



# EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

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## RESOLUTION



**WHEREAS**, the Title VI (6) of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “No Person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in; be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal Financial Assistance”; AND

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order No. 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency," executed on August 11, 2000, federally funded agencies are required to take steps to ensure that people with LEP have access to federally funded programs and services; AND

**WHEREAS**, In the United States, Federal Offices, State Departments, Counties, and Cities are recognizing that in order to better serve their residents, they must accommodate to different forms of communication and languages and services should not be withheld intentionally or unintentionally from those who are unable to communicate through the dominant language or common forms of communication; AND

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that entities such as State and local governments, communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities with the goal to ensure that communication with people with these disabilities are equally effective as communication with people without disabilities.

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Census, over 260,000 of El Paso residents are Limited English Proficient with the top 5 languages being Spanish, Korean, German, Arabic, and Chinese; and more than 32,000 individuals are of hearing difficulty; AND

**WHEREAS**, the County of El Paso prides itself in being a responsive and an inclusive government that effectively works towards building a culturally competent and linguistically accessible government by committing to be safe and engaged place where EVERYONE can contribute and thrive through civic, economic, and cultural integration; AND

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of a language access program would ensure that ALL residents, including individuals with disabilities or that are Limited English Proficient, have meaningful access to information, programs, and services; AND

**WHEREAS**, health communication and outreach strategies during a pandemic or other disruptive conditions should not be hampered by language proficiencies in populations and communication and information from local government should reach ALL El Pasoans in an effective and timely manner so that residents are fully informed and are able to risk assess, mitigate, prepare for, adapt to, and recover from future disruptive conditions.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court that the County of El Paso, Texas and its departments will work towards facilitating effective interactions and providing accessible communication through the implementation of the iSpeak915 Language Access. This will be accomplished by adopting policies and orders approved Commissioners Court to support the implementation of this program.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, The Commissioners of the Court hereby affix their signatures, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, in El Paso, Texas.

**SIGNED**, this 28<sup>h</sup> day of March, 2022

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Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

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Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2

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Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

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Commissioner Carl Robinson, Pct. 4

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Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge