



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).


PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Behavioral Health Interpreter Training Program
Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan
Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Signature: 

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools' Adult Education Behavioral Health Interpreter Training Program is designed to equip adult English-language -learners with the training necessary to become professional behavioral health interpreters in a clinical setting. The purpose of offering such a program is to provide adults learning English with an opportunity to leverage their multilingual abilities to create a viable career path, and to assist families in need of professional translation services.

In spring 2023, the HCPS Adult Education Center launched a pilot program in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Seven adult learners successfully completed the 48-hour program. Based on the success of the program and continued student interest, a second session was offered in the fall of 2023.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

Adult English-language-learners new to the United States often face difficulty when seeking options for career paths. The Behavioral Health Interpreter Training program provides adults with a career path training option that affords them the ability to maintain enrollment in English language classes. The participants combine the skills learned in their English class with their native language skills and professional interpreter skills taught in the classes.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The Behavioral Health Interpreter Training Program is an example of how educators and a state agency can identify a need and work together to provide opportunities for adult learners in their communities. The pilot program was successful and resulted in a second cohort of students the following school year.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Behavioral Health Interpreter Training Program is a 48-hour program for bilingual students seeking to gain entry-level skills toward becoming a qualified professional behavioral health interpreter.

Graduates of this course are parallel to a professional medical interpreter, as they can perform contract work or become freelance interpreters.

The training sessions enable students to use their linguistic skills to become trained interpreters in behavioral health settings. Participants must be at a Level 3 and above in their Adult Education English Language Acquisition Class and must be proficient in at least one language other than English. Prior experience as an interpreter is not required. The course is taught by two highly skilled, experienced instructors who provide a dynamic learning environment that keeps participants actively engaged.

Participants:

- Practice and gain proper interpreting skills and learn the roles and responsibilities of an interpreter.
- Increase knowledge about federal and state regulations for people limited in English proficiency, including patients' rights and ethical considerations.
- Learn terminology used in behavioral health settings.
- Identify models of interpreting and learn about challenges facing interpreters.
- Understand how culture influences health beliefs, and culturally and linguistically appropriate encounters with clients who are limited in English proficiency.
- Practice techniques used before, during and after an interpreting session.

Language Proficiency: All applicants must pass the language proficiency test with a score of 80% or better in English and in the target language. March 15-30, 2023. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (online) from 6-8 p.m. Total of 48 hours. Free to participants. Course Certificate: The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, state government agency, provides a Certificate of Completion to successful participants.

Financing and Staffing

The program is free to participants. The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services covered the cost of the instructors and instructional materials.

Program Results

Seven adult learners successfully completed the 48-hour program. Based on the success of the program and continued student interest, more than 50 students requested enrollment in the program. A second session was offered in fall 2023.

Brief Summary

Henrico County Public Schools' Adult Education Behavioral Health Interpreter Training Program is designed to equip adult English-language learners with the training necessary to become professional behavioral health interpreters in a clinical setting. The purpose of offering such a program is to provide adults learning English with an opportunity to leverage their multilingual abilities to create a viable career path, and to assist families in need of professional translation services.

The 48-hour program is for bilingual students seeking to gain entry-level skills toward becoming a qualified professional behavioral health interpreter. The training sessions enable students to

use their linguistic skills to become trained interpreters in behavioral health settings. Graduates have similar opportunities as a professional medical interpreter, as they can perform contract

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