The Executive Office for Immigration Review Releases Language Access Plan

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the release of its official language access plan, the first of a kind for the agency. The release of the EOIR Language Access Plan is a commitment in writing to providing meaningful access to those with limited English proficiency to EOIR’s programs and activities, and it is the latest plan to display the Department of Justice’s commitment to the language access principles of Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (August 11, 2000).

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 19.7% of the population over the age of five speaks a language other than English at home. Further, 44.2% of that group speaks English less than “very well.” Many of the persons with whom EOIR communicates speak a language other than English.

EOIR’s Language Access Plan, available here, describes the efforts the agency currently takes to assist those with limited English proficiency and outlines the steps the agency plans to take to increase and improve those efforts, such as full and complete interpretation nationwide within one year of the plan’s implementation. EOIR is pleased that it was able to take into consideration so much stakeholder input during the deliberation process that led up to today’s release.

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