

LANGUAGE ACCESS METRICS REPORT

This report summarizes California data as of July 2023 (unless otherwise noted) to track statewide efforts to make comprehensive language access a reality in the courts. The Judicial Council’s Language Access Services Program is guided by the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel and the Language Access Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness to develop policy and support branch efforts to achieve and maintain access to justice for California’s court users who are limited English proficient (LEP) or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

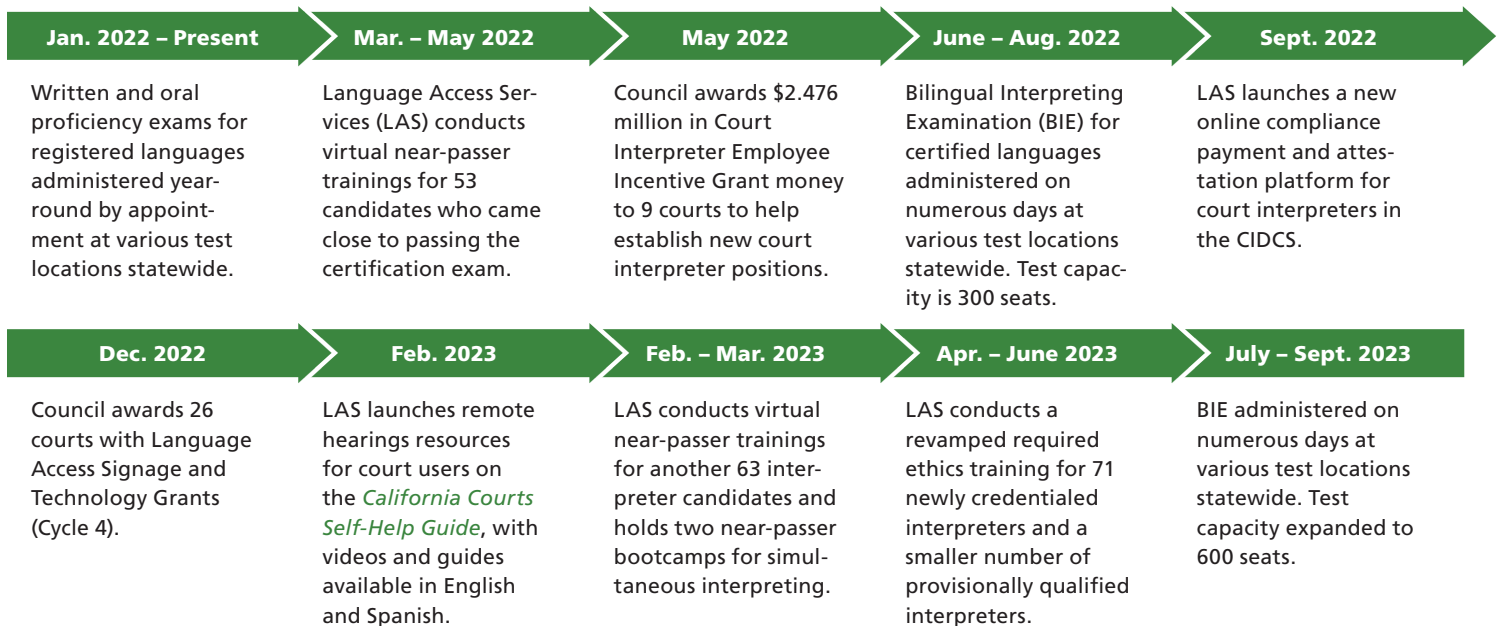
Language Access in California

Language access enables LEP individuals to connect with a wide range of services. As defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, LEP individuals do not speak English as their primary language and may have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

According to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates:

- Approximately 6.4 million Californians (17.2%) are estimated to speak English less than “very well.”
- Spanish is the most common primary language for Californians who speak English less than very well.

