



What is the Language Interpreter Center?

The Language Interpreter Center is a collaborative state-wide effort to provide qualified language interpreters and translators for social service agencies, state and federal government, for-profit and non-profit businesses and medical care providers in Alaska.

The Alaska Institute for Justice, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the human rights of all Alaskans, houses the Language Interpreter Center.

What are the goals of the Language Interpreter Center?

- Provide qualified interpreters to government, business and service organizations for Alaskans with limited English proficiency.
- Train interpreters and translators in statewide medical, legal, social service and community interpreting.
- Offer training and workshops for groups and agencies on the roles, responsibilities and professional ethics of qualified interpreters.
- Help agencies create a comprehensive and meaningful language access plan.

Why would the Language Interpreter Center benefit me as an interpreter?

- The Language Interpreter Center will assess the skill level of applicants.
- The Language Interpreter Center will provide interpreter training, employment opportunities and career paths for eligible applicants.
- Eligible applicants who have completed our training program will be listed on a registry of interpreters and paid for interpreting assignments through the Language Interpreter Center.
- The Language Interpreter Center will connect interpreters with customers needing interpreters throughout Alaska.

How do I enroll with the Language Interpreter Center?

- Fill out a registration-of-interest application.
- Fill out a self-assessment questionnaire
- Participate in our screening process.

What is the purpose of the screening?

Our screening process is used to determine the language skills of the applicant. The screening process includes the following steps:

- Successfully pass the written and oral assessments.
- Complete a background check

Who will be conducting the training, how do I enroll, and what is the cost?

- Eligible applicants who have been selected through our screening process, have had a background check and have signed a contract with the Language Interpreter Center will have access to interpreter training through the Language Interpreter Center.
- Interpreter training costs vary.

What are the requirements to become a certified interpreter?

A certified interpreter has passed a national interpreter test. The Language Interpreter Center assists interpreters and provides the framework to become a nationally certified interpreter.

Requirements for certification will include:

- Participate in court specific or medical interpreter training classes.
- Passing national written and oral interpreting tests in English and the target language
- Adhering to a code of professional conduct
- Participating in continuing education development.

What are the beginning skills required to become an interpreter?

- Broad knowledge of English and another language.
- Ability to speak fluently and be readily understood in both languages.
- Ability to understand completely what others say in either language.
- Good memory skills.
- Knowledge of specialized vocabulary and concepts in the areas of medicine and law.

How much do interpreters earn?

The compensation rate for interpreters will depend on the qualifications, and experience of the interpreter.