“FEMASpeaks Your Language”

Providing Meaningful Language Access
to LEP Communities
FEMA Speaks Your Language

 العربية Bengali Greek English Español Français हिंदी Kreyòl Italiano 日本語 한국어 Burmese Polski 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.
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
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 concentration of and languages spoken by LEP individuals in a community. Click on your state or enter a zip code 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: 2013

Language Map App | Accessible Alternative with Downloadable Data

Additional LEP Maps

Total Persons 5 Years and Over Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home and Speak English Less Than “Very Well”
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

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

‘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.
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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Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO)
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