



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING  
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

## **Language Access Subcommittee**

### **Open Meeting Materials Index**

**October 6, 2022, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.**

1. Notice and Agenda for October 6, 2022 Subcommittee Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the April 5, 2022 Subcommittee Meeting
3. Draft Language Access Data Tool
4. Language Access Metrics Report (Fall 2021)
5. 2022 Annual Agenda Accomplishments and Potential 2023 Annual Agenda Projects



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING  
ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

### NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

Open to the Public Unless Indicated as Closed (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c), (d), and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

OPEN PORTION OF THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

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**Date:** October 6, 2022  
**Time:** 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
**Public Log-In, via Zoom:** [Click on this link](#)  
Meeting ID: 161 843 6832, Passcode: 719883

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Meeting materials for the open portion of the meeting will be posted on the advisory body web page 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 portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be e-mailed to [lap@jud.ca.gov](mailto:lap@jud.ca.gov).

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

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

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##### Call to Order and Roll Call

##### Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the April 5, 2022, Language Access Subcommittee meeting.

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#### II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))

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##### Written Comment

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means with a listen only conference line available for the public. As such, the public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. 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 e-mailed to [lap@jud.ca.gov](mailto:lap@jud.ca.gov), attention: Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth. Only written comments received by 12:15 p.m., October 5, 2022 will be provided to the Language Access Subcommittee members prior to the start of the meeting.

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**III. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)**

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**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**

**Data Analytics Tool**

Staff will provide an update on development of the Data Analytics Tool, which will identify a smaller set of language access metrics to assist with court decision making and align with the branch wide data analytics framework.

Presenters: Ms. Jannie Scott, Senior Analyst, Language Access Services

**Info 3**

**Review 2022 and Potential 2023 Language Access Projects**

The subcommittee will review the status of its 2022 Annual Agenda projects and discuss potential language access projects for the 2023 Annual Agenda of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

Presenters: Language Access Services Staff

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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**Adjourn Open Session**

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**V. CLOSED SESSION (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(D))**

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**Item 1**

**Update Bench Card on Working with Court Interpreters (Action Required)**

Staff will provide a presentation on revisions to the Bench Card on Working with Interpreters.

Presenter: Ms. Diana Glick, Attorney, Center for Families, Children, & the Courts

**Item 2**

**Translation Guide (No Action Required)**

Staff will provide a presentation on development of a web-based Translation Guide to provide guidance to courts on the identification of vital documents for translation. The guide will assist courts with planning and executing a translation project, maintaining translations, and provide helpful tips and best practices for translations.

Presenter: Ms. Lisa Chavez, Supervising Analyst, Language Access Services

**Adjourn Closed Session**



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## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

April 05, 2022  
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Advisory Body Members Present:** Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias, Ms. Janet Hudec, Hon. Richard Y. Lee, Mr. David Levin, Hon. Louis R. Mauro, and Ms. Fariba Soroosh

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Ms. Julie Paik

**Others Present:** Ms. Lisa Chavez, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Cathy Ongiri, Ms. Josephine Roberts, Ms. Esther Vang, Ms. Jannie Scott, Ms. Amy Hammond, Ms. Jacquie Ring, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Ms. Charli Depner and Mr. Don Will

### 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 October 07, 2021, meeting.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

#### Item 1: Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Chair Justice Victor Rodriguez introduced new staff, Senior Analyst Ms. Jannie Scott, who is responsible for leading data collection in the Court Interpreter Data Collection System (CIDCS) and other data analytics projects, and Analyst Ms. Esther Vang, who is responsible for leading Judicial Council translations. He also acknowledged Ms. Amy Hammond, an attorney in the Center for Judicial Education and Research, who is the education liaison to PAF.

#### Item 2: 2021 and 2022 Language Access Project Updates

Ms. Lisa Chavez, Supervising Analyst of Language Access Services, provided updates on three separate projects.

1. *Model Translation Guidelines (2021 project)* is currently in progress and will be shared with the Subcommittee later this year.

2. *Language Access Data Analytics* will replace the annual language access survey. The data analytics tool aligns with the branch-wide data analytics framework.
3. *Signage and Technology Grants Program*, FY 2022-2023, Cycle 4 will launch this Spring/Summer.

