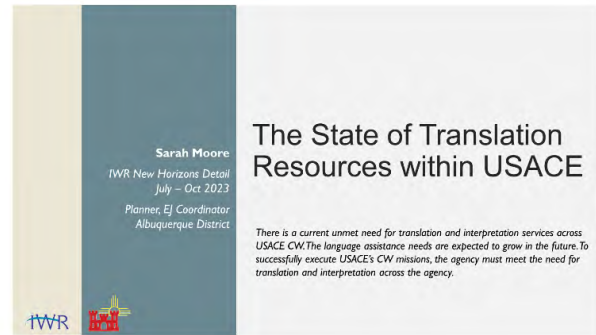


Joint PCoP-CPP CoP Webinar: The State of Translation Resources within USACE

13 June 2024

Q&A Summary

This webinar was a collaboration between the Planning CoP and the Collaboration and Public Participation (CPP) CoP, and provided an overview of USACE translation and interpretation needs and resources. Presented by Sarah Moore (Albuquerque District Planner and Environmental Justice Coordinator), the webinar discussed the unmet need for translation and interpretation services across USACE and potential solutions for meeting those needs.



This summary of the Question/Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.

Language Learning Services for USACE Staff

Do USACE employees have access to free language courses?

While there are no free language courses available specifically via USACE yet, this has been highly requested and is under consideration. The best practices document that Sarah Moore is developing through her Institute for Water Resources New Horizons detail outlines and provides details on organizing a USACE Spanish Language Support Group. This group will allow members to receive language training and get certified as translators and/or interpreters.

If USACE staff are interested in formal language training, the [Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center](#) offers language education and training across the United States. USACE staff have to submit a request for assistance if they would like to pursue this option.

What is the anticipated timeline for standing up the USACE Spanish Language Support Group, and how can planners and others get involved if they are interested in joining?

The framework for the Spanish Language Support Group at USACE is currently under development, with the goal to have it completed by the end of calendar year 2024. Anyone interested in joining this group and/or leading it should email Sarah Moore.

Language Services and Resources for Limited English-Speaking Communities

Are there any interpretive services resources available through USACE for Native American languages?

The CPP CoP is currently working on best practices specific to Tribal Nations, including translation and interpretation needs. Additionally, there are several USACE projects that successfully included interpretive services for Native American languages; those interested can email Sarah Moore for more information and access to after action reporting.

How do federal agencies with national translation/interpretation contracts account for regional language service needs?

The Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency National Weather Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (North Carolina), and U.S. Department of Agriculture all have an agency-wide language service contracts through their Headquarters office. Each agency then has regional contacts whose role is to communicate with the region and report back with any problems or un-met needs related to the nationwide contract.

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What contracting mechanisms can USACE use if a Tribe has identified a translator or interpreter who can assist with translation/interpretation needs for a USACE project?

The CPP CoP is in the process of creating a best practices guide, in coordination with the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX), that will address working with Tribes who want to incorporate native language into their project. Sarah will work with the group developing the guide to see if this type of information can be incorporated.