



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Over three decades ago, the Supreme Court determined that a recipient of federal funds who denies education to a group of LEP people violates Title VI.

Title VI protects vulnerable populations from discrimination, both intentional and unintentional.

When LEP members of the public are excluded from federally funded programs and activities due to a lack of language access, this constitutes unintentional discrimination.

There are two particular regulations you should be aware of when considering translating your materials. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 issued in 2000 determine when an organization is required to provide translated materials to the public.

Executive Order 13166

Executive Order 13166 was issued in 2000, and requires that Limited English Proficient (LEP) people have meaningful access to any federally funded or federally conducted programs and activities.

If your organization receives this type of federal funding, this affects you and it's time to start planning for translation.

There are four factors that influence whether you need to consider translation or interpretation:

1. The proportion of LEP people likely, or eligible, to be involved in the program
2. How often LEP individuals come into contact with the program
3. The importance and nature of the program
4. The resources available to the program, and costs associated with providing meaningful access.

If you're questioning what to translate, consider starting with your most common English materials and measuring the impact that has on your LEP constituents.



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