# The Digital Divide and Access to Justice

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Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York

Text ELKESORENSEN012 to 22333 once to join

### The Digital Divide is an urgent issue for:

**Rural Communities** 

Black, brown, and indigenous communities

Non-dominant language users

Poor white people

People who read at third grade level

All of the above

When poll is active, respond at pollev.com/elkesorensen012

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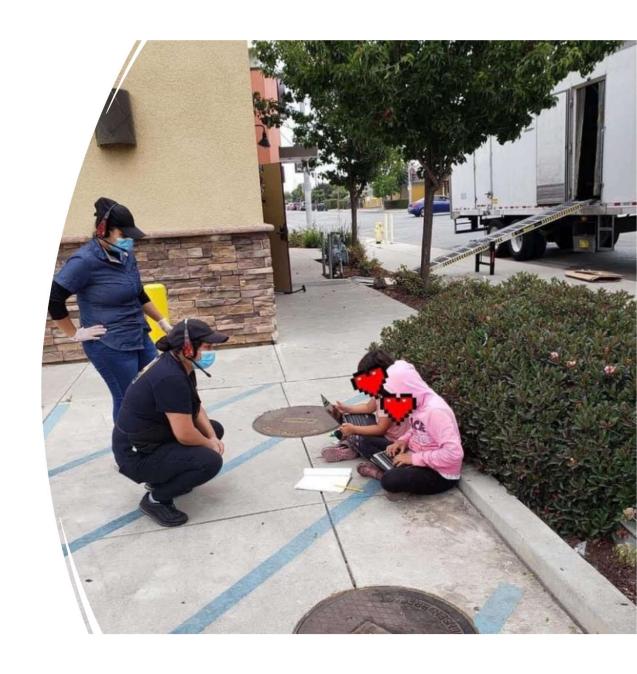
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# The Digital Divide is NOT JUST a Rural Issue

According to the 2018
American Community
Survey, across the US,
more than three times
as many urban households
than rural households
do not have access
to broadband at home.



How are we responding to those who cannot access justice remotely: ex. website; presence in court; online intake, open doors (three words max; separate words with \_)



# #WIFI4HOMELESS CAMPAIGN

By Lisa Pearlstein
Director, Legal Clinic for the Homeless

NOVEMBER, 2021



47,979

people slept in NYC shelters, August 2021

10,138

families

14,881

children in families

### MORE FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN NYC\*

- 86% of single adults and
- 93% of heads-of-household in family shelters
- Identify as Black or Hispanic significantly higher than the 53% of NYC's population overall who identify as Black or Hispanic.

\*https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/StateofTheHomeless2020.pdf

City Bar Justice Center Legal Clinic for the Homeless "Homeless Need Internet Access to Find a Home", report issued May 2020, based on 2019 WiFi Access surveys.

- Only 6% able to access internet through their shelters
- 67% wanted but had no regular access to Wi-Fi
- 75% agreed that internet access would improve their living circumstances

If they had access to the internet, they would use it for the following:

- 70% Find housing
- 60% Find a job
- 63% Find medical care
- 45% Access public benefits
- 67% Access email

Pandemic Conditions: worsened deep-rooted inequities for those who experience food, housing, and economic insecurity

Critical basic services and resources moved online:

- Welfare/SNAP/Medicaid/Social Security Offices Closed: Applications for benefits
- Education
- Telehealth
- How to find food

# #WIFI4HOMELESS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN BEGINS JUNE 2020

- Report endorsed by over 30 organizations
- NYC Bar Association engages as a partner
  Social media blitz
- Communication with stakeholders and other legal services organizations

City Bar President Sheila Boston's August 2020 letter to the Mayor:

"The pandemic has significantly exacerbated the barriers resulting from the digital divide, raising the stakes to literally life-or-death . . . the City must act quickly in order to meet its basic responsibilities to its unhoused residents. Ensuring internet access is also an issue of racial justice. New Yorkers of color are disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness."



