

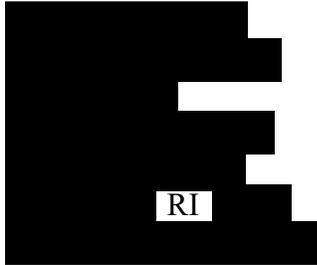


U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*The Federal Coordination and Compliance Section-NWB
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530*

February 20, 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is being sent by the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice (FCS). FCS helps ensure that entities receiving federal funding from DOJ remain compliant with applicable federal civil rights and non-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations (together, Title VI). Title VI requires that programs and activities that receive federal funds do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including the provision of language access. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d.

As a recipient of Department of Justice grant funds, you are required to ensure programs or activities receiving these funds comply with applicable federal civil rights statutes, including Title VI, and the failure to comply with applicable award requirements may result in remedial action, including formal investigation (*see, e.g.*, 28 C.F.R. § 42.108; 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.339 & 200.340). Recent reports have indicated concerns with barriers to language access services in Rhode Island courts. For example, the media has reported that some interpreters in Rhode Island local courts may not be professionally trained.

FCS has worked with state and local governments across the country to address concerns involving language barriers for people with limited English proficiency, among other things, under Title VI. Please consult the interagency web page on limited English proficiency at www.LEP.gov for further information, tools, and examples of the approaches that various entities have taken to improve their language assistance programs and activities. If you have any questions regarding the civil rights requirements applicable to your Department of Justice grant funding or if you would like to further discuss technical assistance on this issue, you may contact FCS attorney Mona Siddiqui at Mamoonna.Siddiqui@usdoj.gov or review: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/civil-rights-office/home>.

Sincerely,



/s/ Christine Stoneman, Chief
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section
Civil Rights Division

Cc:

