

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP Title: Language Access in the California Courts

RFP Number: CFCC-2024-25-LP

May 7, 2025

1. **QUESTION:** Could you please clarify 2.4 (6) Workforce Development/Candidate Skills-Building Training? Who is the training catered to?

ANSWER: The live, virtual skills-building trainings are geared toward selected candidates who have previously taken the bilingual interpreting examination (BIE) for certified language interpreter status but did not pass the exam. These training courses include language specific or language neutral trainings and may be tailored for improving specific court interpreter skills that are tested in the BIE (such as simultaneous interpreting).

2. **QUESTION:** Is language proficiency assessment of bilingual court interpreter candidates a component of the language access service needs? If yes, can a vendor who supplies this specific service submit a response for that component of language access services?

ANSWER: Language proficiency assessment of bilingual court interpreter candidates is not part of this request for proposals.

3. **QUESTION:** On pages 4-5 of the RFP document (in the Description of Services and Deliverables section), several components of the project are mentioned, which include "Live Ethics Training for New Interpreters", "Interpreter Education," "Video Remote Interpreting Resources," "Workforce Development/Candidate Skills-Building Training," and "Skills Assessment of Court Interpreters." Could you expand upon your expectations of these components, and more specifically, would you be open to a contractor who can provide these types of trainings and assessments based on existing testing and training programs that have already been developed by the Contractor, and that has already been used to train and assess court and video interpreters, or is your intention to have a contractor who can build these programs essentially from the ground-up in partnership with your organization, specific to your needs?

ANSWER: The Judicial Council's Language Access Services (LAS) is seeking a Contractor who can expand our current library of educational resources for credentialed court interpreters or aspiring interpreters. LAS manages a learning management system that houses online interpreter courses developed to date, including interactive (click-through) courses and recorded webinars. Access to the interpreter education portal is limited to currently credentialed interpreters or provisionally qualified interpreters upon court request. Public education resources for aspiring interpreters are also available on the Judicial Council's Language Access Services website under: [Become a Court Interpreter](#).

Training materials developed to date will be shared with the selected Contractor to support the development of updated training content. For any courses on topics that have not yet been developed, the Contractor will be responsible for drafting course content, which will be reviewed and refined with input from Judicial Council staff. Therefore,

expertise in interpreter-related matters and the development of live or online training courses is essential for successful execution of the contract deliverables.

Non-Judicial Council courses may be linked to if they are publicly available, or may be used as source material for new courses if owned or developed by the Contractor. However, Contractors may not substitute their existing work products in place of developing the required contract deliverables.

4. **QUESTION:** Is the outcome of this program to modify or change the State's certification testing and training program (Certified Spoken Language Interpreter) or is this for a separate program (e.g., to essentially better assess an interpreter's knowledge of legal terminology and their ability to interpret accurately and professionally in a courtroom setting, but not actually change the current California certification requirements)?

ANSWER: Services under this contract are to support credentialed interpreters with professional development and professional standards and ethics, and to assist pipeline candidates with skills building to pass required examinations. Services also support the current Judicial Council testing requirements for certified and registered court interpreters. If testing requirements were to change during the life of the contract, the Judicial Council would work with the Contractor to guide any necessary updates to training content and/or materials.