Senior Analyst Ms. Eunice Lee, who is responsible for leading the Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Program, provided an update on preparation of draft materials to support participation by limited English proficient (LEP) court users in remote proceedings. The goal is to support implementation of remote access by providing LEP court users with multilingual instructional materials (infographics and videos) in their language on how to prepare for and participate in remote proceedings.

Attorney Ms. Diana Glick provided an overview of the Bench Card, Working with Court Interpreters, which was developed by the Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force in 2017. The goal is to revise the bench card to update information for judges on appointment of interpreter in civil matters, provide information regarding waiver of an interpreter by LEP court users, and provide guidance on appropriate use of technology when conducting remote hearings that require language assistance.

**Item 3: Rule 1.300 Findings and Strategies by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC)**

The National Center for State Courts' Principal Consultant, Ms. Jacquie Ring, provided a presentation (which is included in meeting materials) on the 2021 annual agenda project to identify possible strategies and solutions to assist with the implementation of Rule 1.300 (language assistance in court-ordered programs and services).

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**A D J O U R N M E N T**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved by the Language Access Subcommittee on enter date.



Judicial Council of California | Language Access Data Tool

## Introduction

The Judicial Council's Language Access Implementation Unit is administering this Data Tool to obtain information regarding language access services administered at each of the 58 superior courts. This tool collects information that is not recorded in the Court Interpreter Data Collection System (CIDCS) or through any other means. The data collected through this tool will be used to fulfill reporting requirements; support future funding requests, including for the Court Interpreters Program fund; and understand language access needs. All responses will be compiled and analyzed as a group when reporting the results (court specific data will not be shared). **Please note that each court is required to answer questions in Sections 1 and 2 regarding language access services complaints per [California Rules of Court Rule 2.851\(d\)\(7\)](#).**

It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete the Data Tool. There are eight short sections covering the following topics: language access services complaints, language access needs, and remote proceedings.

Select the name of your court:

## Section 1: Complaints Received by Your Court During Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 (Required)

Per California Rules of Court Rule 2.851(d)(7), each court is required to report to the Judicial Council information regarding language access services complaints received by your court. Courts are required to report 1) the number and kinds of complaints received, 2) the resolution status of all complaints, and 3) any additional information about complaints requested by Judicial Council staff.

**This section pertains to language access services complaints received by your court between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 only.**

Did your court receive any language access services complaints between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021?

- Yes
- No

## Section 1: Complaints Received by Your Court During Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 (Required)

This section pertains to language access services complaints received by your court between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 only.



Please indicate the total number of complaints received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 for each complaint type.

Please enter "0" if your court did not receive that type of complaint.

Total Number of Complaints

Interpreter not  
provided:

Quality of  
interpretation not  
satisfactory:

Form or information  
not translated:

Quality of translation  
not satisfactory

Other:

Please provide the **resolution status** for the total number of complaints described in the previous question.

Please enter "0" if the resolution status does not apply.

Total Number of Complaints

Number of  
complaints resolved  
within 30 days of  
receipt:

Number of  
complaints resolved  
within 60 days of  
receipt:

Number of  
complaints resolved  
more than 60 days  
of receipt:

Number of  
complaints still  
pending a resolution:

## Section 2: Complaints Received by Your Court During FY 2021-22 (Required)

Per California Rules of Court Rule 2.851(d)(7), each court is required to report to the Judicial Council information regarding language access services complaints received by your court. Courts are required to report 1) the number and kinds of complaints received, 2) the resolution status of all complaints, and 3) any additional information about complaints requested by Judicial Council staff.

**This section pertains to language access services complaints received by your**

**court between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 only.**

Did your court receive any language access services complaints between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022?

- Yes
- No

## **Section 2: Complaints Received by Your Court During FY 2021-22 (Required)**

This section pertains to language access services complaints received by your court between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 only.

Please indicate the total number of complaints received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 for each complaint type.

Please enter "0" if your court did not receive that type of complaint.

