



Legislation Text

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A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the capabilities of community-based organizations to provide language services to support city services

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph 5 of subdivision c of section 15 of the New York city charter, as added by local law number 30 for the year 2017, is amended to read as follows:

5. Beginning no later than [June 30, 2018] December 15, 2023, and no later than every [June 30] December 15 thereafter, submit to the city council and post on the city website a report providing information regarding each agency subject to the requirements of section 23-1102 of the administrative code, including:

(i) the name of the individual designated as the agency's language access coordinator, including all titles held by such individual;

(ii) the agency's language access implementation plan, to be updated every three years unless such implementation plan has been updated by such agency since it was last reported;

(iii) information regarding how members of the public may submit language access complaints, questions and requests to the agency;

(iv) data on complaints and requests received pursuant to section 23-301 of the administrative code and a description of how such complaints and requests were addressed;

(v) a copy of the list of designated citywide languages, created pursuant to section 23-1101 of the

administrative code, as well as the data relied upon for its creation;

(vi) information regarding the outreach conducted pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subdivision;

(vii) the contracts entered into by the agency that were registered pursuant to section 328 during the preceding fiscal year and for which the principal purpose of such contracts was translation, interpretation, or other related language services, and for each such contract, such report shall include the total dollar value of the contract and the period of performance, whether the corresponding contractor was procured pursuant to either paragraph 1 of subdivision i of section 311 or section 314, whether the corresponding contractor is a community-based organization, and, to the extent practicable, the languages for which translation, interpretation, or other related language services were provided; and

(viii) a list of each contract the principal purpose of which is translation, interpretation, or other related language services and through which the agency issued a payment during the previous fiscal year, and the cumulative value of such payments during the previous fiscal year for each such contract.

§ 2. Chapter 1 of title 6 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 6-147 to read as follows:

§ 6-147 Provision of language services by community-based organizations. a. For the purposes of this section, the term “administering agency” means an agency designated by the mayor pursuant to section 11-a of the charter.

b. The administering agency shall conduct a survey of community-based organizations to assess their capacity to provide translation, interpretation, and other related language services in any of the 100 languages, including common and esoteric languages, identified by the language services coordinator pursuant to section 23-1102 of the code and based on language industry standards and best practices. No later than one year after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the administering agency shall transmit a report based on such survey to the speaker of the council and shall post a copy of such report on a website maintained or controlled by the administering agency. Such report shall include:

1. A summary of the survey’s findings, which shall include the challenges faced by community-based organizations providing or seeking to provide translation, interpretation, or other related language services on behalf of the city; and

2. Recommended steps that the city can take to remove barriers faced by community-based organizations to provide translation, interpretation, or other related language services on behalf of the city.

c. Based on the results of the survey, the administering agency shall, as appropriate:

1. Provide agencies with the names of community-based organizations participating in the survey, the types of translation, interpretation services, and related language services that each organization performs, and other relevant information collected in the course of conducting the survey;

2. Conduct outreach to community-based organizations regarding the process of prequalification pursuant to section 3-10 of title 9 of the rules of the city of New York, and providing information regarding the city’s procurement process and notices regarding any relevant city procurements; and

3. Coordinate an evaluation of contract specifications included in procurement solicitations and other relevant city procurement processes to determine how agencies can improve the business environment of community-based organizations seeking to provide translation, interpretation, or other related language services when appropriate.

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.