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Language Access Newsletter

January 2025

Welcome to the WASCLA Language Access Newsletter. We publish the newsletter bimonthly on alternate months between the Language Access Update calls. The newsletter is a place to share highlights from our work and from all of our Coalition network. Please send your ideas and submissions to us at: info@wascla.org

Strength in Unity: The Importance of Community During Challenging Times

WASCLA acknowledges we currently face a myriad of challenges. During such difficult periods, the importance of community becomes glaringly evident. Communities provide not just practical support, but also emotional resilience, solidarity, and a sense of belonging. From providing emotional and practical support to fostering resilience and a sense of belonging, communities play a pivotal role in helping individuals navigate through difficulties. By cultivating strong, interconnected communities, we can build a more supportive and resilient society capable of facing any challenge that comes our way.

We encourage you to reflect on the local communities you belong to, identify where you can contribute, and remember that in coming together, we all help one another heal and grow. It's not about doing everything yourself, but about using what we each have to strengthen our collective resilience.

How do you see our WASCLA community coming together during tough times?
Please let us hear from you! info@wascla.org

Our next update call is FRIDAY, February 21, 2025 @ 11a

Yes, it's on a new day in the new year! Hope you can join us to discuss what is going on in the world of language access throughout Washington.

ASL and Spanish interpretation will be provided. Please contact us at info@wascla.org by Feb. 7 regarding other accommodations.

[Register Here](#)

Language Access in the News 2025 Bills we are following

[HB 1174](#) Concerning court interpreters

[HB 1419](#) Requiring interpreters providing services under certain state contracts and purchase agreements to complete national fingerprint background checks.

[SB 5025](#) Concerning educational interpreters.

[SB 5123](#) Expanding protections for certain students to promote inclusivity in public schools.

WA Responds to Federal Executive Actions Impacting Language Access

Recent responses from state government include: :

[Keep Washington Working Act FAQ for Law Enforcement \(Attorney General\)](#)

[Protections for Immigrant Students in Washington's K-12 Public Schools](#)
(OSPI)

[Keep Washington Working Act: Guidance, Model Policies, and Best Practices for Public Schools](#) (Attorney General's Office)

[Gov. Ferguson establishes Rapid Response Team](#) (Office of the Governor)

These are a few of the many legal and community-based organizations which offer helpful information and resources, in multiple languages:

[OneAmerica](#)

[Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#)

[Northwest Justice Project](#)

[Washington Immigration Solidarity Network](#)

[National Immigration Law Center](#)

[Protecting Immigrant Families](#)

Upcoming Announcements and Events

Global Workforce Survey of Healthcare Interpreters

For the first time ever, the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) is mapping the entire medical interpreter workforce serving U.S. patients and healthcare providers through a groundbreaking Global Workforce Survey of Healthcare Interpreters. This historic effort aims to bring transparency to the profession, and interpreters worldwide are invited to share their experiences. This survey represents the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the profession.

The survey seeks input from interpreters working in any location - whether in-person or remotely - who facilitate communication in medical encounters in the U.S. including those who work full-time, part-time, or occasionally, across settings such as hospitals, clinics, insurance assessments, or legal-medical contexts, and encompasses both spoken and sign languages.

Participants will provide insights on their employment status, compensation, and job satisfaction. The data collected will spotlight real working conditions and pay, support advocacy efforts and help demonstrate interpreters' value to the organizations they serve.

This is a pivotal moment for the profession—contribute to meaningful change, take the survey, and help shape the future of their field and ensure YOUR voice is heard! Learn more and take the survey at <https://cchicertification.org/global-workforce-survey-hci/>

Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities February 13 Public Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Key topics to be discussed include:

- The shifting landscape of health equity efforts and challenges, and how we can stay strong and grounded in our shared values.
- Plans for 2025, including efforts to develop a Council community engagement strategy.

Council website: <https://healthequity.wa.gov/>

Final Rules Issued on Accessible Labeling for Prescription Medicines

On January 22, 2025, the [Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission](#) of the WA State Department of Health filed a rules adoption package (CR-103P) under [WSR 25-04-003](#) amending a section of rule — WAC 246-945-015 Minimum Requirements for Dispensing Practitioners — and creating four new sections of rule: WACs 246-945-026 Accessible Prescription Information — Definitions, 246-945-027 Accessible Prescription Information, 246-945-028 Accessibility of Prescription Information for Visually Impaired or Print Disabled Individuals, and 246-945-029 Translation and Interpretation for Prescription Information for LEP Individuals. The rule takes effect on January 22, 2027.

For more information contact Joshua Munroe, Rules and Legislative Consultant, by phone at 360-502-5058 or by email at PharmacyRules@doh.wa.gov.

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend 2025 Conferences

Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association

May 31, Portland OR

<https://ohcia.org/2025-ohcia-conference>

Massachusetts Medical Interpreter Training

Paving the Way to Health Care Access Conference

June 6-7, Boston MA

<https://www.massmedicalinterpreting.org/paving-the-way-conference/paving-the-way-2025/>

National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators

NAJIT 45th Annual Conference

June 6-8, Indianapolis IN

<https://najit.org/najit2025/>

National Council on Interpreting in Health Care

Language Access Congress: Age of Disruption, Innovation, and Adaptation

Sept. 25-27, Little Rock AR

<https://www.ncihc.org/language-access-congress-2025->

Connect with us on LinkedIn!

About Us

The Washington State Coalition for Language Access, known as WASCLA, is an education and advocacy organization that seeks to eliminate language barriers to essential services for all people living in Washington who have limited English proficiency and are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing.

Our approach is to build collaborations with community groups and public agencies to create alliances and partnerships to increase language service access.

[Learn More about Us](#)

Help WASCLA continue our language justice work year-round. Your financial support in any amount allows us to continue to provide the Language Access Update calls throughout the year, to gather in community, and to share knowledge and apply lessons learned to advocate for language access and services. Please [consider making a donation today.](#)

WASCLA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, EIN 90-0517290, which relies on contributions from our supporters. Donations to WASCLA are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

