



Language Access Plan for Vermont



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LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN FOR VERMONT

The fact is that if you have not developed language, you simply don't have access to most of human experience, and if you don't have access to experience, then you're not going to be able to think properly. - *Author: Noam Chomsky*

REFUGEE ARRIVALS

Arrivals	US Projected	US Arrivals	VT Projected	VT Arrivals
FY16	85,000	84,995	350	386
FY17	100,000	32,230	450 C=350 R=100	236 C=222 R=14
FY18	45,000	22,491	300	133
FY19	30,000	30,000	175	115
FY20	18,000	9,772	104	23
FY21	62,500*	11,411	100	47
FY22	125,000		300 refugees 180 Afghans	23 refugees 150 Afghans

The above numbers do not include SIV arrivals. In FY20, 9,235 SIV's and Amerasians arrived to the US from Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam. In FY21, 2,045* SIVs and Amerasians arrived to the U.S. from Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam.

* Ceiling revised upward from 15,000 as of 05/03/21

REFUGEE GROUPS RESETTLED IN VERMONT

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>
AFGHANISTAN				1**			150
BHUTAN	218	88	54	1		3	
BURMA	4	5	3	15	4	4	2
BURUNDI	5			8			3
D.R. CONGO	75	48	76	89	14	35	
ETHIOPIA		2					
IRAN	3						
IRAQ	1	18*				5	
SOMALIA	80	59		1	5		
SUDAN		1					18
SYRIA		14***					
TOTAL	386	235	133	115*	23	47	173

*includes 1 Iraqi SIV (technically not a refugee)

**includes 1 Afghan SIV (technically not a refugee)

***Resettled in Rutland County (all others in Chittenden County)

LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN VERMONT

Arabic, Bengali,
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian,
Cantonese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka,
Dzongkha, Farsi, French,
Georgian, German, Gujarati,
Hindi, Japanese, Karen, Kirundi,
Kinyarwanda, Lingala, Mai-Mai,
Mandarin, Moldovan, Nepali,
Nepali Sign Language, Pashto,
Punjabi, Romanian, Russian,
Spanish, Somali, Swahili, and
Vietnamese.



CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS- A. TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000D ET SEQ. ("TITLE VI")

Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives Federal funds or other Federal financial assistance.

VERMONT LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

‘the information outlines the agency’s provision of lifesaving services and the steps an individual should take to access lifesaving services.’ S.147

Lifesaving services should be broadly interpreted to include State-administered and state-funded services where substantial harm could occur if there is not linguistic access to information/services (even if death is not imminent).

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES

- Medicaid funded services and access to those services
- Water and ice safety/drowning education
- Hunting safety
- Lead poisoning and other poisoning and urgent health matters
- Public safety messages and alerts (not just COVID-19), including active shooter lockdowns, disease outbreaks, natural disaster responses, severe weather warnings (e.g. extreme cold, extreme heat, violent storms, flooding, etc.) that would be disseminated to the general public
- Court system: ensure that plaintiffs and defendants are provided with interpretation about all rights and responsibilities (including the right to interpretation services)
- Law enforcement/public safety: mandate that all levels (State, County, Municipal) of law enforcement/public safety employees are educated about and supported in using interpretation services (even in areas where they do not often encounter LEPs).

INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION SERVICES

Longest running Interpretation and Translation Service in VT

- Professionally-trained interpreters bound by Ethics
 - NCIHC, National Council on Interpreting in Health Care
 - IMIA—international Medical Interpreters Association
 - VT Judiciary

- Accuracy, Confidentiality, Impartiality
- Stayin within Role Boundaries

- 60 on-call employees who speak 25+ languages
- Phone, Zoom, WhatsApp, in-person
- Translation



STATE AGENCIES/OTHER PROVIDERS ACCESSING INTERPRETATION SERVICES THROUGH USCRI VERMONT

- Department for Children and Families
- Department of Health
- Department of Motor Vehicles

Other Community Providers... and many others

- BPD
- BSD
- CHCB
- CHCRR
- Central Vermont Medical Center
- Head Start
- Howard Center
- UVM MC
- WPD

QUESTIONS