Language Access Highlights, 2022–2023

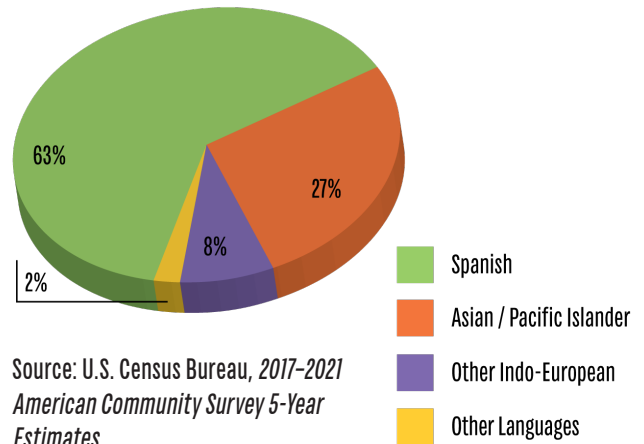


Interpreter Usage

The Judicial Council’s Language Access Implementation unit prepares interpreter usage reports for the courts. The reports are based on data entered in the Court Interpreter Data Collection System (CIDCS) or provided by courts from their own databases.

- There were 630,965 statewide interpretations during fiscal year (FY) 2021–22.
- Approximately 89 percent (562,561) of the interpretations were in Spanish.
- There were 68,404 interpretations in languages other than Spanish.

Primary Language of Californians Who Speak English Less Than “Very Well”



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017–2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Language Access Signage and Technology Grants

The Budget Act of 2018 provides ongoing grant funding of \$2.35 million for trial courts to update their courthouses with language access signage and technology-related infrastructure and equipment. The tables below summarize the number of signage and technology projects approved and awarded by the Judicial Council in each grant cycle.

Signage Project Type	Cycle 1 (FY 19–20)	Cycle 2 (FY 20–21)	Cycle 3 (FY 21–22)	Cycle 4 (FY 22–23)
Translation of signage	9	4	1	2
Multilingual wayfinding strategies	14	11	11	8
Non-electronic signage	6	2	4	1
Automated queue-management system	1	1	1	2
Translation of websites (added Cycle 3)	–	–	5	2
Total projects	30	18	22	15

Technology Project Type	Cycle 1 (FY 19–20)	Cycle 2 (FY 20–21)	Cycle 3 (FY 21–22)	Cycle 4 (FY 22–23)
Interpreter equipment	18	11	10	6
Telephonic/video remote solutions	8	22	15	6
Scheduling software	6	3	2	1
Multilingual videos	1	5	3	3
Infrastructure enhancements (audiovisual upgrades)	1	4	3	6
Multilingual kiosks	4	0	2	4
Total projects	38	45	35	26

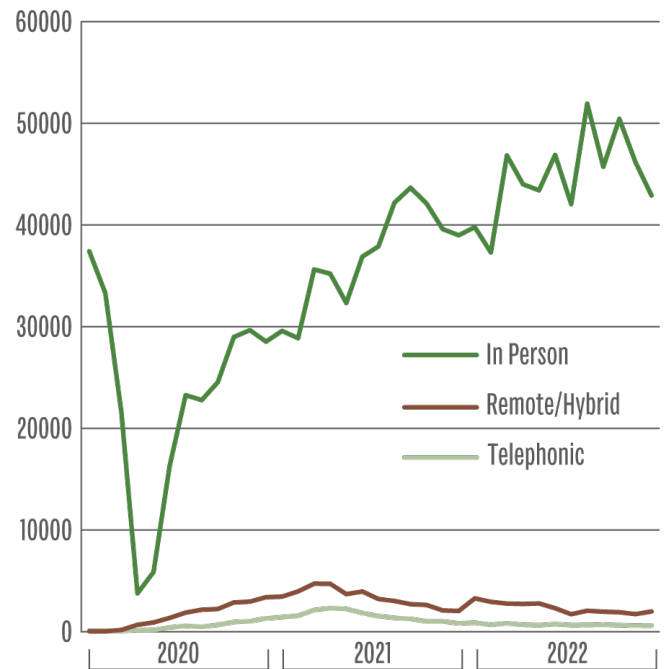
Providing Language Services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, courts expanded the use of videoconferencing and telephonic platforms to administer interpreting services to ensure that LEP court users continued to have equal access to the courts. For reference, just 1,546 interpre-

tations were completed through a telephonic platform in 2019. Even fewer interpretations were completed through videoconferencing platforms, with only 336 reported in 2019. In 2020 this number exploded to 5,970 telephonic interpretations and 18,618 remote/hybrid interpretations.

- Remote/hybrid and telephonic interpretations continued to experience growth, reaching their highest usage in spring 2021. In total, 40,146 remote/hybrid and 18,500 telephonic interpretations were reported that year.
- In 2022, remote/hybrid and telephonic interpretations reached their highest usage in January before experiencing a decline (28,123 remote/hybrid and 8,282 telephonic interpretations were reported for the year).
- Usage of remote/hybrid and telephonic interpretations did not return to pre-pandemic levels.

