

Creating Interpreter Resources



An Alaskan Experience

ALASKA IMMIGRATION JUSTICE PROJECT

- Only comprehensive immigration legal services provider in Alaska
- Provide statewide services
- Served over 700 people last year
- Priority is to represent asylum seekers, domestic violence and sexual assault victims and people facing deportation

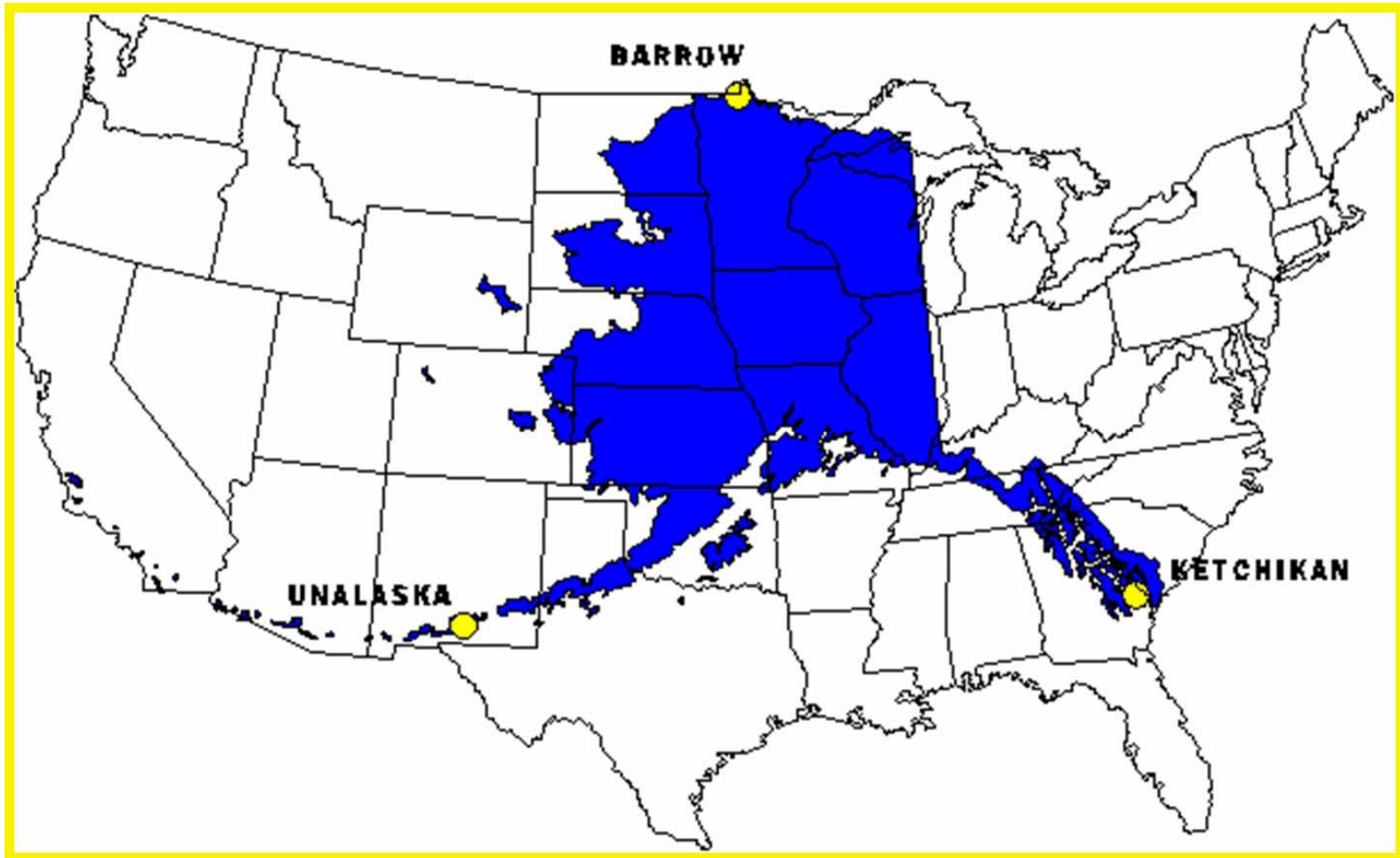
Some Background

- 665,000 residents
- 14.3% of households speak a language other than English at home
- 95 different languages spoken in Anchorage School District



Photo credit Eric Luse 4012

Scope of the Our State: Geography



KODIAK, ALASKA



30% Alaska Native
32% Asian
8.5% Hispanic/Latino



Unalaska



Largest fishing port in the US

Thousands of seasonal workers from all over the world work in Unalaska 8 months of each year

- » 30% Asian
- » 7% Alaska Native
- » 12% Hispanic/Latino



Scope of the Problem: Supply and Demand

- Inadequate supply of qualified interpreters
- No method to determine interpreter qualifications
- No central place to find interpreters
- Each agency had independent list



Photo credit John Hyde Ak Div. Tourism

One Solution/A Public Private Collaboration How We Got There



Photo credit Rex Melton Ak Div. Tourism

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LANGUAGE INTERPRETER CENTER

- PUBLIC/PRIVATE INITIATIVE
- THREE GOALS:
 - TRAIN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND ALASKA NATIVE INTERPRETERS
 - CENTRALIZED INTERPRETER REFERRAL AGENCY
 - EDUCATE COMMUNITY ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS

1. Do your homework



Anchorage Museum of History & Art. Library & Archives.

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BUILD SOLID FOUNDATION

- Needs Assessment
 - Survey documenting interpreters needed
 - Resources to provide
 - Ask Decision-makers able to make funding allocations and Front-line staff

BUSINESS PLAN

- Outline Plan
 - Identify Funding Sources
 - Identify Staffing
 - Identify Training/Technical Assistance
 - Identify legal structure – non-profit

2. Cross Disciplines and Boundaries



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

3. Involve Everyone



Photo credit: E. Schneider Ak Div. Tourism

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- Businesses – real estate companies, banks
- Federal government agencies, i.e. post office
- State government agencies
- Non-profits
- Health Care providers

Alaska LIC Stakeholders

- United Way
- Alaska Bar Association
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Anchorage School District
- Alaska Department of Transportation
- Office of Public Advocacy
- Public Defender Agency
- Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
- ConocoPhillips
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

LEAD AGENCY

- Has the ability to bring people together
- Identify Key People in Different Sectors
- Keep people involved and informed

5. Ask for Commitments/Build on Successes



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CULTURAL CHANGES

- Institutional
- Interpreter/Translation Profession
- Creating objective uniform standards of interpreter skills for medical, legal and social service interpreting
- Community Education
 - Code of Interpreter Ethics
 - Role and Responsibilities of Working with Interpreters

WHERE WE ARE NOW

- Completed first interpreter training for foreign language interpreters in the 4 most common languages in Alaska
- Video-teleconference meeting with Alaska Native interpreters and elders
- Trained more than 300 professionals in Anchorage on ethics, role and responsibilities of working with interpreters

TRAINING

- All interpreters referred by the LIC must go through LIC interpreter training
- Ethics
- Profession Specific Training
- Criminal Background check

Looking Forward

- Planning for long-term sustainability (funding, but also interpreters) – institutionalize training program in University
- Need to show “deliverables” every year to justify ongoing commitment
- Continue to educate and bring more stakeholders to the table



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