-21 to 37% in FY 2023-24
- This finding correlates with a recent marked **increase** in contractor costs
- Current priorities are ensuring adequate funding for interpreter services and assisting courts with filling employee vacancies

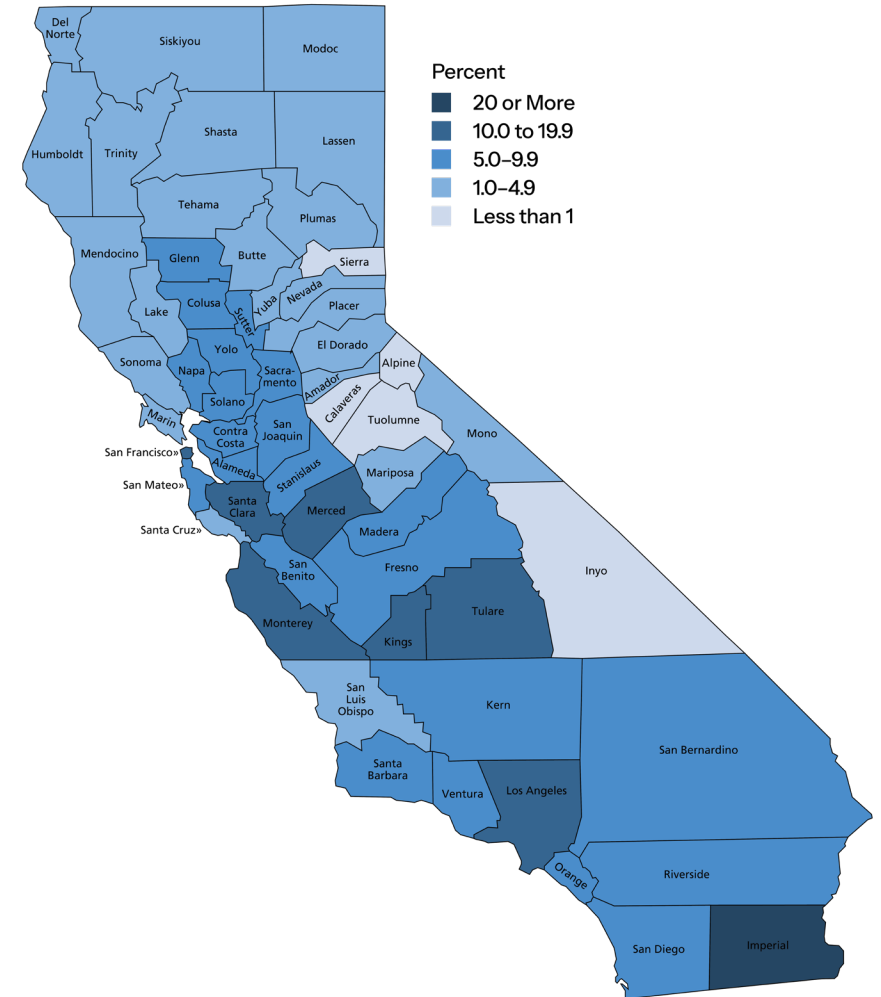
Projecting Future Language Need

- 43.9% of California population speak another language other than English at home
- 6.4 million LEP Californians, speaking over 200 languages
- **California has largest foreign-born population**, representing 26.5% of California total population



California's LEP Population

- 1.1 million English learners make up 19% of public school enrollment
- 93% of English learners speak one of the top 10 non-English home languages
- 8.4% of households are classified as limited English speaking



Indigenous Languages

7 of the top 30 interpreted languages are now indigenous languages

Mam, Mixteco de Guerrero, and Kanjobal newly entered the top 30

Interpretations increased in Mixteco Bajo by 66% and Mixteco Alto by 38% since the last study

Court users may require relay interpretation, increasing complexity and planning need

Initiatives to Support Courts & Court Users

A user-friendly and effective online experience
to improve court navigation



Become a Court Interpreter

Have you ever wanted to be part of the court process as a court interpreter? Working directly with court users of limited English proficiency, court interpreters play an integral role in one of the largest and most diverse judicial branch court systems in the nation.

[Learn More →](#)



Language Access Resources for Courts

The Judicial Council of California provides recommendations, guidance, and a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access in the courts. Explore our resources and learn about how we can work to be more inclusive of the limited English proficient (LEP) court users who speak over 200 languages in California.

[Explore Our Resources →](#)



Court Resources in Your Language

Get information in your language about remote hearings, filing complaints, and other legal topics like fee waivers and serving court papers.

[Go To Resources →](#)

<https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov>

Considerations Based on Study Findings



Maintain the designation of the top 12 interpreted languages and Portuguese (#19) as certified



Monitor emerging and indigenous languages



Strengthen the credentialing process for ASL court interpreters



Enhance court interpreter recruitment and training efforts



Expand remote and telephonic interpretation solutions to address coverage gaps