Total Number of Complaints

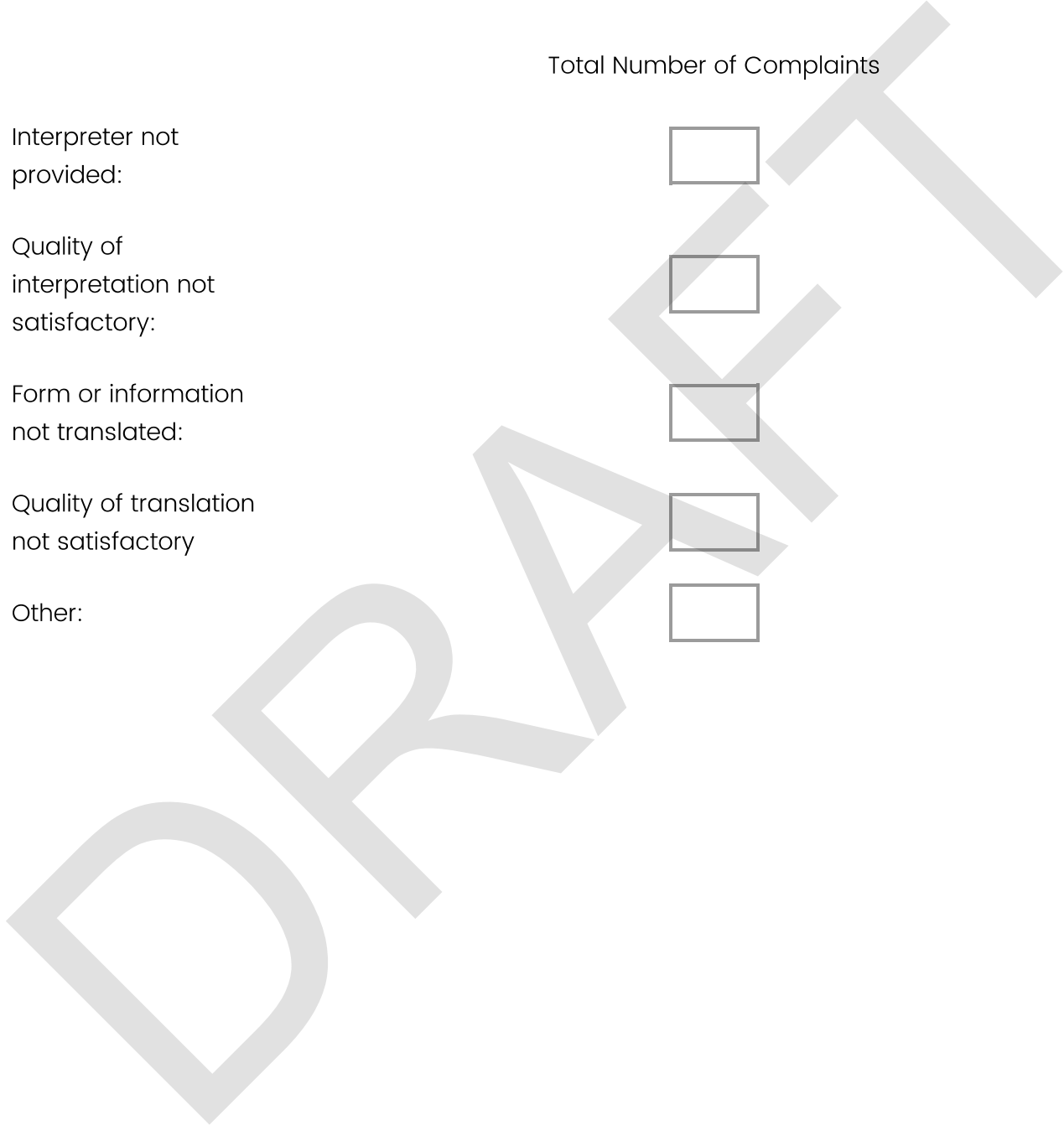
Interpreter not provided:

Quality of interpretation not satisfactory:

Form or information not translated:

Quality of translation not satisfactory

Other:



Please provide the **resolution status** for the total number of complaints described in the previous question.

Please enter "0" if the resolution status does not apply.

Total Number of Complaints

Number of  
complaints resolved  
within 30 days of  
receipt:

Number of  
complaints resolved  
within 60 days of  
receipt:

Number of  
complaints resolved  
more than 60 days  
of receipt:

Number of  
complaints still  
pending a resolution:

### Section 3: Unmet Language Needs

For the following questions, consider all instances for which your court was unable to provide an interpreter after any continuances and a diligent search. **For your responses, only consider instances that occurred between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (FY 2021-22).**

For the purposes of this section, "unable to provide an interpreter" is defined as instances where, after continuances and a diligent search by the court, the court could not provide a limited English proficient (LEP) party or witness with an interpreter for a court proceeding. Please exclude instances where:

- 1) the case was continued until an interpreter could be provided,
- 2) a non-certified or non-registered interpreter was used,
- 3) a provisionally qualified interpreter was used, or
- 4) parties provided their own privately retained interpreter(s).