October 26, 2020 – Following the hearing and months of work through the #Wifi4Homeless campaign, the Mayor's Office announced that City would provide Wi-Fi access in family and domestic violence shelters by summer 2021 to help ameliorate connectivity issues that impacted remote learning for school-aged children.

November 24, 2020 – Legal Aid files class action lawsuit to speed up installation of Wi-Fi in homeless shelters where school children reside. City's failure to provide adequate and reliable access to the internet violates students' rights under state and federal statutory and constitutional law to receive a sound basic education.



- Tanya Douglas
- Director of the Disability Advocacy Unit
- Manhattan Legal Services | Legal Services NYC



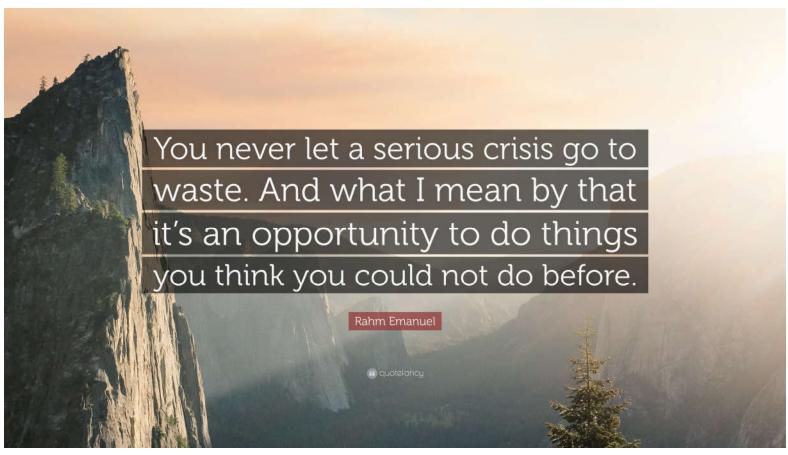
# Social security administration march 2020





# Never waste a good crisis. Hillary Clinton @ quotefancy







## Social security administration access

SSI

SSD

- Telephone-National not Local
- Website

### SSA PANDEMIC CHANGES



- FIELD OFFICE:
  - ✓ E-Faxes
  - ✓ Electronic Files
  - ✓ Limited In Person Appointments 15 minutes
- HEARINGS:
  - ✓ Telephonic Hearings
  - ✓ Microsoft Hearings



# Social security administration digital divide Challenges

### **Telephonic**

- ✓ Limited minutes
- ✓ No smart phones or Obama phones
- ✓ No phones

#### **Online**

- ✓ Lack of internet
- ✓ Unreliable internet
- ✓ Unable to navigate (disabled, language)
- ✓ Forms not in every language

## Language Justice includes...

- the right of all people to communicate, to understand and to be understood in our language(s);
- creating spaces where everyone can fully participate and no one language dominates over others;
- a commitment to equitable communication;
- respect for everyone's language rights.

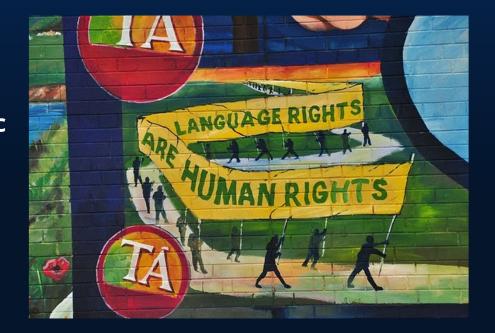




# **Language Rights**

#### The right:

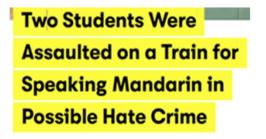
- to be free from discrimination based on language
- to have meaningful access to public services and civic participation (often via interpreting, translation, and multilingual staff)
- to maintain non-dominant languages and pass them on to future generations
- for everyone's languages to be valued and respected





### **LANGUAGE OPPRESSION + TRAUMA**

Deisy Garcia, Spanish Speaking Mom, And Daughters Stabbed To Death After Her NYPD Complaint Wasn't Language Barrier Continues to Thwart Victims of Crimes



