IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE, AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF K.C.C. § 2.15?

- **Enhance trust and fairness.** K.C.C. § 2.15 promotes trust and fairness for King County immigrant and refugee communities.
- **Establish requirements.** K.C.C. § 2.15 establishes requirements for how King County agencies, offices, and employees must provide services to immigrants and refugees.
- **Reaffirm King County’s values.** K.C.C. § 2.15 reaffirms that King County is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community for all.

WHY DOES K.C.C. § 2.15 MATTER?

- **Growing immigrant population.** Over 50,000 or 23% of King County residents were born outside the U.S. Between 2010 and 2019, the foreign-born population grew by 36%. (Source: ACS)
- **Refugee resettlement.** In FY2020, Washington was the 2nd most common destination for refugees. Washington is the 6th largest refugee-receiving state in the U.S. (Source: Migration Policy)
- **Linguistic diversity.** Nearly 600,000 or 28% of King County residents over age 5 speak a language other than English at home. Nearly 40% of these residents report they do not speak English very well or at all. (Source: ASC)

HOW DO I COMPLY WITH K.C.C. § 2.15?

- **Provide equitable access to services.** Unless required by state or federal law or court order, the provision of county services shall not be conditioned on a person’s citizenship or immigration status, or national origin.
- **Develop a language access plan.** All King County agencies must develop a language access plan that ensures Limited English Proficient persons can meaningfully access its program, services, and activities. Every plan must outline translation needs based on the top six languages identified by the Office of Equity and Social Justice and county demographer.
- **Provide free translation and interpretation.** Where an application or form requires completion in English by a Limited English Proficient person, King County shall make reasonable efforts to provide oral interpretation and an acknowledgement form. Limited English Proficient persons must not wait unreasonably longer to receive assistance than persons who do not require interpretation.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS?

Please visit the [K.C.C. 2.15 webpage](#) for more resources on how you can better serve immigrants, refugees, and Limited English Proficient members of the public. If you have additional questions, please contact your agency’s K.C.C. 2.15 language access liaison or the Office of Equity and Social Justice directly.