

What is the Equal Access Advocacy Project?

In 2019, Catholic Charities Language Services department received a Federal Grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, which operates under the US Department of Justice, to cater to the needs of victims and survivors of crime who often face barriers when navigating the US criminal justice system.

Our grant serves to fund the Equal Access Advocacy Project which seeks to improve language access capabilities within existing victims service agencies.

Language Services will be working with victim's service agencies state-wide to create practical, affordable language access plans that address the needs of crime victims with limited English proficiency (LEP), visual impairments, and/or members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Language access is made available through:

- Face-to-face interpretation
- Over-the-phone interpretation
- Remote video interpretation
- Document translation

By partnering with agencies who provide direct services to crime victims (including but not limited to: law enforcement agencies, victims' advocates, crisis centers, and medical providers), **we can identify the factors that hinder communication and create customized language access plans to improve the services provided to people who find themselves in vulnerable situations** and empower these individuals to seek justice and ultimately receive the care and support that they deserve.

Become a partner!

All participating agencies will be asked to join in partnership with Catholic Charities' Language Services program **until September 2021** (official project end date).

Through this partnership, you will automatically have access to our network of hundreds of qualified interpreters for in-person and online sessions as well as document translation services with a huge variety of languages represented.

As a participating agency, qualifying services qualify for pricing discounts, subsidized by grant funds, of 50% to 100%.

Participating agencies will each gain access to an Amazon Fire 7 tablet to aid with remote interpretation access.

This program will address Title VI compliance for all participating agencies by providing documents that lay out how to create a comprehensive language access plan for your organization.

We will also provide training to agency staff on how to work with professional interpreters, ultimately giving your organization the tools it needs to ensure the LEP clients are receiving the most comprehensive and effective care possible.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Examples of discrimination covered by Title VI include racial harassment, school segregation, and **denial of language services to English learners.**

Source: Office for Civil Rights,
US Department of Education

Join us!

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Catholic Charities of Louisville serves people in need, advocates for justice in social structures and calls the entire Church and others of goodwill to do the same. We welcome, strengthen and empower individuals to change the world for good, one relationship at a time.

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A grant program funded by Office for Victims of Crime and administered through Catholic Charities of Louisville Language Services.

