



LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Reference Guide: What is the D.C. Language Access Coalition?

What you need to know

The D.C. Language Access Coalition is an alliance of 41 community-based and civil rights organizations. Formed in 2002, the Coalition advocates for language access rights within D.C. as well as other social justice issues that affect local immigrant communities. A key agent behind the Language Access Act of 2004, the Coalition appears in the Act as a designated third party consultant for implementation issues. In addition to general implementation, the scope of the Coalition's consulting role extends specifically to the collection of data, the development of Biennial Language Access Plans, and the identification of additional covered entities with major public contact. Accordingly, the Language Access Director, who is the head of the Language Access Program that is housed within the D.C. Office of Human Rights, must keep the Coalition informed of program activities and give reasonable consideration to its input. In addition to performing this consultative role, the Coalition's work is currently focused on building advocacy capacity, strengthening internal processes, and developing outreach and education programs on language access.

Reference: District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, 4-1208.1-3

Additional resources

More information is available online at the Coalition's website: <http://www.dclanguageaccess.org>. Coalition member organizations include the following:

- American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area (ACLU-NC)
- American University School of Law - Immigrant Justice Clinic
- Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)
- Asian American LEAD
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC)
- Asian & Pacific Islander Senior Center
- Ayuda

- Bread for the City
- Cameroon American Council (CAC)
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- CentroNía
- CitiWide Computer Training Center
- Columbia Heights Shaw Family Support Collaborative
- Critical Exposure
- DC Area Health Education Center
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Employment Justice Center (EJC)
- DC Hunger Solutions
- DC LEARNs
- Ethio-American Health Center
- Ethiopian Community Center
- Ethiopian Community Services and Development Council
- La Clínica del Pueblo
- Language ETC
- Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)
- Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
- The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly/AARP
- Life Skills Center
- Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
- The Manuel Zapata Olivella Afro-Latino Development Center
- Many Languages One Voice
- Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care
- Multicultural Community Service (MCS)
- Neighbors' Consejo
- Renaissance Center for Culture and Education (RCCE)
- Vietnamese American Community Service Center (VACSC)
- Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- Washington National Cathedral Literacy Program