



Dear Stakeholders,

Today I am proud to join my colleagues throughout DHS in announcing the draft Language Access Plans for DHS Components and Offices. These draft plans describe the efforts of individual Components to provide meaningful access to DHS programs and activities to persons who are Limited English proficient (LEP) consistent with the requirements of [Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency \(August 11, 2000\)](#) and the [DHS Language Access Plan](#) first issued in February 2012.

We welcome your review of and comments on the draft plans before they become final. The draft plans are available on the DHS website at www.dhs.gov/language-access. Written comments may be sent to CRCL by email at crcloutreach@dhs.gov by **October 31, 2014**. We will also welcome hearing from you at one or more stakeholder engagement meetings to take place over the next several months.

Citing to a 2011 memorandum from Attorney General Eric Holder, the DHS Language Access Plan explains that language access requirements serve two functions: nondiscrimination and effective government. He explained that “[w]hether in an emergency or in the course of routine business matters, the success of government efforts to effectively communicate with members of the public depends on the widespread and nondiscriminatory availability of accurate, timely, and vital information.” We have asked the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division to assist us with further review of Components’ draft plans.

For more information about the draft Language Access Plans and opportunities to provide input at one of the stakeholder meetings, please contact crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For those who do not speak or write in English, CRCL has access to interpreters and translators and can communicate with you in any language.

Megan H. Mack
Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties