

Appendix C: Language Tiers

King County's Top Languages Ranked into Three Tiers

The language tiers reflect the language needs of Limited-English Proficient populations in King County and they are guidelines for document translation.

Five different sources were used to identify the 20 most common language needs in King County. These languages are ranked into three tiers. Spanish is alone in Tier 1, as it is clearly the most prevalent of the non-English languages spoken in King County. Eight other languages are clustered and ranked in Tier 2 and are the next most frequently-spoken languages. Eleven additional languages make up Tier 3.

Programs, if they have a known need, can translate Public Communication Materials and Vital Documents into languages other than those in the three tiers.

When targeting audiences that live in a specific geographic region, refer to the language maps (available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, Korean, and African languages only, due to limited data).

	Language	Avg Rank	Tier
First Tier: Materials Shall be Translated	Spanish	1	1
Second Tier: Translation Recommended	Vietnamese	2	2
	Russian	4	2
	Somali	4	2
	Chinese	4	2
	Korean	6	2
	Ukrainian	7	2
	Amharic	8	2
	Punjabi	9	2
Third Tier: Translation Encouraged	Tagalog	10+	3
	Cambodian	10+	3
	Laotian	10+	3
	Japanese	10+	3
	Hindi	10+	3
	Arabic	10+	3
	Farsi	10+	3
	Tigrinya	10+	3
	Oromo	10+	3
	French	10+	3
	Samoan	10+	3

Key:

- First Tier:** "Public Communication Materials" shall be translated into target language as soon as feasible within available resources.
- 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.