



New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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How to Find a Signed Language Interpreter

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Signed language interpreting services may be arranged through a referral service agency or via direct agreement with an interpreter. There are many benefits to working through a referral service agency, including assistance from experts in finding an interpreter who is an appropriate linguistic match for your Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or DeafBlind client, as well as convenience.

Statewide Interpreter Referral Service Agencies

The referral service agencies listed on the next page serve individuals in New Mexico, and many contract with interpreters in a variety of communities around the state. Interpreter referral service agencies should generally attempt to find interpreters in the local area of the assignment first to minimize travel costs. Hiring entities are encouraged to establish agreements with multiple referral service agencies for their interpreting needs, as often different agencies are a better fit for specific situations and hourly rates vary between agencies.

On-Site or Video Remote Interpreting Services

All these referral service agencies provide both on-site interpreters as well as interpreters via Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). VRI can be appropriate in some situations, but an on-site interpreter is preferable for most Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind consumers in many settings. If VRI is used, an interpreter located in New Mexico is better able to effectively navigate linguistic nuances particular to our state.

State Licensure

New Mexico requires all signed language interpreters to be licensed to protect Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind consumers. Practicing without a license is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or up to a \$1000 fine. Interpreting is defined as any form of facilitating communication in a visual form, regardless of the individual's job title or position description. Details are on the website of the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board: www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/signed-language-interpreting-practices/.

Licensure Database

A searchable database of licensed interpreters in New Mexico can be found on the Regulation and Licensing Department website here: <https://nmrldpi.my.site.com/bcd/s/rld-public-search>. Select Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board from the Profession menu and enter the first or last name of the interpreter in the License Holder Name field.

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)

RID is the national professional organization and certifying body for signed language interpreters. A searchable database of interpreters available for freelance work is included on their website: www.RID.org. Click on "Search the Registry" at the top of the page. The search function defaults to Certified interpreters. Change the pull-down menu in the Category field to Associate to find pre-certified interpreters.

Interpreter Referral Service Agencies

Please note that information about referral service agencies is provided for reference and does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by NMCDHH.

<p>Lango (formerly COPD) Phone: 505.274.7895 After-hours emergency answering service: In Albuquerque 505.857.3652 Outside of Albuquerque 888.549.7684 langosw@lango.co * lango.co/lango-deaf-hoh/ Nationwide with an office in Albuquerque.</p>	<p>Vancro Jessica Huntzinger Phone: 805-709-9003 or 802-270-0103 Jessica.huntzinger@vancro.com https://vancroiis.com https://vancroiis.com/request-an-interpreter/ * Nationwide with an office in Albuquerque.</p>
<p>RGC Access Interpreter Coordinators: Megan Goldberg, 505.270.9975 (FaceTime/Text/Call) mgoldberg@rgc-access.org Rebecca De Santis rdesantis@rgc-access.org www.rgc-access.org https://rgc-access.org/request-an-interpreter * Based in New Mexico.</p>	<p>Sorenson Community Interpreting Services John L. Moore, Customer Care Manager Phone/Videophone: 614.569.4120 Jmoore2@sorenson.com 24/7 Access: 800.659.4783 communityinterpreting@sorenson.com www.scis.com https://sorenson.com/si/scheduling/ * Nationwide based in Utah.</p>
<p>Southwest Interpreting Services Lorena Ramirez, Owner 915.478.5022 SouthwestInterpreting@gmail.com * www.southwestinterpreting.org Based in and serving southern New Mexico.</p>	<p>El Paso SLI Sign Language Interpreters Interpreter Coordinator: Alice Marquez 915-356-8891 (call/text) sli.schedules@gmail.com * www.slielpaso.com Based in Texas & serving southern New Mexico.</p>
<p>Zia Sign Language Interpreting Interpreter Coordinator: Bailey Huffmon 575.937.4952 (FaceTime/Text/Call) * baileykhuffmon@gmail.com * Based in southern New Mexico and serving rural communities across New Mexico.</p>	<p>American Sign Language, Inc. Acacia Hutton and Nick Vela Phone: 212.477.0775 interpreters@asli.com * www.asli.com Based in Florida.</p>
<p>GLOBO Language Solutions Troy Wygant, Account Executive Phone: 215.709.0990 * troy@helloglobo.com * www.helloglobo.com Nationwide based in Pennsylvania.</p>	

* Asterisks indicate the preferred way to submit requests.

State Procurement Process

The State of New Mexico has a Statewide Price Agreement in place for the provision of signed language interpreters, but state agencies are not limited to only entering agreements with interpreter referral services included on the price agreement. State agencies should talk to multiple interpreter referral agencies to determine which can best meet their needs for each assignment, and which have interpreters in their local area so that the state agency is not paying for unnecessary travel.

The Statewide Price Agreement can be found on the General Services Department website: www.generalservices.state.nm.us/statepurchasing/Statewide_Price_Agreements.aspx. Enter "Signed Language Interpreting Services" in the "Description" search box. Any entity may use the Price Agreement as a reference as they research price, policies, and procedures for hiring interpreters.