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# Toward Language Access

*Small State, Early Steps*

# Vermont

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## Demographics

- Total Population: 620,000
- 31,000 people over the age of 5 speak a language other than English (5% of the population)
- 6000 refugees have settled in VT, primarily in the northwest in the past 25 years.
- No predominant second language.
- More than 40 languages represented in the Burlington School System.
- Interpreters are most often needed for Vietnamese, Mandarin, Bosnian, French, Nepali, Somali, Russian, Sudanese, Maay Maay, and Arabic.



# Early Steps

- Start somewhere – 211 translation service.
- Key documents.
- Membership is evolving.
- Policy is in development.
- The power of grants.
- Other communication needs – assisted typing

## Disabilities Council

s | Site Map | Contact

## Developmental Disabilities Council

Polosanski | 𑌒𑌒𑌒𑌒 | English | Français | नेपाली | pyeckopo | Somali | Español | Swahili |



Developmental Disabilities Council Members and Staff.  
September 2017. Fairlee, Vermont.

# Are there advocacy opportunities?

- **Vermont Judiciary** has a Language Access Plan (2017)
- **Vermont Medicaid** reimburses physicians for interpreter services.
- **Vermont Patients' Bill of Rights (18 VSA § 1852)** : In a hospital inpatient setting, “a patient who does not speak or understand English has a right to an interpreter if the language barrier presents a continuing problem to patient understanding of care and treatment.”
- **Medicaid** for supported typing.





# **NETWORKING DISCUSSION**

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**NYS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PLANNING COUNCIL**

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# SUGGESTED NETWORKING QUESTIONS

## **CONNECT | SHARE | ASK QUESTIONS**

- *How do you currently provide language access to people with developmental disabilities and their families? (i.e. another language, ASL, plain language, large print, individuals who use technology to communicate)*
- *What challenges do DD Councils face in their efforts to develop/implement language access plans?*
- *What is needed from a technical assistance perspective to be successful in this work?*



# RESOURCES FOR DICLC & LANGUAGE ACCESS

Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural and Linguistic Competence (DICLC Work  
Group Webinar Series)





# GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CENTER FOR CULTURAL COMPETENCE (NCCC)

## **NCCC Website**

<https://nccc.georgetown.edu/>

## **FOUNDATIONS**

## **SELF-ASSESSMENT**

## **DISTANCE LEARNING**

## **RESOURCES**

## **Information on Language Access Page**

[https://  
nccc.georgetown.edu/  
resources/language.php](https://nccc.georgetown.edu/resources/language.php)

- Resources by title
- Working with Linguistically Diverse Populations
- >Frequently Asked Questions





# ITACCHELP.ORG WEBSITE

## DICLC PAGE

<https://itacchelp.org/diversity-inclusion-cultural-linguistic-competence-diclc/>

- Archived Webinars
- DICLC Resources
- DD Council Strategies (Under construction – Email Angela)
- Technical Assistance Institute (TAI) Resource Materials



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING



final  
thoughts