

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
Request for Proposals
Exam Rating Services for Other Than Spanish Interpreter Certification Exams

RFP No: CFCC-2025-06-DM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

March 26, 2025

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Question #1: Would the Judicial Council of California be open to exploring the innovative AI-human collaboration to enhance evaluation processes and improve interpreter certification standards?

Answer: Exams must be rated by raters who undergo training and certification by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). For California-only examinations, raters must complete supervised training using NCSC materials, which can be provided to the selected vendor(s) upon request. All ratings of the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) must conform to NCSC exam administration and rating standards, which currently do not permit AI-assisted or AI-generated rating methods.

Question #2: For RFP Section 2.1 on page 4, please advise if it is the JCC’s intent to potentially award the contract to more than one vendor, how does a multiple vendor selection affect the funds available for this contract?

Answer: If more than one vendor is selected, funding for contracts will be allocated among the chosen vendors in amounts not to exceed \$150,000 in total per fiscal year. Depending on evolving business needs, contracts may be amended in the future to allow additional capacity.

Question#3: For deliverable 2 on page 7, will NCSC be involved in the approval of recruited raters?

Answer: While NCSC will periodically recruit and train raters for languages they support, the responsibility for recruiting and managing raters for both NCSC and California-only languages generally lies with the testing vendor, the rating vendor, and/or the managing organization, including the Judicial Council’s Court Interpreters Program. It is important to note that while the NCSC is not directly involved with the approval of recruited raters, they are responsible for providing NCSC-approved training and calibration exercises for NCSC exams to ensure raters meet the necessary standards for evaluating court interpreter exams.

For California-only examinations, raters must complete supervised training using NCSC materials, which can be provided to the selected vendor(s) upon request.

Question #4: For deliverable 2 on page 7, please provide the detailed rater qualifications and experience required.

Answer: The expected rater qualifications include, but are not limited to:

- Fluency in both English and the target language, with advanced proficiency in both spoken and written forms.
- At least 5 years of experience in court or legal interpreting.
- Completion of NCSC-approved training on rater scoring methods and error identification.
- Knowledge of legal terminology and court procedures in both languages.
- Participation in calibration exercises to maintain consistency in ratings.
- Ongoing performance evaluation to ensure accuracy and reliability in scoring.

Question #5: For deliverable 2 on page 7, please provide the detailed rater training requirements.

Answer: Rater training requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Completion of NCSC-approved training on rater scoring methods, including understanding the scoring rubric and assessing interpreter performance.
- Training on error identification to accurately detect and categorize errors in interpreter renditions.
- Participation in calibration exercises to ensure alignment in scoring and evaluation.
- Ongoing retraining or recertification to maintain accuracy and consistency in ratings.
- For California-only examinations, raters must complete supervised training using NCSC materials, which can be provided to the selected vendor(s) upon request.
- **Note:** The in-person rater training requirement may be waived by California.

Comprehensive details of qualifications, experience, and training requirements can be provided to the selected awardee(s) upon request.