

Alison Segar
Vermont Language Justice Project
House Government Operations Committee
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The Vermont Language Justice Project requests funding to create evergreen videos or video sections to respond to specific kinds of disasters- such as power outages, water boil advisory, an earthquake, or a hazardous chemical spill. To produce 6 videos each in 15 languages (including English) would cost \$65,457.45

The Vermont Language Justice Project (VLJP) has always responded to crises. Established in 2020 to respond to the COVID pandemic by distributing safety messages in the ten most commonly spoken languages in Vermont, the videos were posted on YouTube and translations were sent to school districts in Chittenden County and the Vermont Department of Health. The audio files were distributed to school districts and sent out on their robocall systems.

In July 2023 VLJP responded to the severe flooding in Vermont within 24 hours, with messages in 16 languages about how to stay safe during flooding and very heavy rainfall. Within a week, our videos had over 2,000 views, and by mid-September had been viewed over 7,000 times.

This past week VLJP put out a video in 12 languages about “How to prepare for Possible Ice Detention or Arrest.” Within 5 days our videos had been watched over 2000 times.

Many people access websites in times of emergency. Some websites are quite cumbersome, and often require detective work to find the information needed.

VLJP continues to be informed by people with language access needs that websites in English are almost impossible to navigate if you don't speak the language. If you cannot read or write in your own language, it is impossible and if your language is not a written language it is hopeless!

The current Emergency Management Website has many great resources for folks with language access needs, but they are difficult to find, and are all written, with the title only in English.

It is very clear that videos spoken in multiple languages distributed through VLJP's wide network of service providers, service users and community members has been extremely successful. In the case of an emergency, Vermont Language Justice Project can respond with information in multiple languages in multiple formats (translations, audio files and video) usually within 24 hours. No translation service can provide this and no one within the State has the wide distribution network that VLJP has.

The cost to produce 6 videos each in 15 languages (including English) would cost \$65,457.45

Please find this estimate attached.