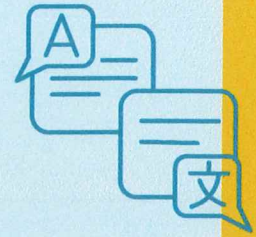


Improve language access in Colorado!

Support House Bill 25-1153

STATEWIDE GOVERNMENT LANGUAGE ACCESS ASSESSMENT

Rep. Velasco, Rep. Joseph



Why assess LANGUAGE ACCESS at state agencies?

LANGUAGE ACCESS helps Coloradans who speak different languages communicate with one another and receive important information in a way they understand. Language access can be spoken, signed, or written.

Around 900,000 Coloradans speak a language other than English. This includes more than 1 in 4 parents of children ages 0-5 and at least 300,000 people who need to use a language other than English to effectively communicate.

Civil rights law requires recipients of federal funding to provide language access. This requirement applies to most state agencies in Colorado.

Coloradans want to communicate effectively about their rights, responsibilities, and the critical public services that matter to their families, no matter what language they speak.

While many state agencies are working on language access, these efforts often happen separately and vary in quantity and quality. State agencies have said they want more guidance and coordination to meet language access needs.

HB25-1153 is a step forward in understanding and addressing language access in Colorado.

What is House Bill 25-1153?

HB25-1153 builds on the statewide language access policy being developed by the Interim Language Access Working Group. This policy will incorporate community input, and will set standards for effective language access in state agencies and state-funded programs.

This bill tells Colorado state agencies to **ASSESS CURRENT LANGUAGE ACCESS PRACTICES.**

THIS ASSESSMENT WILL...

- Identify existing language access materials and contracts
- Learn what support state agencies need to successfully meet the standards of the language access policy
- Determine what groups should follow the state's language access policy
- Produce a report by December 31st, 2026 summarizing findings and recommendations

After the assessment, a permanent group called a 'Community of Practice' will help state agencies make language access improvements based on the assessment and the statewide language access policy. This group will include community members with expertise and experience in language access.

These efforts will be led by the Colorado Office of New Americans, the Department of Personnel and Administration, and an outside language access expert.

Support for HB25-1153 Statewide Government Language Access Assessment

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