

Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program Requirements for Spoken Languages

Oregon's Health Care Interpreter Program includes two levels of credentialing (qualification and certification). A qualified or certified health care interpreter must meet all the requirements listed below and provide the supporting documentation. See [OHA 2002d](#) for renewal requirements. See [Oregon Qualification and Certification for Sign Language Interpreters \(200-476050\)](#) for requirements. For Languages of Lesser Diffusion (LLD), see the [Speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion and English Language](#) or [Speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion and Non-English Language](#) (LLD) requirements. Please see below for more details about what to include in your application.

Qualification	Certification (optional)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 18 years of age. • Include a copy of a valid driver's license, passport or other valid government-issued identification. • Education: Must have high school diploma (or GED equivalent) or higher. • Must not be in the Medicaid Exclusion Database: http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/. • Must have at least 60 hours of formal health care interpreter training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include proof of successful completion of 60-hours of training from an OHA-approved HCI training program. • Must have language proficiency in English and the target language (see next pages for more information). Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of meeting the minimum required language proficiency from an approved testing center • OR demonstration of having met equivalent language proficiency requirements (see next pages) <p>Valid for four years</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All requirements from the "Qualification" column And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of passing a certification test from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI) • Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters • National Center for State Courts Court Interpreter Oral Examination • Oregon Court Interpreter Certification • Federal Court Interpreter Certification exams <p>Valid for four years</p> <p>Certification is optional. The oral certification test is available in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Korean, Arabic and Vietnamese. Certification is also available in Sign language.</p>

Email completed application and all documents to:
HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Emailed applications are preferred.

Or fax: 971-673-1128

Or mail to:

Health Care Interpreter Program
Equity and Inclusion Division
421 SW Oak St., Suite 750
Portland, OR 97204

Questions? Contact the Oregon Health Care Interpreter Program: HCI.Program@odhsoha.oregon.gov, 971-673-3378, www.oregon.gov/oha/oei.

Language proficiency requirements for HCI qualification and certification

Relay and languages of lesser diffusion

See [the Alternate Proof of Language Proficiency page](#) for alternate proof options for relay interpretation or languages of lesser diffusion.

Approved language proficiency tests

Oral proficiency in both English and the non-English language (L2) may be demonstrated by passing any of the exams listed below (must not be expired):

- [Language Line University](#) – Level 3+ or above (Interagency Language Roundtable [ILR]) equivalent
- [Language Testing International](#) – Testing is based on American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) assessment. Advanced mid-level or above. Both the optional phone interpreter (OPI – **telephonic**) and OPIc (computer recording) are acceptable

Language proficiency for English and the non-English language can be demonstrated by showing proof of passing the [National Center for State Courts Court Interpreter Oral Examination](#).

English language proficiency

One of the following may demonstrate oral proficiency in English (for languages of lesser diffusion, see [the Alternate Proof of Language Proficiency page](#)):

- Bachelor, masters, doctorate or any other degree from any U.S. institution of higher education
- Graduation from any high school, or completion of a GED, 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

Target oral language proficiency

One of the following may demonstrate oral proficiency in the non-English language:

- Bachelor, masters, doctorate or any other degree from an institution of higher education where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- Graduation from high school in a country where instruction is primarily in the non-English language and the person submitting proof is a native speaker of the non-English language.
- One of the following tests (subject to change). Test results must be **no more than four years old** to be considered valid.
 - Interagency Language Round Table (ILR): 2+ from federal government testing agencies
 - Common European Framework (CEFR): B2
 - Oral Proficiency Interview at the advanced mid-level on the ACTFL scale

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Health Care Interpreter Program, Equity and Inclusion Division, at 971-673-3378 or email HCI.Program@odhsosha.oregon.gov. We accept all relay calls.