"Interpreter" includes court employees, independent contractors, non-certified or non-registered interpreters, or provisionally qualified interpreters.

Indicate the number of instances your court was unable to provide an interpreter to a **party** who needed an interpreter:

- 0 (Our court was able to provide an interpreter in all instances)
- 1-25
- 26-50
- 51-100
- More than 101

### Section 3: Unmet Language Needs

For your responses, only consider instances that occurred between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (FY 2021-22 ).

For which languages was your court unable to provide an interpreter to a **party** who needed an interpreter (select up to 5 languages)?

Please limit your responses to languages your court was unable to provide an interpreter for:

Language your court was unable to provide an interpreter

Select a language:

Select a language:

Select a language:

Select a language:

Select a language:

### Section 3: Unmet Language Needs

For your responses, only consider instances that occurred between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (FY 2021-22 ).

Indicate the number of instances your court was unable to provide an interpreter to a **witness** who needed an interpreter:

- 0 (Our court was able to provide an interpreter in all instances)
- 1-25
- 26-50
- 51-100
- More than 101

### Section 3: Unmet Language Needs

For your responses, only consider instances that occurred between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (FY 2021-22 ).

For which languages was your court unable to provide an interpreter to a

**witness** who needed an interpreter (select up to 5 languages)?

Please limit your responses to languages your court was unable to provide an interpreter for:

	Language your court was unable to provide an interpreter
Select a language:	<input type="text"/>
Select a language:	<input type="text"/>
Select a language:	<input type="text"/>
Select a language:	<input type="text"/>
Select a language:	<input type="text"/>

## Section 4: Interpreter Staff Need for Criminal Cases

The following questions asks you to estimate your interpreter staffing needs for **FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)**.

Does your court need additional interpreter staff positions to ensure full coverage in **criminal cases**?

- Yes
- No

## Section 4: Interpreter Staff Need for Criminal Cases

The following questions asks you to estimate your interpreter staffing needs for **FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)**.



How many additional interpreter staff positions does your court need to ensure full coverage in **criminal cases** (enter a number)?

## Section 5: Interpreter Staff Need for Civil Cases

The following questions asks you to estimate your interpreter staffing needs for **FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)**.

Does your court need additional interpreter staff positions to ensure full coverage in **civil cases**?

- Yes
- No

## Section 5: Interpreter Staff Need for Civil Cases

The following questions asks you to estimate your interpreter staffing needs for **FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)**.

How many additional interpreter staff positions does your court need to ensure full coverage in **civil cases** (enter a number)?

## Section 6: Additional Language Access Services Funding Needs

The following questions asks you to identify your language access services needs for FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023). **Do not** include interpreter staffing needs in your estimates.

You may include needs like funding for bilingual staff, translation of forms or web content, multilingual signage, or courtroom interpretation equipment.

Does your court have additional language access funding needs?

- Yes
- No

## Section 6: Additional Language Access Services Funding Needs

The following questions asks you to identify your language access services needs for FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023). **Do not** include staffing needs in your estimates.

You may include needs like funding for bilingual staff, translation of forms or web content, multilingual signage, or courtroom interpretation equipment.

Please describe your additional language access funding needs:

## Section 7: Status of Court Proceedings where Interpreter was Remote

Please indicate the status of court proceedings where the interpreter was remote at your court during **FY 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)**.

For the purposes of this section, an interpreter is considered remote when the interpreter is outside of the courtroom and is rendering interpreting services by means of an audiovisual delivery system, such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or similar platform. "Where the interpreter is remote" and "remote interpreter" is used interchangeably in this section.

This includes all situations where the interpreter is outside the courtroom, including when the interpreter is:

- At home;
- In the courthouse, but in a different room;
- A different courthouse building;
- A different location within the same county; or
- Performing remote interpretation for another county or another region.

Did your court conduct court proceedings where the interpreter was remote (outside of the courtroom) during FY 2021-22?

