

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. AYUDA: Legal, Social, & Language Services
2. ITARC: Technical Assistance & Training on Language Access Planning
3. Limited English Proficiency: A Federal Website
4. The Federal Agency LEP Guidance for Recipients: Clearinghouse on language access
5. Language Access Assessment & Planning Tool: Guidance Tool Developed by the Dept. of Justice
6. ABA Commission on Domestic Violence: Provides language services to survivors of domestic violence
7. Legal Services Corporation: Provides information programs that provide language access services across the United States.



LEARN MORE

RESOURCES PROVIDED
WERE ADAPTED FROM
THE ASIAN PACIFIC
INSTITUTE ON
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
INTERPRETATION
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE &
RESOURCE CENTER

WWW.ITSONUS.ORG



FREE LANGUAGE
ACCESS RESOURCES
FOR SURVIVORS

WWW.ITSONUS.ORG

USE THIS RESOURCE TO:

Use this resource to provide survivors with information on their rights to support resources written in their primary language.

According to the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) Executive Order, also known as Executive Order 13166 signed by President Bill Clinton, people whose primary language is not English should also have meaningful access to federally conducted and federally funded programs and activities.

LANGUAGE ACCESS:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 10% of residents in the country identify as Limited English Proficient (LEP). Although we often learn new languages growing up, our native languages are not chosen. Language privilege is a term used to describe when a certain language allows you to have easier access to social, political, educational, or financial services. Language privilege can be used to assert power over an individual, especially in an abusive relationship. Abusers with language privilege are also more likely to be believed over the survivor in many systems. Language access is critical for survivors seeking services and justice.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1962 prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin. It states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

In relation to college and university campuses, the protections apply to all colleges and universities—public or private—that receive federal financial assistance. Its protections extend to all aspects of these institutions’ programs and activities. The Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education is responsible for enforcing Title VI in schools and ensuring equal access to education services, benefits, and against retaliation of those who report violations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Encourage your campus to conduct a climate survey that includes data on language accessibility needs. The Justice Department recommends answering the following:

1. The number or proportion of LEP (limited english proficiency) persons eligible to be served; the frequency with which LEP individuals come in contact with the Title IX or Victim Services Office; the nature and importance of the services provided by the school to people’s lives; and, the resources available to the Title IX Office or other related office at your school. As indicated above, the intent of this guidance is to ensure meaningful access to LEP campus community members to critical services.
2. Ensure that anyone who is a part of the response to survivors of sexual violence is able to identify when language access is needed, and that they know where to go to find it.
3. Work with your campus prevention and response team to develop awareness documents and an outreach plan to inform students who may need language services that they are available.
4. Encourage your school to develop policies on language access resources to ensure it stays in practice over time. One way to do this is to develop a Language Access Plan. Learn more at [ItsOnUs.org](https://www.ItsOnUs.org) about how to do this.
5. Set dates for your campus to re-evaluate the need for language access regularly (maybe once a year), to ensure your institution is always providing the most relevant resources.

IT'S ON