Remote/Hybrid Interpretations During the COVID-19 Pandemic



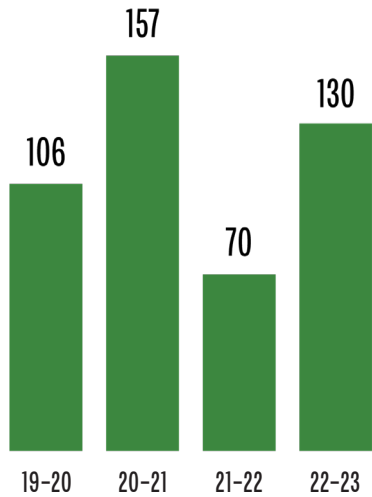
Source: Judicial Council Court Interpreter Data Collection System (CIDCS).

Translation Efforts

Each fiscal year the Language Access Implementation unit receives funding to support translation services. These funds were used to translate *Judicial Council forms*, the statewide *Self-Help Guide website*, trial court websites, videos, podcasts, and other materials.

A total of 130 forms were translated in FY 2022–23. Translated forms may be accessed at [Resources for Assisting Court Users](#) on the Language Access Services website.

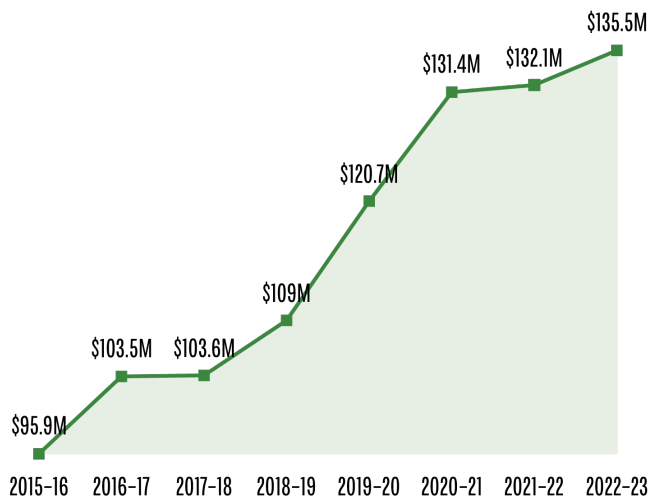
Translated Court Forms, by Fiscal Year



Growth of Court Interpreter Funding

The annual appropriation for court interpreter services grew from \$95.9 million in FY 2015–16 to \$135.5 million in FY 2022–23.

Court Interpreter Funding, by Fiscal Year



Court Interpreter Pool

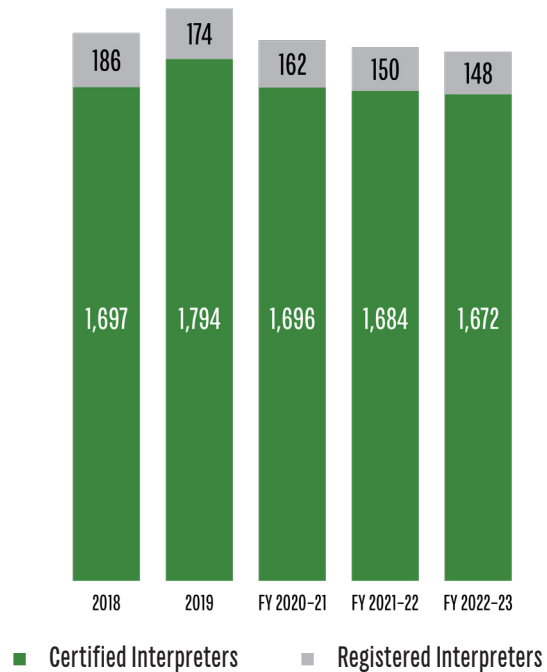
Some interpreters hold multiple credentials in multiple languages. The total number of certifications and registrations held by this interpreter workforce in FY 2022–23 is 2,091.

- As of July 2023, there were 1,820 interpreters on the Judicial Council’s Master List of certified and registered court interpreters: 1,672 are certified and 148 are registered.

- Of the 1,672 certified interpreters, 39 are credentialed in American Sign Language (ASL).
- The *Master List* allows courts and the public to search for active court interpreters who are enrolled with the Court Interpreters Program and are in good standing.

