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Public Notice Department of Public Safety Nevada Highway Patrol

RE: Opening of Public Comment Period – 2026 Language Access Plan (LAP)

The Nevada Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol, announces that the public comment period for the 2026 Nevada Highway Patrol Language Access Plan (LAP), attached, is officially open.

Comment Period: 8:00 am Friday, July 10, 2026, through 5:00 pm Saturday, August 9, 2026

Members of the public, stakeholders, community-based organizations, and state and local partners are invited to review the draft LAP and submit comments, recommendations, or feedback.

Comments may be submitted via email to: **NHP-pointofcontact@dps.state.nv.us**.

The Nevada Highway Patrol is committed to transparency and to ensuring meaningful access to its programs, services, and funding opportunities. The public comment process is an important part of this commitment and helps ensure that the Language Access Plan reflects the needs of Nevada's diverse communities, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

Purpose of Public Comment

The public comment period serves as a forum for stakeholders and community members to:

- Provide input on policies and procedures detailed in the LAP
- Recommend improvements to language access services

Capitol Police • Highway Patrol • Investigations • Parole and Probation • State Fire Marshal • Training Division
• Office of Traffic Safety • Office of Professional Responsibility • Office of Criminal Justice Assistance
• Records, Communications and Compliance • Emergency Response Commission

- Share lived experiences that may strengthen the plan
- Contribute to the Nevada Highway Patrol's ongoing effort to support equitable access to its programs

Guidance for Providing Effective Public Comments

When preparing comments on the LAP, the Nevada Highway Patrol encourages the public to consider the following tips to ensure their feedback is constructive, clear, and actionable:

- Support your comments with data, facts, experiences, or informed opinions. When possible, include your lived experience to illustrate your perspective.
- Clearly identify the section number or specific part of the LAP you are commenting on. Comments may be short or long, there is no required length.
- If you disagree with a proposed policy or procedure, consider suggesting an alternative and explain how it may better meet the objectives of the LAP.
- Where applicable, include pros, cons, and trade-offs. Reflect on possible impacts, positive or negative, on your community, your work, or your personal experience.

The Nevada Highway Patrol appreciates your time, insight, and partnership as we work to ensure meaningful, timely language access to all individuals served by the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Respectfully,

Nevada Highway Patrol

Nevada Highway Patrol – 2026 Language Access Plan

1. Purpose and Legal Framework

The Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) is committed to ensuring meaningful access to all individuals, regardless of their English proficiency. This Language Access Plan outlines the policies, procedures, and resources NHP uses to provide equitable access to services for Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals with professionalism, sensitivity, dignity and respect.

This plan is guided by:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Nevada Senate Bill 318 (SB 318)
- Nevada Revised Statute NRS 232.0081
- Best practices from the U.S. Department of Justice for law enforcement agencies

2. Agency Profile

NHP provides statewide law enforcement services including:

- Traffic enforcement and crash response
- Commercial vehicle enforcement
- Emergency response
- Criminal interdiction
- Public safety education
- Support to local law enforcement agencies

NHP interacts with the public through traffic stops, crash scenes, emergency calls, investigations, and community outreach—situations where clear communication is essential.

3. LEP Population in Nevada

Nevada has a diverse population with significant LEP communities. Based on statewide demographic trends, the most frequently encountered LEP languages include:

- **Spanish** (largest LEP population)
- **Tagalog**
- **Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)**
- **Vietnamese**
- **Amharic and other East African languages**
- **Arabic**

NHP will review updated demographic data annually to adjust language priorities.

4. Language Access Goals

NHP's language access goals are to:

1. Ensure LEP individuals can communicate effectively with troopers and staff.
2. Provide timely access to qualified interpretation and translation services.
3. Reduce miscommunication that could compromise safety.
4. Build trust with Nevada's diverse communities.
5. Maintain compliance with federal and state civil rights laws.

5. Points of Contact Requiring Language Access

Language assistance may be required during:

- Traffic stops
- Crash investigations
- Emergency or roadside assistance
- DUI investigations
- Commercial vehicle inspections
- 911 or dispatch communications
- Written warnings, citations, or reports
- Public safety announcements
- Community events

High-risk situations—such as arrests, Miranda warnings, or consent searches—require certified interpretation (when available), not ad-hoc bilingual assistance.

5.1 Troopers Forms:

Troopers use certain forms roadside when necessary:

- Witness Statement Forms (available in Spanish)
- Domestic Violence cards (available in Spanish)
- Service of Temporary Protection Orders
- Consent to Search Forms

5.2 Front Desk Services

LEP forms available to the public:

- Crash Investigation Forms (English and Spanish only)
- Witness Statement Forms (English and Spanish only)

6. Language Assistance Services

6.1 Interpretation (Oral Communication)

NHP will provide interpretation through:

- **Pockettalk (Two-Way Voice Translator)** issued to sworn troopers and select civilians
- **Bilingual troopers or staff** (currently non-certified)
- **Telephonic interpretation services** available 24/7

Troopers shall not rely on:

- Family members
- Children
- Bystanders Except in exigent, life-threatening circumstances.

6.2 Translation (Written Communication)

Currently NHP's tool for translation for written communication is via Pockettalk translators or non-certified employees who are bilingual.

Priority languages for translation: **Spanish**, followed by other languages based on frequency of encounters.

7. Staff Training

Currently, NHP does not have a certified bilingual program for employees who report they are bilingual. In the future, NSP should undertake a professional program for certification of bilingual skills in speaking, writing and reading another language. This would allow employees to receive specialty pay for those who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and provide NHP the ability for certified translators to minimize litigation. The proficiency assessment should take place every two years with the accredited vendor.

8. Procedures for Troopers and Staff

8.1 Identifying LEP Individuals

Troopers may identify LEP individuals through:

- Self-identification
- Difficulty responding to questions in English
- Presentation of a non-English driver's license
- Star of Life or Communication Needs Symbol on Nevada Issued Drivers Licenses or ID cards
- Use of "I Speak" cards

8.2 Requesting Interpretation

Troopers will:

1. Determine the individual's preferred language.
2. Contact the approved interpretation service including Pockettalk.
3. Document interpreter use in reports.

8.3 High-Risk Situations

For arrests, Miranda warnings, or consent searches:

- Troopers must use certified interpreters (not currently available).
- Translated written forms must be provided when available.

9. Community Engagement

NHP will, if available:

- Partner with community organizations serving LEP populations
- Participate in multilingual outreach events
- Provide translated safety materials
- Maintain a multilingual section on the NHP website

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Ideally NHP will evaluate the Language Access Plan annually by:

- Reviewing interpreter usage data
- Assessing LEP encounter trends
- Updating translated materials
- Soliciting feedback from troopers and community partners
- Adjusting training and resources as needed

However, this data is not able to be captured at this time.

11. Responsibilities

- **NHP Command Staff:** Oversight and resource allocation
- **Language Access Coordinator:** Plan implementation, training, and compliance
- **Supervisors:** Ensure troopers follow procedures
- **All Personnel:** Provide language access and document usage

12. Complaint Process

Individuals may file complaints if they believe they were denied language access. Complaints may be submitted:

- In person at any NHP office
- By phone
- Online

Complaints will be reviewed promptly and deferred to the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), and corrective action will be taken when necessary.

13. Plan Review Cycle

This plan will be reviewed and updated **every two years**, or sooner if:

- Demographic shifts occur
- New federal/state guidance is issued
- Operational needs change