**Translated** 

Oklahoma City Police Fatally Shoot Deaf Man Despite Yells Of 'He Can't Hear'

NIÑOS HISPANOS SON USADOS COMO INTÉRPRETES EN CASOS DE CRIMEN EN MEMPHIS México denuncia discriminación en EE.UU. por una indígena a quien le quitaron una hija

Un tribunal estadounidense consideró a la mujer no apta para cuidar a la niña por no saber hablar inglés, no tener recursos y ser indocumentada

HHS Strips Gender Identity, Sex Stereotyping, Language Access Protections From ACA Anti-Discrimination Rule

Study Finds Gaps in Aid for Non-English Speakers in State Civil Courts

Hospitals Have Left Many COVID-19 Patients Who Don't Speak English Alone, Confused and Without Proper Care

A TRANSLATION CRISIS AT THE BORDER

For migrants who speak Mayan languages, a grassroots group of interpreters is often their only hope for receiving asylum.



### How does this impact our communities?

- 1. Nearly twice as many people with limited English live in poverty than people who are English proficient
- 2. Nearly half of adults with limited English do not have a high school diploma
- 3. Immigrants with limited English are more likely to report poor health than English speaking immigrants
- 4. Californians with LEP are 3 times as likely to lack access to the internet, and a quarter of this population has no access to a computer.



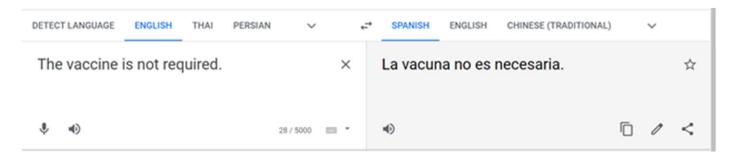
# What is Machine Translation (MT)?

- Automated software that translates written information without human review.
  - Based on probability: detects patterns in hundreds of millions of translated documents and making logical guesses
  - Some programs learn and adjust based on human feedback
  - No understanding of meaning or context
  - Must be able to read and comprehend both languages to know if the translation is accurate
- Some professional translators do use machine translation appropriately as a starting point but engage in significant human review to ensure accuracy.

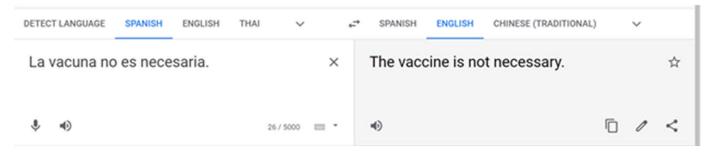


# **Example - Virginia Department of Health**

In January 2021, in providing information on the COVID-19 vaccine, the Virginia Department of Health's FAQ page, used Google Translate to translate "the vaccine is not required" to "*la vacuna no es necesaria*" — "the vaccine is not necessary."



#### **Back translated:**

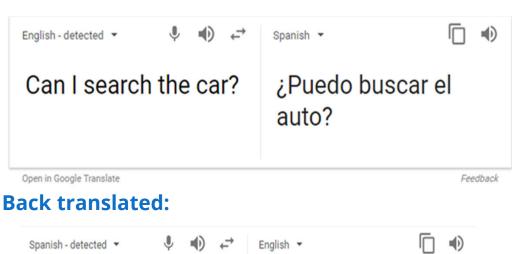




# **Google Translate & the Courts**

- *United States v. Cruz-Zamora*, 318 F. Supp. 3d 1264 (D. Kan. 2018).
- Is this consent?
  - o No, motion to suppress granted.





Can I find the car?

¿Puedo buscar el

auto?



# Machine Translation Case Studies + Impact on Communities

- Can produce inaccurate and nonsensical translations.
- Fails to center the needs of community members who may have limited access to formal education, low literacy, and limited experience and/or access with and to technology.
- Negative impact on underserved marginalized communities who already mistrust nonprofit organizations in general due to pervasive discrimination.
  - Translation for some languages defaults to the masculine form of gendered words that refer to people.
  - Defaults and inconsistencies regarding formality and tone.