- Yes, our court conducted court proceedings where the interpreter was remote during FY 2021-22
- No, our court did not conduct court proceedings where the interpreter was remote during FY 2021-22, and has no plans to in the future
- No, our court did not conduct court proceedings where the interpreter was remote during FY 2021-22, but will begin to in the future

## **Section 7: Status of Court Proceedings where Interpreter was Remote**

How often were remote interpreting events successful at your court during FY 2021-22?

A successful remote interpreting event is when all parties could hear and see each other and no there was no continuance due to technical issues.

- Never (remote interpreting events were NEVER successful)
- Sometimes
- About half the time
- Most of the time
- Always (remote interpreting events were ALWAYS successful)

Will your court continue to conduct court proceedings with a remote interpreter during FY 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)?

- Yes
- No

## Section 8

### Section 8: Additional Comments Regarding Language Access Needs and Services

Please discuss any other language access needs not covered elsewhere in the space below:

Powered by Qualtrics

# LANGUAGE ACCESS METRICS REPORT

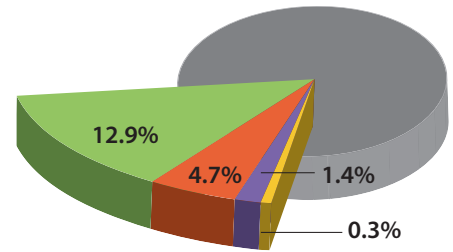
The Judicial Council Language Access Services Program—comprising the Language Access Implementation unit and the Court Interpreters Program unit—works with the Language Access Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel to develop policy and support branch efforts to achieve and maintain access to justice for California’s limited-English-proficient and deaf or hard of hearing court users. This report summarizes California data, as of June 30, 2021, including statewide efforts to make comprehensive language access a reality in the courts.

## Language Access in California

Language access allows limited-English-proficient (LEP) individuals access to a wide range of services. As defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, LEP individuals do not speak English as their primary language and may have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

In California, the most diverse state in the country:

- Over 200 languages are spoken;
- Approximately 44 percent of households speak a language other than English; and
- Nearly 7 million Californians (19 percent) report speaking English “less than very well.” (See figure at right.)



- Spanish
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Other Indo-European
- Other Languages

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2015)

**Primary Language of Californians Who Speak English “Less Than Very Well”**

## Language Access Plan Implementation—2020 Highlights

Spring	Summer	Fall
Council approval of the <i>2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study</i>	Growth of annual appropriation of court interpreter services to approximately \$130 million	Launch of the optional Court Interpreter Data Collection System interpreter portal

## Language Services During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the normal operation of court systems around the globe. The following data and information inform how the pandemic has affected the delivery of language services in the California courts and how the courts have responded.



In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, courts leveraged videoconferencing platforms to conduct court services.

(See Table 1.) The use of video remote interpreting (VRI), as well as telephonic interpreting, was critical from March to December 2020 to provide access to justice for LEP court users, with an enormous 1,692 percent increase in remote services.

During 2020, the number of telephonic and VRI interpreter services increased exponentially.

**Table 1: Video Remote Interpreting: Number of Interpretations by Method, 2020\***

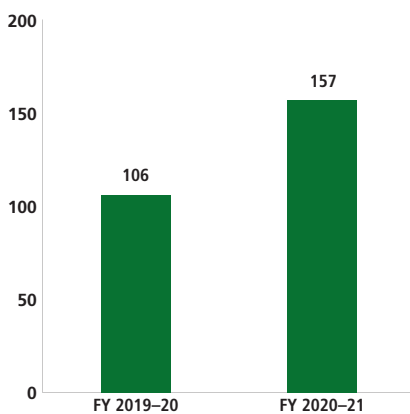
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
In person	36,273	32,682	21,114	3,641	5,750	15,850	22,768	21,985	23,806	28,046	28,708	27,440
Telephonic	91	85	78	146	161	408	543	446	532	819	923	1,195
VRI	34	20	172	654	891	1,338	1,839	2,123	2,215	2,859	2,855	3,285
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>23,797</b>	<b>21,364</b>	<b>4,441</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>17,596</b>	<b>25,150</b>	<b>24,554</b>	<b>26,553</b>	<b>31,724</b>	<b>32,486</b>	<b>31,920</b>

\* The data reporting for July through December 2020 is incomplete; the numbers may increase slightly in future reporting. Source: Judicial Council Court Interpreter Data Collection System, fiscal year (FY) 2020–21.

