



Language Access

MNC June 6, 2022

Who is your presenter?

- Lynn Fors is a native New Englander who has lived in Lexington, KY since 1997.
- She minored in Spanish in her undergraduate degree including a semester abroad in Valencia, Spain.
- She spent the summer of 1991 at the Middlebury Language School and taught English in Madrid, Spain from August 1991 to May 1992.
- She earned a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from the University of New Hampshire in 1995.
- Lynn supervised Language & Cultural Services for St Joe/KentuckyOne Health from 2001 to 2017.
- She is a founding member and former Chair of the Kentucky Interpreter & Translator Association.
- She is a former Migrant Network Coalition board member and co-chair.
- In 2010 she became a nationally certified medical interpreter.
- In 2017, she founded Access Language Solutions (ALS), a non-profit interpreting and translating agency.

Who is your presenter?

- Additionally,
 - I am someone deeply committed to
 - Language Access as a social justice issue
 - The immigrant and refugee communities
 - Providing quality services at a competitive or below market rate
 - Growing the local infrastructure of qualified interpreters



- We have gone from 4K in income (last 4 months of 2017) to a projected 250K+ in income for FY 2022
- Over 20 languages covered onsite by qualified interpreters
- Additional languages via phone/video interpreting
- To our fellow non-profits, below market rates charged for our interpreting and translating services

Grants

- Kentucky Bar Foundation July 2022
 - \$23,500 to provide spoken and sign interpreting for court-appointed attorneys and their family court clients in order to prepare their cases for court
- The Cralle Foundation July 2022
 - \$7500 to train well-qualified multilinguals as interpreters
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky July 2022
 - \$3000 to \$5000 expected in order to support language access for Surgery on Sunday

Language Trends in Lexington

ALS' work closely follows immigration/refugee patterns

- About 80% of our phone interpreter work is currently for Dari/Pashto
- African languages continue to be in high demand (Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, French, Bembe, Lingala)
- There is an increase in Arabic assignments due to more resettlement from Syria
- We expect Ukrainian to be in high demand
- There continues to be a demand for good Spanish interpreters
- Some additions to the list for 2021: Maithili, Min Nan, Abkhazian, Nahuatl, Vai

Challenges

- Lack of opportunity for interpreters
 - FT jobs only for Spanish, Japanese, ASL
 - The remainder are mostly contractors
 - Pros: flexible schedule/freedom, can work for various agencies
 - Cons: no set hours/benefits, hard to make a living
 - Many qualified interpreters work another job and fit in assignments as they can
- Not everyone embraces technology as an option
 - The pandemic helped move the needle forward, but...

Contact Info

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Thank You!