

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) recognizes the need for a comprehensive community engagement process that offers the community a meaningful opportunity to provide input into CPD policies. Please use the following information to guide your feedback and discussions on the CPD policy related to Limited English Proficiency and Language Access.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD will “review and, to the extent necessary, revise its language access policy to provide meaningful access to CPD programs and services for individuals who have a limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand English. CPD will ensure that its language access policy provides timely and meaningful access to police services for individuals with limited English proficiency (“LEP”)” (¶64). In development of the policy on Limited English Proficiency and Language Access, CPD has researched applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, and other published research and analyses, including recommendations from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

Current CPD Policy (available publicly at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>)

- G02-01 “Human Rights and Human Resources”
- S02-01-05 “Limited English Proficiency”

The Chicago Police Department will provide professional and courteous police service to all persons, equally and without prejudice and will take reasonable steps to provide service to all individuals encountered regardless of their ability to speak, read, write, or understand English.

Individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring a Department/police service will be provided interpretation services by the Department free of charge to ensure proper communication exists throughout the duration of the incident.

Section 2-40 MCC - Citywide Language Access To Ensure The Effective Delivery Of City Services. All City departments that provide direct public services shall ensure meaningful access to such services by taking reasonable steps to develop and implement department-specific language access plans regarding LEP persons. Those departments that provide services to the public that are not programmatic in nature, such as emergency services, shall implement this Chapter to the degree practicable.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Procedures that create mutual understanding, prevent discrimination and conflict, and ensure the respectful treatment of individuals with limited English proficiency.
- Providing individuals with limited English proficiency with meaningful access to CPD services, resources, facilities, and published materials.
- Training of CPD officers and supervisors on language access policies and procedures.
- Identification of language barriers and the use of interpretation services, including the use of telephonic interpretation services.
- Reporting and investigation of crimes and treatment of victims with limited English proficiency.
- The investigation and arrest processing procedures of individuals with limited English proficiency, including interviews, Miranda warnings, and interrogations.

CPD anticipates gathering and utilizing the feedback provided via the community engagement process to develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of and reflects the needs and expectations of both the community and CPD. CPD's policy development process will also include the public posting of proposed policies for comments on CPD's website prior to implementation.