Appendix C: Language Tiers

King County's Top Languages Ranked into Three Tiers
2016 Census Update Data
(Most current as of October 2018)

	Language	Tier
First Tier: Translation Required	**Spanish**	**1**

Second Tier:	Vietnamese	**2**
	Somali	**2**
Translation	Russian	**2**
	Chinese	**2**
Recommended	Korean	**2**
	Amharic	**2**
	Arabic	**2**
	Ukrainian	**2**

Third Tier:	Tagalog	3
	Punjabi	3
	Tigrinya	3
Translation	Burmese	3
	Nepali	3
	Cambodian	3
Encouraged	Farsi	3
	Japanese	3
	Hindi	3
	Oromo	3
	Samoan	3

Key:

First Tier: "Public Communication Materials" must be translated into target language, in specific instances spelled out in the Executive Order and where practicable.

Second Tier: Translation of Public Communication Materials is recommended, depending on target audience.

Third Tier: Translation of Public Communication Materials is encouraged, depending on target audience.

2016 update note: Compared to the original 2010 Executive Order, Arabic has replaced Punjabi in second tier. Otherwise, the first two tiers are identical to those in the 2010 Executive Order.

Research on languages spoken in King County used five different sources to identify the most common languages. Spanish is clearly alone as a first tier, spoken by far more people than any other language.

Language-Rank-Tiers-2016Updt-Final.xlsx

Eight other languages are the next most frequently spoken by county residents, forming a second tier.

A third tier is made up of 11 additional languages spoken by smaller numbers in particular communities.

See accompanying page for more information about data sources and the three tiers methodology.

King County's Top Languages - 2016 Update - January 2017

Five Sources of Limited English Proficiency Data

Tiers are based on relative numbers of King County residents speaking each language with limited English proficiency.

Source:	A1 - not used	A2	B	C	D	E		Avg rank of col's A2,B,C,D,E	
Rank	Census ACS: English "less than very well" 2010-2014	Census ACS PUMS, English "less than very well" 2010-2014	OSPI: Limited English Proficiency students 2013-2014	KC-District Courts 2014-2015 (cases, n = 26,647)	KC WIC -2015 (unduplicated client n=47,676)	PH Clinic Visits - 2014-2015 combined (n=61,001)	Language	Avg Rank	Overall Rank / Tier
1	Spanish 53,400	Spanish 52,300	Spanish 23,500	Spanish 16,200	Spanish 9,400	Spanish 39,800	Spanish	1	1
2	Chinese 31,500	Chinese 31,700	Vietnamese 5,500	Vietnamese 2,000	Somali 1,200	Somali 4,600	Vietnamese	2.8	2
3	Vietnamese 20,200	Vietnamese 20,700	Chinese: Mand + Cant. 5,300*	Chinese-Mand+Cant 1,700*	Vietnamese 1,000	Arabic 4,000***	Somali	4.2	2
4	"African Lang" 15,100	Korean 10,612	Somali 3,600	Russian 1,400	Russian 700	Vietnamese 2,000	Russian	4.8	2
5	Korean 11,000	Tagalog 8,500	Russian 2,400	Korean 800	Ukrainian 400	Russian 1,700	Chinese	5.4	2
6	Tagalog 9,200	Russian 7,000	Korean 1,900	Somali 760	Cantonese/Chinese 360*	Burmese 1,700	Korean	7.6	2
7	Russian 8,200	Cushite 6,300**	Ukrainian 1,900	Amharic 530	Amharic 200	Amharic 1,500	Amharic	8.0	2
8	"Other Indic" 6,600	Amharic 6,000	Tagalog 1,900	Arabic 520	Arabic 150	Tigrinya 1,000	Arabic	8.4	2
9	"Other Slavic" 5,700	Ukrainian 5,300	Punjabi 1,400	Tagalog 340	Korean 100	Farsi 1,000	Ukrainian	9.6	2
10	Pacific Island 4,700	Japanese 4,700	Arabic 1,100	Samoan 330	Oromo 100	Nepali 800	see below	10+	3
		Mon-Khmer 4,400	Amharic 1,000	Cambodian 320	Punjabi 90	Dari 500			
		Panjabi 4,200		Farsi 300		Oromo 500			
		Arabic 2,800				Cantonese 400			

Note: A1 not used for 2014.

Col. A2 (PUMS) used instead

- First Tier
- Second Tier
- Third Tier

Tier 3 Languages: Tagalog, Punjabi, Tigrinya, Burmese, Nepali, Cambodian, Farsi, Japanese, Hindi, Oromo, French, Samoan.

* Chinese includes Cantonese and Mandarin, all translated using "traditional" Chinese.

***Annette Holland: "this reflects screening but not clients,"

Sources:

** Cushite includes Somali and Tigrinya.

therefore may slightly overstate Arabic.

A1. Not used.

A2. US Census Bureau, "American Community Survey" data for King County WA, language spoken at home, 2010-2014 Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) data
   number of persons age 5+ reporting a home language other than English and who do not speak English "very well."

B. WA State Office of Financial Management, Limited English Proficiency students in King County, 2013-2014

http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/subject/default.asp

C. King County District Courts data, KCDC (Nicole Walker), 4/12/2016 via email.

D. King County Women, Infants and Children CIMS, Lynn Kidder via Susan Kinne, 3/25/2016.

E. King County Public Health clinic visits 2014 + 2015, Annette Holland, 4/4/2016 via email.

Notes

1. Census does not distinguish African languages; based on other sources, probably chiefly Somali, Amharic.
2. Census lumps other Slavic languages; based on other sources, probably chiefly Ukrainian.
3. Census lumps other Indic languages; based on other sources, probably chiefly Punjabi.
(these notes apply apply to column A1; omit in final version)