## Translations

The Judicial Council has master agreements with two translation vendors—Avantpage and Prisma—for translation services. Copies of the master agreements are available at [www.courts.ca.gov/procurementservices.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/procurementservices.htm).

Since 2019, the Judicial Council Language Access Services Program has assisted in translating forms, vital documents, and online information into multiple languages. As the figure below shows, the number of court forms that were translated increased from 106 in FY 2019–20 to 157 in FY 2020–21 (as of May 2021). The languages vary, depending on the type of document and/or information being translated and include most of the top 10 languages in the state, primarily Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. Program staff continue to assist in translation of materials to better serve the public.



**Increase in Number of Translated Court Forms**

## Civil Expansion

Over the past five years, the California courts have made significant progress to provide interpreters in civil case types following the priority order dictated by Evidence Code section 756. As of June 2020, all 58 courts indicated that they were able to provide interpreters under all eight priorities. The languages provided and the estimated interpreter coverage for each priority vary by court. Recent information gathered regarding each court's estimated coverage will assist the Judicial Council with funding and other targeted efforts designed to help all 58 courts reach full expansion.

## Need for Interpreters

The Judicial Council Language Access Services Program conducts a statewide survey of the courts annually to gather information on current language services provided, trends in local court language needs, and innovations used to meet those needs. The survey identifies the top languages for which recruitment of interpreters is needed from the four interpreter bargaining regions (see figure on page 3).

Efforts are underway for the Judicial Council to develop a more robust statewide recruitment initiative to increase the pool of qualified interpreters and bilingual staff and to assist near-passers of the Bilingual Interpreting Exam (BIE).

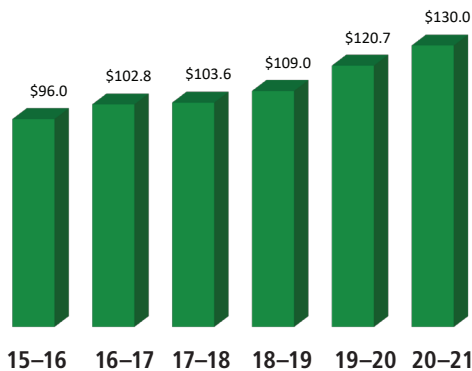
Identified Current Interpreter Needs



Note: The graphic shows the number of courts, by region, that indicated they need more interpreters in the languages shown. The Other language category includes nondesignated languages and Indigenous languages of Mexico and Central America.

Growth of the Court Interpreter Fund

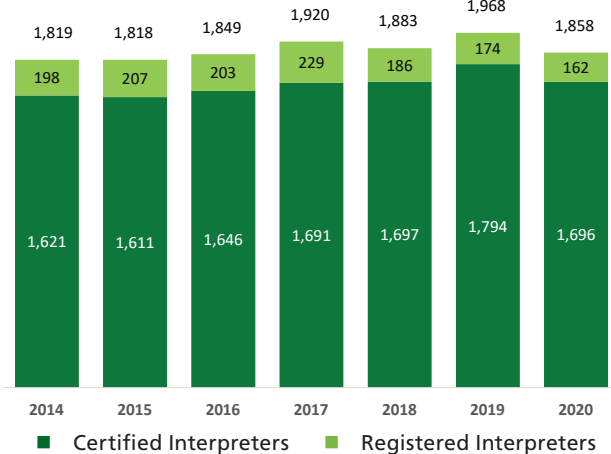
- In recent years, the annual appropriation for court interpreter services has grown from \$96 million in FY 2015–16 to \$130 million in FY 2020–21. (See figure below.)
- For the past few years, the state appropriation has fallen short in providing the courts with enough funding for full reimbursement of their reported allowable court interpreter expenditures.
- The expansion of interpreter services for civil matters and increased costs in mandated cases have led to shortfalls that require ongoing resources.



