



## **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Updates Agency Language Access Plan**

WASHINGTON – The United States Commission on Civil rights announced today the release of its updated federal agency language access plan. The updated language access plan comes on the one-year anniversary of Attorney General Merrick B. Garland’s language access [memorandum](#) to federal agencies and features the Commission’s commitment to providing more reports and agency events with appropriate language access via translation and interpretation.

In November 2022, Attorney General Garland directed federal agencies to revise their language access plans, share best practices and exchange information about language access initiatives and efforts in compliance with [Executive Order 13166](#), “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency.” He tasked the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, which is responsible for ensuring consistent and coordinated government-wide compliance with [Executive Order 13166](#) and [Title VI, with leading this effort](#).

“Providing meaningful language access to all communities is a fundamentally important responsibility of our federal government,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “Today marks an important step towards including all people in federal conversations about health, work, justice and the environment. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners across federal government and community stakeholders to implement these new language access plans and ensure that the door to the government’s services and programs is open to all, regardless of English proficiency.”

The Commission’s federal agency language access plan can now be found <https://www.usccr.gov/reports/2023/limited-english-proficiency-plan> and on [www.LEP.gov](http://www.LEP.gov), a website maintained by the Civil Rights Division.

The Justice Department also announced the launch of a new interagency federal working group, the Federal Language Access Working Group, that will allow federal agencies to exchange best practices and share language access resources for federal agencies and recipients of federal financial assistance. The Commission looks forward to joining this important effort as we implement our new plan.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).