Kajin Majól

ຮັບການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອເປັນພາສາລາວ

Workers Employers Frequently Asked Questions

Contact

Español 简体中文 русский Tiếng Việt limba română Hmoob រកដំនួយជាភាសាខ្មែរ Mien 한국어 한국어 한국어

Soomaali

SEARCH

#### **Quick Links**

fosun Chuuk

#### COVID-19

Oregon Wildfires

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Glossary of Terms

Helpful Tips

**ID Theft** 

Online Claim System

OED COVID-19 temporary rules

Report ID Theft and UI Fraud

Sign up for email updates

Timeline of COVID-19 Events

**UI Fraud** 

#### BEFORE APPLYING

FAQ

**Eligibility Quiz** 

Other resources

Please be advised that **all** pandemic-related, federal programs are ending Sept. 4, 2021. This includes Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC). Claimants should still claim the week ending Sept. 4 in order to receive the final payment from these programs.

We encourage you to reach out to your <u>local WorkSource center</u> for job search assistance and other free resources, or visit our <u>resources</u> web page to find help with rent, food, healthcare, and more.

#### Work-search requirements

Certain <u>unemployment benefit requirements</u> were paused or changed during the pandemic, and were **phased back in this summer** for those receiving regular UI and PEUC. To learn more click <u>here</u>.

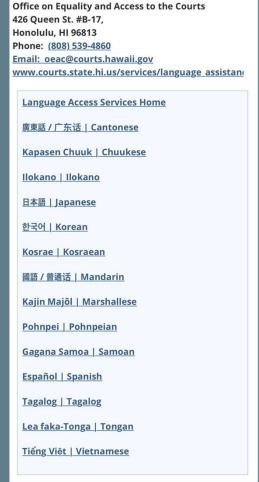
Search through our FAQs by clicking "Frequently Asked Questions" in the main navigation of this site, or by clicking "FAQ" under the Quick Links.

Still need assistance? Submit a ticket using our Contact Us <u>form</u> to hear back from a specialist. **NOTE**: Response times may vary depending on the issue. Some can be solved very quickly, while others that are more complex can take more time.



### Hawai'i State Judiciary & Office of Language Access

Judiciary f You  $\equiv$ Home » Access to Justice Initiatives » 환국에 / Korean COVID-19 & THE COURTS: FOR UPDATES.
CLICK HERE 한국어 / Korean 귀하는 귀하가 관련된 모든 사건에 관하여 무료로 법정 동역사를 제공 받을수 있는 권리가 있습니다. You have the right to an interpreter at no cost to you. COVID-19 코로나바이러스 대유행에 관한 하와이 주 사법부의 대응 Hawaii State Judiciary Response to COVID-19 알아들 사항 What You Need to Know COVID-19 집에 머무르기/집에서 일하기 자료표 COVID-19 Stay at Home/Work at Home Fact Sheet 가정 법원 보호명령 요청 방법 Requesting a Family Court Protective Order 임시 접근금지명령 (TRO) 요청에 관한 정보 가정 법원에서 임시 접근금지명령 (TRO) 을 연장하는 접근금지명령 (TRO) 의 송달 Serving Your Temporary Restraining Order 피해자를 위한 안전 계획





(THAI)

(VIETNAMESE)

(TONGAN)

(TAGALOG)

**OTHER RESOURCES** 

(SPANISH)

YAPESE

(YAPESE)

Adjust text size (+) (-)



Am I eligible? Programs Find help Q Search

Find help in NYC with food, money, housing, work and more on ACCESS NYC.

#### What am I eligible for?

There are over 30 programs you or your family may be eligible for regardless of immigration status and even if you're already receiving benefits or have a job.

### Apply now for benefits.

Apply <u>directly</u> for SNAP, Cash Assistance and Medicaid renewal. <u>Apply for all 3 at the same time</u> through the Cash Assistance application. Log into your HRA account.

