

# Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts: Update on Implementation

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Presentation to Judicial Council    February 26, 2016

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Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force

## Overview

- **Progress Report** on Language Access Implementation Task Force
- **Major steps** involving interpreters, tools for courts, technology, and education
- Recommend approval of:
  - Model Notice for LEP Court Users



**Core ideas:** recognizing courts' broader priorities & funding needs; and sticking to the plan approved by the Judicial Council.

## Then and Now...

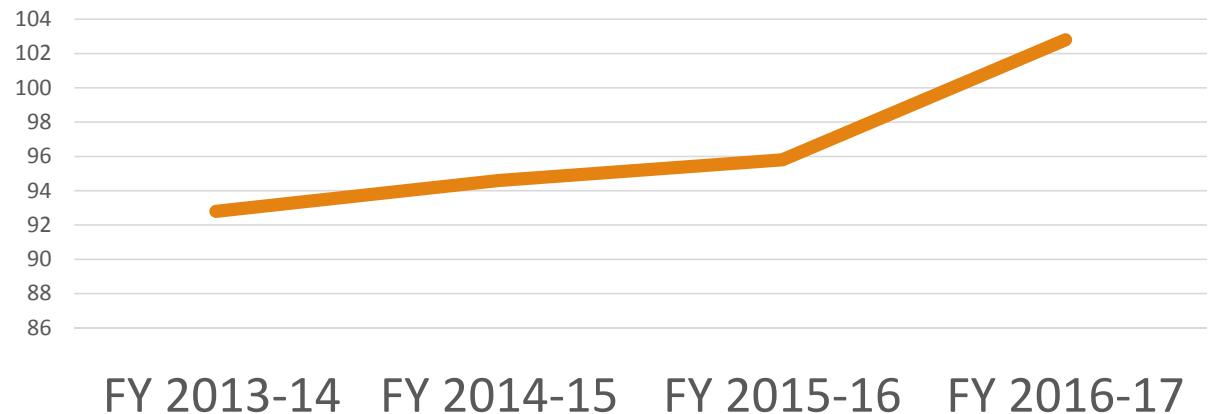
- **THEN:** No Language Access Plan
- Interpreters rarely provided in civil matters
- Program 45.45 funding relatively static
- **NOW:** Passage of AB 1657 (2015), codifying priority order for interpreters in many civil case types
- Courts now routinely provide interpreters in many civil cases; 45.45 fund expected to grow

## Why we have an opportunity...

- Growing interest from throughout the branch
- Development and adoption of Language Access Plan



Anticipated **Growth** of Program 45.45 Fund  
Appropriation (in \$ Millions)



# Strategic Plan for Language Access

- ✓ Adopted by the Judicial Council on January 22, 2015
- ✓ Contains 75 recommendations (44 in progress, 3 done)
- ✓ 26 members, 4 subcommittees

Primary Goal: To ***develop and support a culture*** in which language access is considered a ***core court service*** in every courthouse

## STRATEGIC PLAN FOR LANGUAGE ACCESS IN THE CALIFORNIA COURTS



# Implementation Task Force

Feedback has been enormously helpful from interpreters, trial courts, lawyers, community groups, and members of the public



*We can't do this work without funding.*

*Interpreters are being provided on an as-available basis, which often means only Spanish-speaking.*

*We need clear protocols for requesting an interpreter and court staff should be trained on all LAP changes.*

Stakeholder  
Input



## The Task Force Responds:

- ✓ Budget Change Proposals
- ✓ Survey of trial courts
- ✓ Model Request for Interpreter
- ✓ Development of tools for courts
- ✓ Language Access Toolkit
- ✓ Judicial education



# Implementation Highlights

## Budget & LAP Monitoring:

- ✓ \$7M additional funding to expand provision of interpreter services
- ✓ LAP Monitoring Database
- ✓ Language access survey

