



*because justice first requires access*

July 10, 2012

## **Memo re: Volunteer Interpreters and Translators in the Metro Area**

### **Minnesota Judicial Branch – Court Interpreter Program**

- **Website:** [mncourts.gov/?page=304](http://mncourts.gov/?page=304)
- **Information:** The program coordinates court interpreter testing and training and keeps an online roster of court interpreters. The roster is available to public agencies, attorneys, and others requiring interpretation services for out-of-court work. The roster includes one certified Somali interpreter (many non-certified) and one non-certified Karen interpreter.
- **Contact:** 651-297-5300 or send an email via the [contact form](#)

### **City of Minneapolis**

- **Website:** [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)
- **Information:** provides interpreters free of charge for city services.
- **Contact:** Minneapolis Multicultural Services: 612-673-2700 for Spanish, 612-673-3500 for Somali, and Kristin Kelly, Multicultural Services coordinator, at 612-673-3737 for all other languages.

### **Minnesota Department of Human Services Limited English Proficiency Program (LEP)**

- **Website:** [www.dhs.state.mn.us](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us) (search for “interpreter”) → [Limited English Proficiency](#)
- **Information:** helps provide interpreting and translation assistance to individuals requiring such service to access health and human services. The DHS maintains multilingual referral telephone lines at no cost to LEP clients. The lines are not an interpreter service, but exist only to help clients access the appropriate human service provider. Does not make available list of service providers.

### **University Programs**

While interpreter/translator training programs are available, Call for Justice has not fully explored this area because they have already been utilized and partnerships could possibly be rebuilt if necessary.

### **For-Fee Services**

There are several commercial interpreter and translator services available in the metro area.

### **Next Steps**

The fact that the Court Interpreter roster contains only one non-certified Karen interpreter and one certified Somali interpreter implies that everyone in the city is facing the same issue of limited resources. Call for Justice will further investigate possible resources and collaborations.