



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

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TO: Center/Office Directors
Consortia Administrators

FROM: *Charlene Frizzera*
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SUBJECT: Strategic Language Access Plan (LAP) Policy for Limited English Proficient Persons (LEP)

On August 11, 2000, former President Clinton signed Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency." The Executive Order requires agencies and programs to ensure that Federally-funded activities are accessible to all persons who, as a result of national origin, are not proficient or are limited in their ability to communicate in the English language.

By December 11, 2000, Federal Agencies had two requirements:

- 1) Develop guidance for recipients of Federal funds concerning their obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act to provide language assistance, and
- (2) Develop a plan for improving LEP individual access to and participation in Federally-conducted programs and activities.

The attached Strategic Language Access Plan (LAP) outlines 11 elements that will be implemented during the 2011 through 2014 fiscal years to ensure processes are in place in an effort to afford LEP persons access and an equal opportunity to participate in CMS activities. All interpreters, translators and other aids needed to comply with this policy shall be provided without cost to the person being served.

Therefore, all CMS activities should be governed in accordance with this policy.

Attachment