Unless otherwise stated, information in the following section summarizes data for California certified or registered (credentialed) court interpreters.

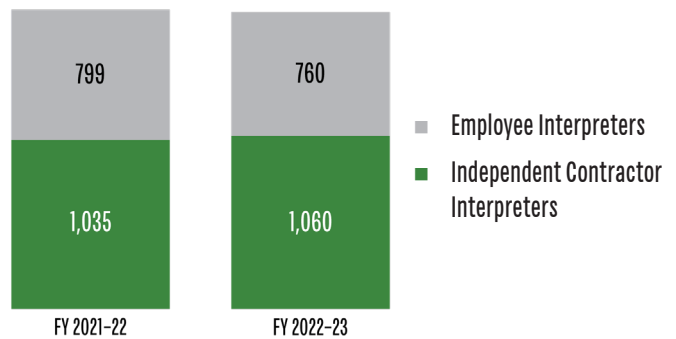
Credentialed Court Interpreters, 2018–2023



Note: Data on credentialed interpreters include certified ASL interpreters.

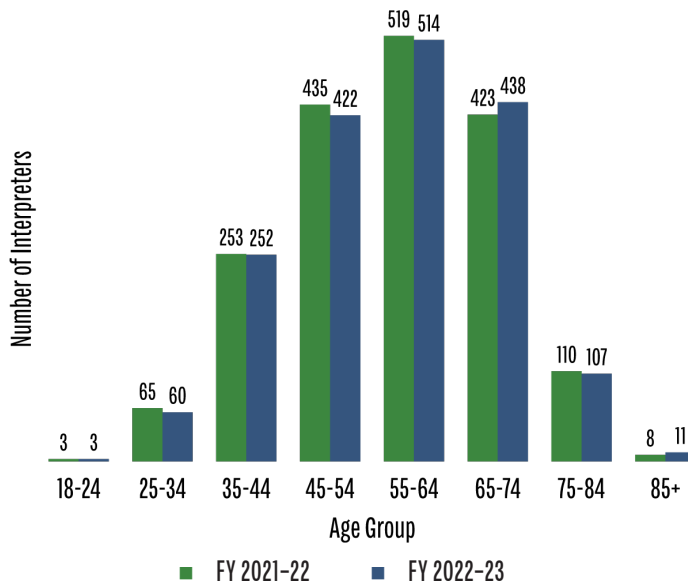
In 2021, the Language Access Implementation unit began collecting this data at the end of the fiscal year rather than calendar year.

Credentialed Court Interpreters, by Employment Status



Note: Information on an interpreter’s employment status is updated when a court or the interpreter notifies the Court Interpreters Program of a change in employment. In FY 2021–22, employees accounted for 78.3 percent of court interpreter expenditures and contractors 21.7 percent.

Credentialed Court Interpreters, by Age Group



Note: In FY 2022–23, 75.5 percent of the credentialed court interpreter pool was between the ages of 45 and 74. No birth-date was available for 18 interpreters in FY 2021–22 and 13 interpreters in FY 2022–23.

Certified Interpreter Pool

Number of Certified Court Interpreters for California’s Top 10 Most Frequently Interpreted Spoken Languages

Language	2018	2019	FY 20–21	FY 21–22	FY 22–23	+/-
Spanish	1,367	1,398	1,336	1,324	1,320	-4
Vietnamese	55	59	58	55	55	0
Mandarin	72	79	79	82	84	+2
Cantonese	28	30	28	28	27	-1
Korean	60	61	55	56	56	0
Punjabi	3	3	3	3	3	0
Russian	35	42	43	43	43	0
Arabic	8	7	7	6	8	+2
Farsi	10	10	10	10	12	+2
Tagalog	4	5	6	4	6	+2

Note: The top 10 most frequently interpreted spoken languages, ranked in this table, are from the 2020 *Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*. The other certified languages are ASL, Armenian (Eastern), Armenian (Western), Khmer, and Portuguese. Count does not total 1,820 because interpreters can be certified in multiple languages.

In 2021, the Language Access Implementation unit began collecting this data at the end of the fiscal year rather than calendar year.

Resumption of Testing

In early 2020, the Court Interpreters Program (CIP) halted all interpreting testing in response to the Governor’s prohibition against large gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CIP continued to work with its testing vendor to resume testing under state and local health and safety requirements and to provide more testing opportunities.