**Q** Am I eligible?

Go to ACCESS HRA ▶

# Washington State Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Language Access Plan April 28, 2020

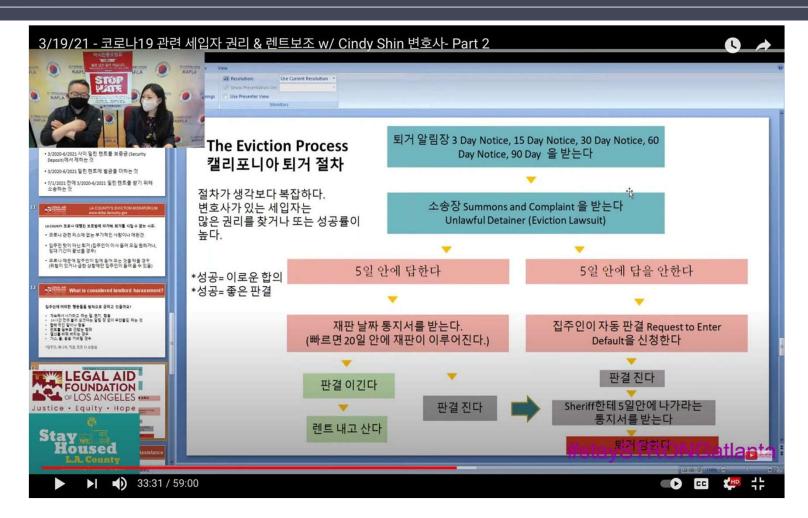
https://coronavirus.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/LanguageAccessPlan.pdf

From Gov. Inslee's Press Release:

The plan, which was developed in coordination with the state's COVID-19 Joint Information Center (JIC), provides a streamlined new process for agencies to translate vital information related to COVID-19 into the top 37 languages spoken in Washington state. These top languages are spoken by at least 5% of the state population or 1,000 people based on 2016 Office of Financial Management (OFM) data. The plan also provides guidance for state agencies to establish telephonic interpretation services which allows real-time translation over the phone.



## Multilingual Social Media Outreach





#### KAFLA TV - 로스앤젤레스한인회

6.44K subscribers

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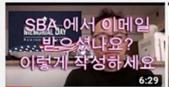
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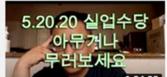
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로스앤젤레스한인회 - 5.20.20 실업수당 UPDATE - EDD 전...

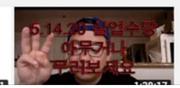
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EDD Director Sharon Hilliard Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) 또는 PUA 다음 단계 인터뷰 한국어 자막





# Pilot Project | Remote Studio

- Safe space with computer, internet, printer
- Bilingual advocate for tech & other support
- Private area for hearing/meeting
- Separate space for children
- Avoids contact with opposing party
- Partnership with government entities + other nonprofits





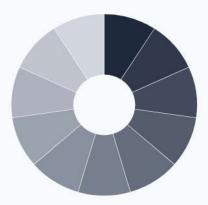


# Who is at the table when we design a tech solution to the challenge:

Physical or mental disabilities	A
Low literacy	В
Non dominant language users	C
Black and brown people	D
Past or present clients	E
Community groups	F
Programstaff	G
Technologists	Н
Low computer literacy people	Ĺ
Fiscal staff	J
Elderly	К

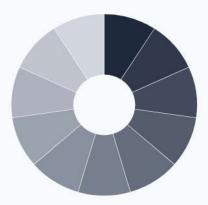
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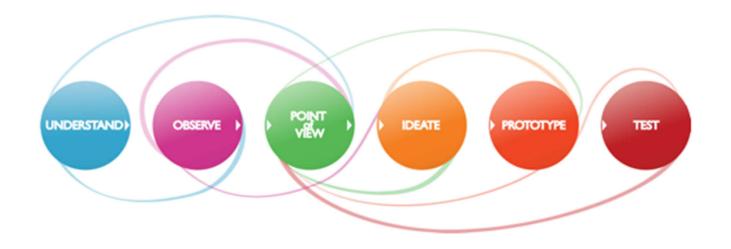




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# 'Design Thinking' and the 'User-Centered Design' process