

## Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program Requirements Speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion and English Language

A qualified health care interpreter (HCI) must meet all the requirements listed below and provide all the supporting documentation.

A language of lesser diffusion is defined by:

*A language of lesser diffusion (LLD) may be **the national language of a small country from which a local population has emigrated**, may be spoken by a small ethnic minority, such as a refugee population, or may be spoken by an indigenous group<sup>1</sup>*

See [renewal](#) for renewal requirements for languages of LLD and English Language. See [Sign Language](#) for Sign Language qualification requirements.

### Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must supply a valid copy of driver's license or passport or other valid government issued identity
- Must not be on the Medicaid Exclusion List: <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>
- Proof of successful completion of 60-hours OHA-approved HCI [training program](#) or equivalent
  
- Proof of meeting the minimum required language proficiency for English by an approved testing center or alternate proof for the LLD. (See next page)

OR- demonstration of having met equivalent language proficiency requirements (see next page)

OR- demonstration of having met sign language proficiency through RID or other approved proficiency exam (see next page).

\*Email completed application and all documents to:

[HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

Or mail to:

Health Care Interpreter Program Office of Equity & Inclusion  
421 SW Oak St., Suite 750  
Portland, OR 97204

Or fax: 971-673-1128

*\*Emailed applications are encouraged*

Valid for four-years; [HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov), 971-673-3378,  
[www.oregon.gov/oha/oei](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei);

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.21832/9781783097777-011/pdf#:~:text=A%20language%20of%20lesser%20diffusion,spoken%20by%20an%20indigenous%20group.>

## Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program Requirements

Meeting the language proficiency requirements for HCI qualification for languages of lesser diffusion and English target language

### Approved Language Proficiency Tests

#### Language Proficiency of the language of lesser diffusion

- Can demonstrate proficiency in the language of lesser diffusion via the [Alternate Proof of Language Proficiency Application](#)

#### English Language Proficiency

##### One of the following may demonstrate oral proficiency in English

Bachelor, masters, doctorate or any other degree from any U.S. institution of higher education

- Graduation from any high school in an English language speaking country where English is the primary language of instruction
- Graduation from a higher education institution abroad where English is the primary language of instruction.
- One of the following tests (subject to change). Test results must be **no more than four years old** to be considered valid.
  - » Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): 570+ on paper; 230+ on computer version; 90 on iBT
  - » Certificate in Advanced English (CAE), Level 4: B
  - » Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), Level 5: B
  - » International English Language Testing System (IELTS): 7.0+
  - » Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR): 2+
  - » Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
  - » Oral Proficiency Interview at the **advanced mid-level** on the ACTFL scale

#### Sign Language Proficiency

Signed language interpreters may apply to be on the central registry without having a Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certification by proving proficiency through a proficiency exam approved by the Authority such as the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) or the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI; ASL) with a minimum proficiency level of 4 or advanced.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Health Care Interpreter Program, Office of Equity and Inclusion, at 971-673-3378 (711 for TTY) or email [hci.program@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:hci.program@odhsoha.oregon.gov).