Annual Appropriation on Interpreter Funding, per Fiscal Year

Court Interpreter Pool

- As of June 2021, 1,858 certified and registered court interpreters—by far the largest court interpreter workforce in the nation—are on the Judicial Council’s Master List. (See figure below.)
- The Master List ([www.courts.ca.gov/35273.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/35273.htm)) allows courts and members of the public to search for court certified, registered, and enrolled interpreters who are in good standing with the Judicial Council.
- Interpreters on the Master List have passed the required exams and officially applied with the Judicial Council. Application requirements include submitting an application to the Judicial Council, paying an annual fee of \$100, and taking the online “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts” course.
- Of those 1,858 court interpreters, 1,696 are certified and 162 are registered. (See figure below.)



Number of Certified and Registered Court Interpreters (2014–2020)

Note: In California 1,858 interpreters are credentialed—certified or registered or both—in at least one language. Some interpreters hold multiple credentials in multiple languages. The total number of certifications and registrations held by this interpreter workforce is 2,123.

**FAST FACTS**

California has the largest interpreter workforce in the nation.



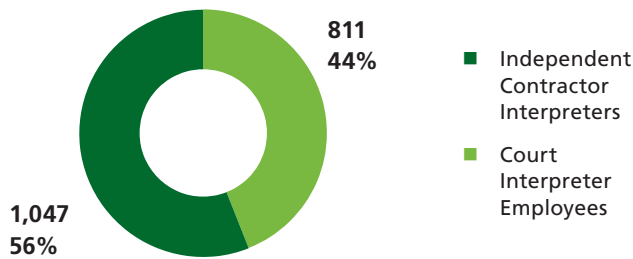
**Table 2: Number of Certified Court Interpreters for California’s Top 10 Most Frequently Interpreted Spoken Languages\***

Language <sup>†</sup>	2017	2018	2019	2020	+/-
Spanish	1,373	1,367	1,398	1,336	-62
Vietnamese	53	55	59	58	-1
Mandarin	66	72	79	79	0
Cantonese	29	28	30	28	-2
Korean	60	60	61	55	-6
Punjabi	3	3	3	3	0
Russian	39	35	42	43	+1
Arabic	8	8	7	7	0
Farsi	1	10	10	10	0
Tagalog	4	4	5	6	+1

\* The top 10 most frequently interpreted spoken languages, ranked in this table, are from the *2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*.

† There are currently 55 court-certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in California. The other certified languages are Armenian (Eastern) (16 interpreters), Armenian (Western) (3), Khmer (Cambodian) (8), and Portuguese (4).

**Number of Interpreters, by Employment Status\***



\* For fiscal year 2019–20, employees accounted for 78.4 percent of court interpreter expenditures, and contractors accounted for 21.6 percent of expenditures.

Source: *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2019–20*.

**Table 3: Data on Interpreters of Top Three Interpreted Languages**

	Spanish	Vietnamese	ASL
Certified	1,336	58	55
Court Employees	670	26	10
Contractors	666	32	45
Average Age	56	59	62

**Table 4: Number and Percentage of Court Interpreters (Certified or Registered), by Age Span**

Age Span	Number of Interpreters*	Percentage of Interpreters
< 25	1	0.05
25–34	67	3.61
35–44	255	13.72
45–54	438	23.57
55–64	523	28.15
65–74	435	23.41
75–84	112	6.03
85+	10	0.54
No birth date provided	17	0.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* In California 1,858 interpreters are credentialed—certified or registered or both—in at least one language. Some interpreters hold multiple credentials in multiple languages. The total number of certifications and registrations held by this interpreter workforce is 2,123.

**Table 5: Number of Recent Passers of Bilingual Interpreting Exam Required for Qualification as a Certified Interpreter**

Language	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Spanish	45	47	56	23	34	0
Vietnamese	3	4	2	4	2	0
Mandarin	2	4	8	6	0	0
Farsi	0	1	9	0	0	0
Cantonese	2	0	1	3	0	0
Russian	2	1	0	2	4	0
Punjabi	1	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Armenian	1	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>

The Court Interpreters Program (CIP) suspended all in-person interpreting testing in 2020 to comply with health and safety mandates related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the summer of 2021, CIP gradually resumed court interpreting testing for the Written Examination, Oral Proficiency Examination, and BIE. In 2021, administration of the BIE was staggered over several weeks because of prohibitions on large gatherings and was limited to 200 candidates in four of the state’s most interpreted languages (Spanish,

Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Korean). For 2022, CIP plans to administer the BIE for all spoken certified languages for which there is an exam and continue administration of the Written Examination and Oral Proficiency Examination for the registered languages. The administrations will continue to follow health and safety mandates related to the pandemic.

