

Your Community Needs You!



There is a growing need for interpreters in your community. Perhaps you are bilingual and already assist family or friends through language barriers with health care professionals, school staff, or even at the grocery store. The organization you work for may have bilingual staff members who have some experience or interest in interpreting but not the formal training.

Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center (Blue Ridge AHEC) has established two interpreter training programs for both health care interpreting and community interpreting, so you can choose which is right for you. Our organization is non-profit and has been training health care interpreters to serve communities since 2000. Both programs are rigorous and will teach you how best to ensure clear communication between a patient and health care provider, and provide cultural context and advocacy when appropriate.

Qualifications

There is no language component in either training program, so prior to being accepted for training, proficiency in both languages must be evaluated through an oral and written examination. Passing both tests determines an applicant's capability to deliver accurate interpretation.

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is a nationally recognized Health Care Interpreter Training Program that was developed by the Cross Cultural Health Care Program based in Washington. The program was developed to help "bridge the gap" in communications between a patient and a health care provider in order to better serve the diverse populations that increasingly characterize our communities.

Curriculum

- Basic Interpreting Skills
- Roles of the Interpreter
- Ethics
- Intervening
- Health Care in the U.S.
- Culture and its impact on Interpreting
- Interpersonal Skills and Advocacy
- Professional Development



"Interpret everything that is said, meaning for meaning, exactly as it is said; add nothing, omit nothing, change nothing"

Introduction to Community Interpreting

The *Introduction to Community Interpreting* curriculum was developed by the Northern Virginia AHEC to provide interpreters with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate communications between Limited English Proficient clients and social workers, school personnel, and other community groups. This training is ideal for bilingual persons who are already interpreting at their place of employment, informally for friends and family, or in some other capacity and have not been formally trained in the techniques, methods, and ethics of interpreting.

Curriculum

- Background of Interpretation
- Professional Ethics and Boundaries
- Interpreting in Community Settings
- Types of Interpreters
- Modes of Interpreting
- Guiding the Encounter
- Setting the Tone
- Seating Arrangement
- Interpreting Techniques

Cost & Benefits

Bridging the Gap

- \$35.00 for Language Proficiency Test (with medical terminology)
- \$290.00 for 40-hour training program
- Completion qualifies you to apply for job openings with the Blue Ridge AHEC Community Health Interpreters Service (CHIS) which provides some JMU benefits (enquire for details).

Introduction to Community Interpreting

- \$35.00 for Language Proficiency Test
- \$125.00 for 20-hour training program
- Completion qualifies you to interpret for local school systems.

Both interpreter training programs improve your credentials as a professional interpreter.

For more information, or to schedule a language proficiency exam, please contact the Cross Cultural Programs Coordinator, Bonnie Larson-Brogdon



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For more information about our programs please contact:

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Interpreter Training

Health Care and
Community Interpreting

Breaking down barriers in
communication



**Blue Ridge Area Health
Education Center**

A Program of the Institute for
Innovation in Health and Human
Services