

“FEMA Speaks Your Language”

**Providing Meaningful Language Access
to LEP Communities**



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FEMA Speaks Your Language



العربية

Bengali

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Português,

Brasil

Русский

Albanian

Swahili

Tagalog

Authorities

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. 2000d
- Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 159 outlines some factors that constitute meaningful access, including:
Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 — National Origin Discrimination Against Persons With Limited English Proficiency; Policy Guidance, Civil Rights Division, DOJ (2000)
- Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 308 (1988)
Nondiscrimination in Disaster Assistance covers race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, and economic status.
- E.O. 13166, *Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency* (August 2000)
- E.O. 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government* (January 20, 2021).



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LEP Data – Limited English Proficient Populations

- Most spoken languages in the U.S.
 - English – 254 million native speakers
 - Spanish – 43,200,000 million
 - Chinese (including Cantonese, Mandarin, other native speakers) – 2,900,00 million
 - Tagalog – 1,610,000 million
 - Vietnamese – 1,400,000 million
 - French and French Creole – 1,281,300



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Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

A Federal Interagency Website

LEP.gov
Mission Statement

LEP Information

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Executive Order 13166](#)

[Resources by Subject](#)

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[Demographic Data](#)

[LEP Mapping Tools](#)

LEP Resources and Compliance

[Federal Agency LEP Plans](#)

[LEP Guidance for Recipients](#)

[DOJ LEP Guidance for Recipients](#)

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Limited English Proficient (LEP) Maps

Language Map App

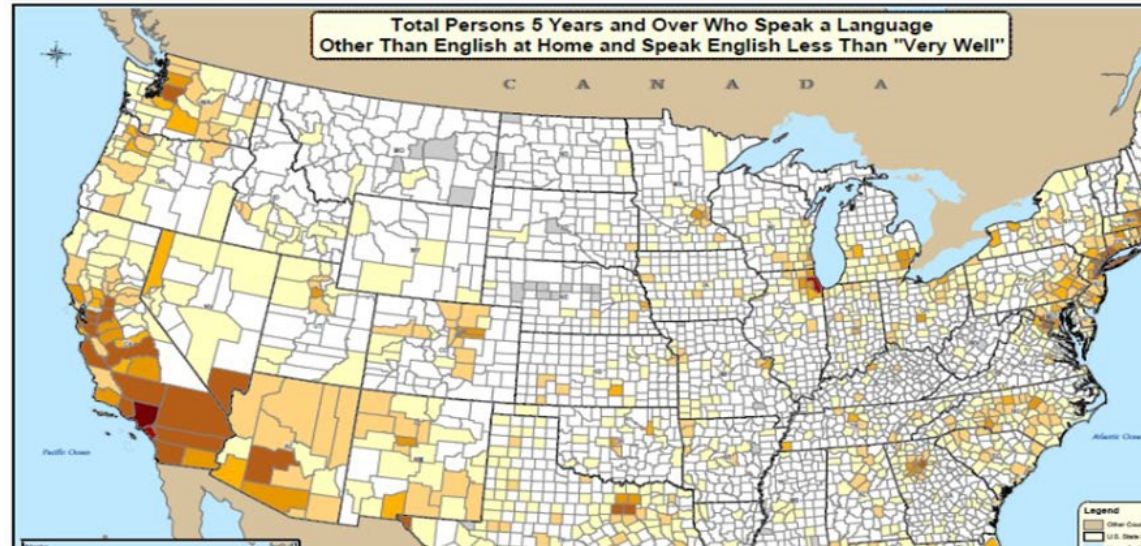
The Civil Rights Division's Language Map App is an interactive mapping tool that helps users find the concentration of and languages spoken by LEP individuals in a community. Click on your state or county to identify the number or percentage of LEP persons, download language data, or visually display maps for presentations. We encourage users to test the features of the Language Map App and provide feedback to help us improve functionality.

Year of app data

[Language Map App](#)

[Accessible Alternative with Downloadable Data](#)

Additional LEP Maps

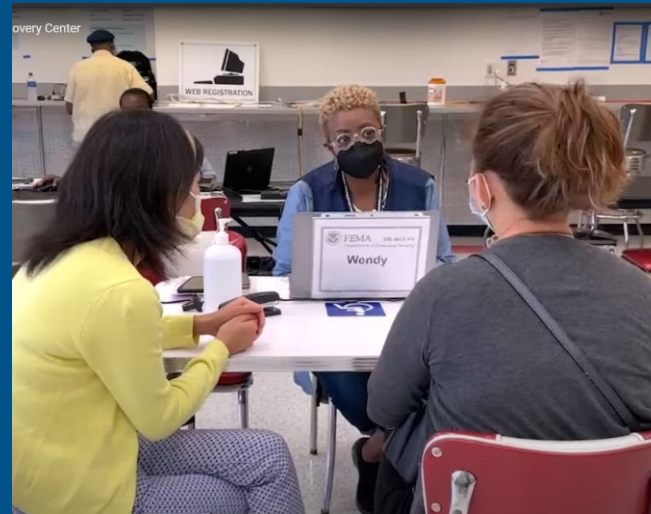


Programs and Services

- Sheltering and feeding
- Distribution of emergency supplies
- Support for individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs
- Support for household pets, assistance animals
- Crisis Counseling
- Disaster Legal Services
- Temporary housing
- Home repair assistance (roofing, water heater or furnace, electrical panel)
- Mold remediation assistance
- Essential household items
- Necessary expenses (medical, dental, funeral expenses)

Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams





Case Study - Typhoon Merbok

- Tribal and Native Alaskan languages (predominantly spoken languages)
- Yupik and Iñupiaq Dialects
 - Central Alaskan (Yugtun) Yupik vs. Siberian Yupik
 - Seward Peninsula (Bering Strait) Iñupiaq vs. North Alaska/Canadian Iñupiaq
- Language vendors under DHS Bulk Purchase Agreement
- Issues of timeliness and quality control

KYUK | By [Emily Schwing](#)

Published January 7, 2023 at 4:54 PM AKST



Alaska State News

Lost in translation: FEMA sent 'unintelligible' disaster relief application information to Alaska Natives impacted by Typhoon Merbok

FEMA aid for Alaska Natives after destructive storm came with bizarre mistranslations

POLITICS · ALASKA

‘Your husband is a polar bear, skinny’: FEMA fires translators who sent gibberish to Alaskan Native Americans after a typhoon

FEMA's Help For Alaska Natives Had Mistranslations, Nonsense

Documents aimed at helping Alaska Natives apply for aid following typhoon damage last fall featured nonsensical phrases instead of useful instructions.

AP Mark Thiessen

FEMA fires group for nonsensical Alaska Native translations

Updated: Jan. 18, 2023, 10:08 a.m. | Published: Jan. 18, 2023, 10:07 a.m.

DHS Encounters with Indigenous Languages

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Mixteco	Awateko	Quiche	Kanjobal/ Q'anjobol
Kanjobal/ Q'anjobol	Quiche/K'iche	Mam	Mam
Quichua	Mam	Kekchi	Quiche/K'iche
Poqomchi	Kanjobal/ Q'anjob'al	Quichua, Canar Highland	
Enawene-Nawe	Zapotec	Quechua	
Chuj	Quechua	Acateco	
Mam		Kanjobal/ Q'anjobol	

Other indigenous languages encountered include: Ixil; Quichau, Chimborazo Highland; Quiche-Achi; Mixtec; Quichua, Salasaca Highland; Trique; Tzotzil; Cubolco Achi; Chuj, Ixtatan.





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