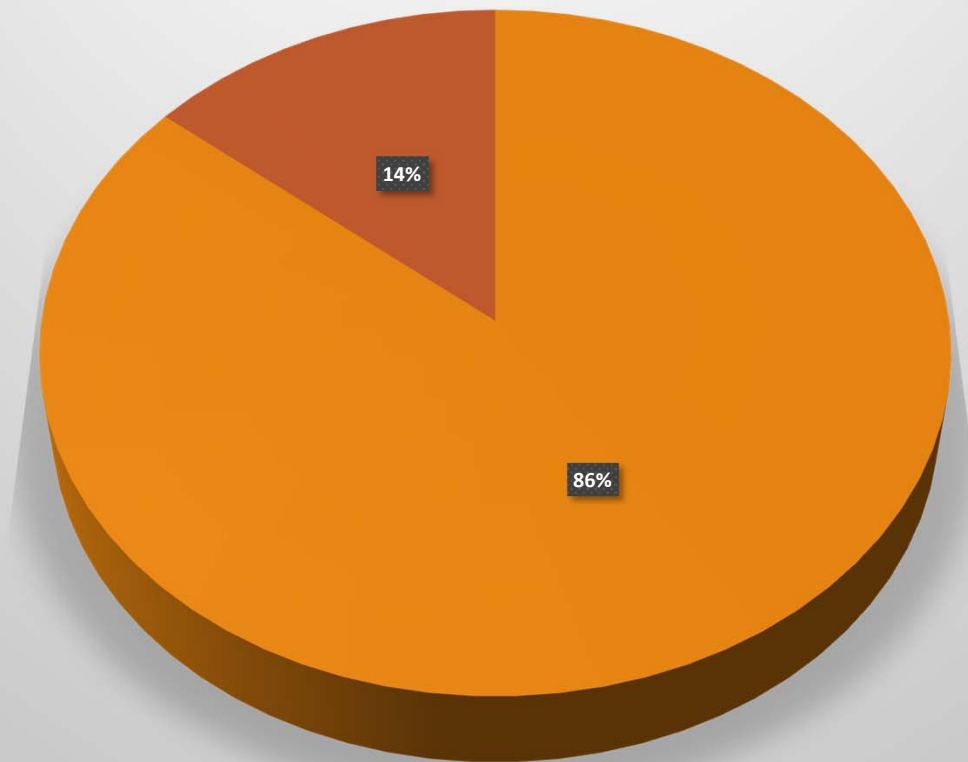


## Implementation Highlights

### Budget & LAP Monitoring:

- ✓ Learning from experience and surveying trial courts
- ✓ We separately surveyed appellate courts

## Language Access Survey: 49 of 58 Trial Courts Responded (as of 2/24/16)



# Supporting judicial education...

## Implementation Highlights

### Education & Standards:

- ✓ Redesigned course for judges on spoken language interpreters
- ✓ New video on procedures for appointing spoken language interpreters

### Technological Solutions:

- ✓ Development of Video Remote Interpreting Pilot Project





# Implementation Highlights

## Translation, Signage & Tools for Courts:

### ✓ Language Access Toolkit

(One-stop online  
resource for  
multiple  
audiences)

 [Print](#)

## Language Access Toolkit Resources for the Courts

Find tools and resources to improve language access at your court



### Entrance & Security

There are many ways to welcome non-English speaking members of the public to your court, starting at the front door. This section contains sample signs in various languages and other tools for the entrance to your court.

[View Resources](#)



### Clerk's Office/Points of Contact

If you work in the Clerk's Office or another point of contact with non-English speaking litigants, you receive many kinds of inquiries on a daily basis. This section contains resources in other languages about court proceedings, as well as information about how to request an interpreter and what other language access services may be available.

[View Resources](#)



### Inside the Courtroom

Common courtroom language needs include the presence of an interpreter and help with typical court proceedings, such as continuances. You can find these and other resources for the courtroom [here](#).

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/lap-toolkit-courts.htm>

# Language Access Toolkit

- ✓ LAP Recommendation #37:  
Provide samples and templates of multilingual information
- ✓ LAP Recommendation #38:  
Post translations of forms and other informational materials on the California Courts website
- ✓ LAP Recommendation #66:  
Create a statewide repository of language access resources



- ✓ **One location** for language access resources



- ✓ **Easy to use, practical** interface



- ✓ **Start with the needs of local courts**, then scale up to include resources for bench officers, LEP litigants, other stakeholders

## Model Notice for LEP Court Users: Language

- ✓ LAP Rec. #5: Courts will inform court users about the availability of language access services at the earliest points of contact between court users and the court

(for signage, flyers,  
brochures, websites)

A template to adapt (eight languages...)

### Need help in your language?

For **free** help with:

- Interpreters
- Court forms and information in your language
- Bilingual staff

Go to Room \_\_\_\_\_. Or:

- Call: [Tel]
- Email: [URL]



## The challenge continues...

- **Adequate funding** to ensure civil expansion and other LAP recommendations
- **Supply** of qualified bilingual staff and court interpreters
- **Providing technical assistance** re: web pages, and civil expansion
- **Training and tools for courts** (different regional needs)

## And so does the work in 2016...



- **Budget Change Proposal (BCP)** for FY 2017-2018
- **Recruitment strategies** for qualified bilingual staff and court interpreters
- **Engage courts' language access representatives** to provide assistance and promote uniformity among courts
- **Promote use of the Language Access Toolkit**
- **Continue outreach and provide updates** to the Judicial Council