## Interpreter Usage

The Judicial Council’s Language Access Implementation (LAI) unit prepares interpreter usage reports for the courts.

Consistent with the direction of the Judicial Council, LAI works directly with the courts to collect interpreter usage data in previously mandated case types, domestic violence case types, and the newly expanded civil case types. The reports are based on data entered in the Court Interpreter Data Collection System or provided by courts from their own internal systems.

- ▶ There were 766,805 statewide interpretations in FY 2018–19.
- ▶ Total interpretations in Spanish were approximately 665,415—approximately 85 percent of the statewide total.
- ▶ Total other-than-Spanish interpretations were 101,390.
- ▶ Some 27 percent of the total interpretations took place in Los Angeles County; Orange County had the second most, with 7 percent.

## Web Viewing Data

Table 6 shows the number of page views of the Court Interpreters Program and Language Access webpages for the past three years.

**Table 6: Number of Page Views (as of December 2020)**

Webpage	2018	2019	2020
Court Interpreters Program	76,257	64,376	45,124
Language Access	8,711	7,024	6,932
Language Access Toolkit	2,431	2,358	2,104

## Resource Links

Judicial Council of California  
[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts  
[www.courts.ca.gov/documents/CLASP\\_report\\_060514.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/CLASP_report_060514.pdf)

Language Access  
[www.courts.ca.gov/languageaccess.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/languageaccess.htm)

Language Access Toolkit  
[www.courts.ca.gov/lap-toolkit-courts.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/lap-toolkit-courts.htm)

Multilingual Materials and Resources for LEPs  
[www.courts.ca.gov/42863.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/42863.htm)

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness  
[www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm)

Court Interpreters Program  
[www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm)

Language Need and Interpreter Use Study  
[www.courts.ca.gov/documents/2020-Language-Need-and-Interpreter-Use-Study-Report-to-the-Legislature.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/2020-Language-Need-and-Interpreter-Use-Study-Report-to-the-Legislature.pdf)

## Contact Information

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 Court Interpreters Program  
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Language Access Implementation  
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## **2022 PAF Language Access Subcommittee Annual Agenda Accomplishments**

### **1. Model Translation Guidelines for Courts (carryover project from 2021)**

Completed (TBD). Language Access Services developed a web-based guide that provides guidance for courts on the identification of vital documents for translation including local forms, local court web content, and other public-facing materials.

### **2. Update Bench Card on Working with Court Interpreters**

Completed (TBD). In October 2022, the revised Bench Card was shared with PAF and will be posted to the Judicial Resource Network CJER website.

### **3. Evaluate Strategies to Support Courts with Implementation of California Rules of Court, Rule 1.300 (Language Access in Court Ordered Services)**

Completed. In April 2022, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) presented findings and potential strategies to support Rule 1.300 to the Language Access Subcommittee. In August 2022, PAF approved a workplan developed by Judicial Council staff to work with the NCSC to develop specific work products to support Rule 1.300 implementation.

### **4. Create Multilingual Instructional Materials for LEP Court Users on How to Participate Remotely**

Completed (TBD). In 2022, the Language Access Services staff worked with the NCSC and IT to create new instructional infographics and short videos to educate LEP court users on how to participate remotely in hearings for civil and family law matters, including actions involving an interpreter, using the Zoom platform. The final materials were translated into the top eight languages and posted on the online Self-Help Guide and shared with the Language Access Representatives.

### **5. Language Access Signage and Technology Grants**

Ongoing. In December 2022 (TBD), the council approved grants for 26 courts for Cycle 4 (FY 2022-23). Cycle 5 (FY 2023-24) will launch in June 2023.

### **6. Align Language Access Data Analytics with Branchwide Data Analytics Framework**

Completed (TBD). In 2022, the Language Access Services staff developed a data analytics tool to capture a narrow set of language access metrics to complement existing data sources. Staff launched the data analytics tool in October 2022. Data from the tool will be used for internal planning and to supplement the annual Language Access Metrics Report.

**Potential Projects for 2023 Annual Agenda (TBD)**

1. Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 5 (FY 2023-24)
2. Other TBD

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