In 2022, the CIP resumed administering the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) for all spoken certified languages for which there is an exam. Testing was also available year-round for the Written Examination and the Oral Proficiency Examination. For the BIE, which is required for certified languages, test capacity was expanded to 600 candidates in July through September of 2023.

Number of Passers of BIE (Required for Qualification as Certified Interpreter)

Language	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Spanish	23	39	-	24	24
Vietnamese	4	2	-	0	0
Mandarin	6	2	-	3	1
Farsi	0	0	-	-	2
Cantonese	3	0	-	-	0
Russian	2	4	-	-	1
Punjabi (India)	0	0	-	-	-
Eastern Armenian	0	0	-	-	-
Filipino (Tagalog)	0	1	-	0	2
Korean	0	2	-	0	3

Note: A zero indicates no candidate passed the exam. A dash indicates no exam was administered for that language.

Near-Passer Training

Near-passer training has proven successful to increase the pass rate for the Bilingual Interpreting Examination, which previously averaged less than 10 percent.

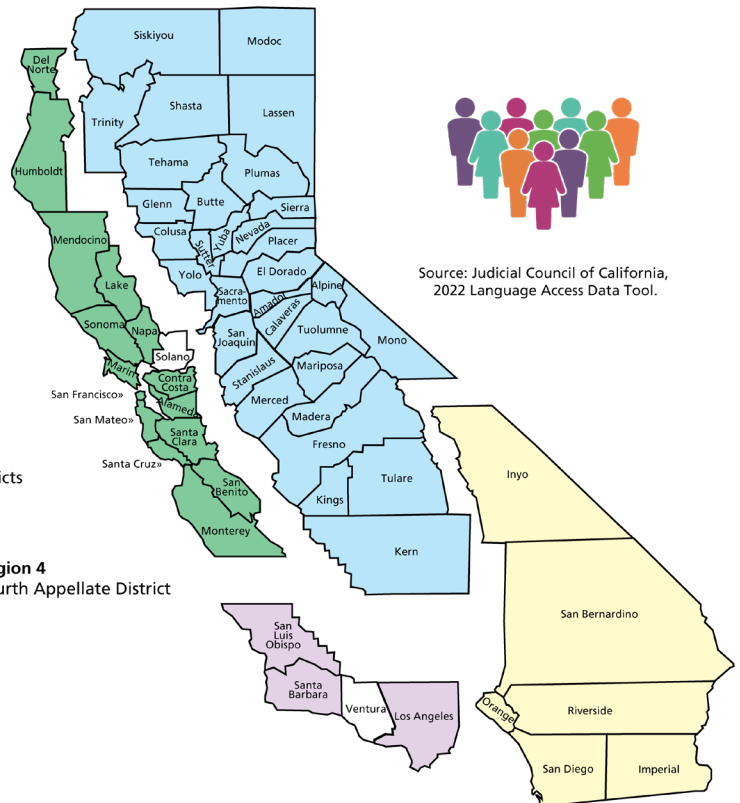
Pass Rate for BIE Candidates and Persons Who Participated in Near-Passer Training

	2021	2022
Total number of candidates	190	243
Pass rate	14% (27/190)	14% (34/243)
Total number of near-passer training participants who took the BIE	53	28
Pass rate	25% (13/53)	21% (6/28)

- Region 1**
Second Appellate District (except Ventura County)
 - Region 2**
First & Sixth Appellate Districts (except Solano County)
 - Region 3**
Third & Fifth Appellate Districts
 - Region 4**
Fourth Appellate District
- Arabic
 - ASL
 - Farsi
 - Punjabi
 - Spanish
 - Tagalog
- Arabic
 - ASL
 - Cantonese
 - Farsi
 - Korean
 - Mandarin
 - Other
 - Punjabi
 - Russian
 - Spanish
 - Tagalog
 - Vietnamese
- Arabic
 - ASL
 - Cantonese
 - Farsi
 - Korean
 - Mandarin
 - Other
 - Punjabi
 - Russian
 - Spanish
 - Tagalog
 - Vietnamese
- ASL
 - Korean
 - Spanish

Need for ASL and Spoken Language Interpreters

The map below shows courts by interpreting bargaining region and the need for more interpreters in the languages shown (listed in alphabetical order). The Court Interpreters Program is undertaking statewide recruitment efforts to increase the pool of qualified court interpreters.



Contact Information

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