



Language Assistance Plan 2025



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Language Assistance Plan

Updated February 2025

The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is committed to conducting outreach to traditionally underserved individuals and communities, which include but are not limited to persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). LEP is assessed using U.S. Census Bureau data on language spoken at home and linguistic isolation. The data is analyzed at the smallest geography for which there is reliable and detailed data. The following discussion and analysis include components of the Four Factor Analysis recommended by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Data was procured through the US Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates using table B16002 Detailed Household Language by Household Limited English-Speaking Status.

Non-English-Speaking Population in the South Central Region

The South Central Region is comprised of the following fifteen municipalities: Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge. According to the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimate, the total number of households of the South Central Region is 227,739. There are about 54,446 households in the Region, or 23.9%, that speak a language other than English at home (Table 1). 59.3% of non-English speaking households speak Spanish (approximately 14.2% of total households).

Number/Proportion of LEP Persons Likely to be Encountered in the South Central Region

For the purpose of this Plan, the Limited English Proficient population is defined as non-English speakers (those that speak a language other than English at home) who speak English "less than very well" and, following the U.S. Department of Justice's Guidelines, constitute either 5% of the total population or amount to at least 400 households (LEP population). **Of those households that speak a non-English language in the South Central Region, 11,341, or about 20.82%, speak English "less than very well" (Table 2). Spanish speakers overwhelmingly dominate the LEP population (7,423 households).**

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Geographic Distribution of LEP persons

Spanish Speaking Households

The Spanish-speaking population (those that speak Spanish at home) is largely clustered in census tracts in and next to New Haven and Meriden (Map 1). Conversely, the Spanish-speaking LEP population is concentrated in a limited number of census tracts, mainly in New Haven, Meriden, West Haven and East Haven (Map 2).

Other Language Groups

Although the Indo-European, Slavic, Chinese, and Arabic language groups each include over 400 LEP households, they are a small part of LEP households when compared to Spanish Speaking households. So, it is best to examine the spatial distribution of the absolute number of these LEP populations rather than their percentage of the total households (Maps 3-5). The highest concentration of the Indo-European-speaking LEP population is spread across Milford, West Haven, New Haven, East Haven, Branford, Wallingford and Meriden. The Chinese-speaking LEP population is more dispersed, with the densest pockets of households in North Haven and New Haven. The Slavic Language-speaking LEP households are centered around Orange, New Haven, and Hamden. Arabic speaking LEP households are clustered in West Haven, New Haven, and Meriden.

Frequency with which LEP Persons Come into Contact with SCRCOG Programs

SCRCOG staff record the frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with SCRCOG programs. Over the past three years, there have been no requests for translation services or interpretation services. Contact with LEP persons is expected to occur via public meetings, office visits, or phone calls.

Nature and Importance of SCRCOG Programs to the LEP Population

SCRCOG uses federal and state funding to plan for future transportation projects that can have an impact on the lives of all residents of the South Central Region. It is important for LEP persons to be able to participate in the planning process of these projects, particularly during public meetings or public comment periods.

Resources Available for LEP Outreach

Meeting notices and agendas, and the SCRCOG website, include details on arranging special accommodation, including language translation and interpretation services. As described in the Involvement Strategies section below, all LEP-related and translated documents are available on the SCRCOG website and at the SCRCOG Offices. Due to the cost of translation services and the infrequency with which LEP persons have come into contact with SCRCOG programs, SCRCOG staff will translate additional documents on a requested basis.

Conclusions

The high amount of both Spanish-speaking residents that speak English "less than very well" and linguistically isolated Spanish-speaking households implies that the Spanish language calls for special consideration in SCRCOG's public involvement strategy. However, this does not preclude other language groups from being considered. Other languages, especially Slavic,

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Arabic, Chinese, and Other Indic Languages, will need to be considered on a project-by-project basis as there are pockets of LEP persons speaking these languages in the Region.

Involvement Strategies

The South Central Regional Council of Governments employs the following mechanisms to ensure persons who are not proficient in English can effectively take part in the transportation planning process:

- A distribution list with contact information for Spanish language media is kept and media releases are issued, as necessary. For example, notices for major SCRCOG planning activities/meetings, such as the Transportation Improvement Program and Long-Range Transportation Plan are advertised in Spanish language media. The posting of notices for other meetings in Spanish, as well as in the other LEP languages, is considered on a project-by-project basis.
- All meeting notices are distributed to a distribution list of non-governmental organizations who have expressed interest in the transportation planning process. o Details on how to arrange for special accommodations is included on all meeting notices issued by SCRCOG, in both English and Spanish:
 - o “The agenda and attachments for this meeting are available on our website at www.scrkog.org. Please contact SCRCOG at (203) 234-7555 for a copy of the agenda in a language other than English. Auxiliary aids/services and Limited English Proficiency interpreters will be provided with two weeks' notice.”
- SCRCOG has posted its Public Participation, Title VI, and Limited English Proficiency policies on its website (<http://www.scrkog.org/public-participation>) and hard copies are available at the SCRCOG Offices. These documents are available in both English and Spanish and will be translated into other languages, upon request.
- A Google Translator widget is available on the SCRCOG Website, which allows content to be viewed in many different languages. All translated meeting notices and documents are posted to the Website.
- All SCRCOG meetings are held in transit accessible locations.
- SCRCOG staff have access to Language Identification Flashcards in order to better serve LEP persons.

Monitoring and Updating of this Plan

The following actions will allow the content of this Plan to remain relevant and implementable: o The U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey data (5-year estimates) will be analyzed on an annual basis to ensure that the most prevalent languages are addressed in the Limited English Proficiency Plan.

- SCRCOG staff will continue to keep track of requests for translated documents. This data will aid with deciding which documents should be routinely translated.
- Using Google Analytics, SCRCOG staff will watch the number of downloads from the Website of the translated documents.
- The Involvement Strategies will be evaluated on a yearly basis. Existing strategies will be adjusted and new strategies will be employed, as necessary.

Staff Training

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SCRCOG staff will continue to attend workshops and Federal Highway Administration/ Federal Transit Administration webinars related to Title VI. Additionally, SCRCOG staff will continue to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to ensure this Plan is consistent with both state and federal policies and guidance.

Closing Comments

SCRCOG is committed to removing as many language barriers as possible and making its programs accessible to those who want to become involved in the transportation planning process.

SCRCOG's efforts, as outlined in this Plan, will continue to be consistent with Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" (dated August 11, 2000) and other related guidance from the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

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Attachments

Tables

Table 1 – Languages Spoken at Home (by Household)

Table 2 - Non-English-Speaking Households with Limited English Proficiency

Maps

Map 1 – All Spanish Speaking Households

Map 2 – Spanish Speaking Households with Low English Proficiency

Map 3 – Other Indo-European Speaking Households with Limited English Proficiency

Map 4 – Chinese Speaking Households with Limited English Proficiency

Map 5 – Russian, Polish, and Slavic Speaking Households with Limited English Proficiency

Map 6 – All Households with Limited English Proficiency

Table 1

Languages Spoken at Home (by Household)

South Central Region

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<u>Language</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Only English	173293	76.09%
Spanish	32292	14.18%
French, Haitian, or Cajun	2298	1.01%
German or other West Germanic languages	972	0.43%
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	2209	0.97%
Other Indo-European languages	6839	3.00%
Korean	597	0.26%
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	3073	1.35%
Vietnamese	526	0.23%
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	677	0.30%
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	1743	0.76%
Arabic	1043	0.46%
Other and unspecified languages	<u>2177</u>	<u>0.96%</u>
Total	227739	100.00%
Total Non-English Language Speakers	54446	23.91%

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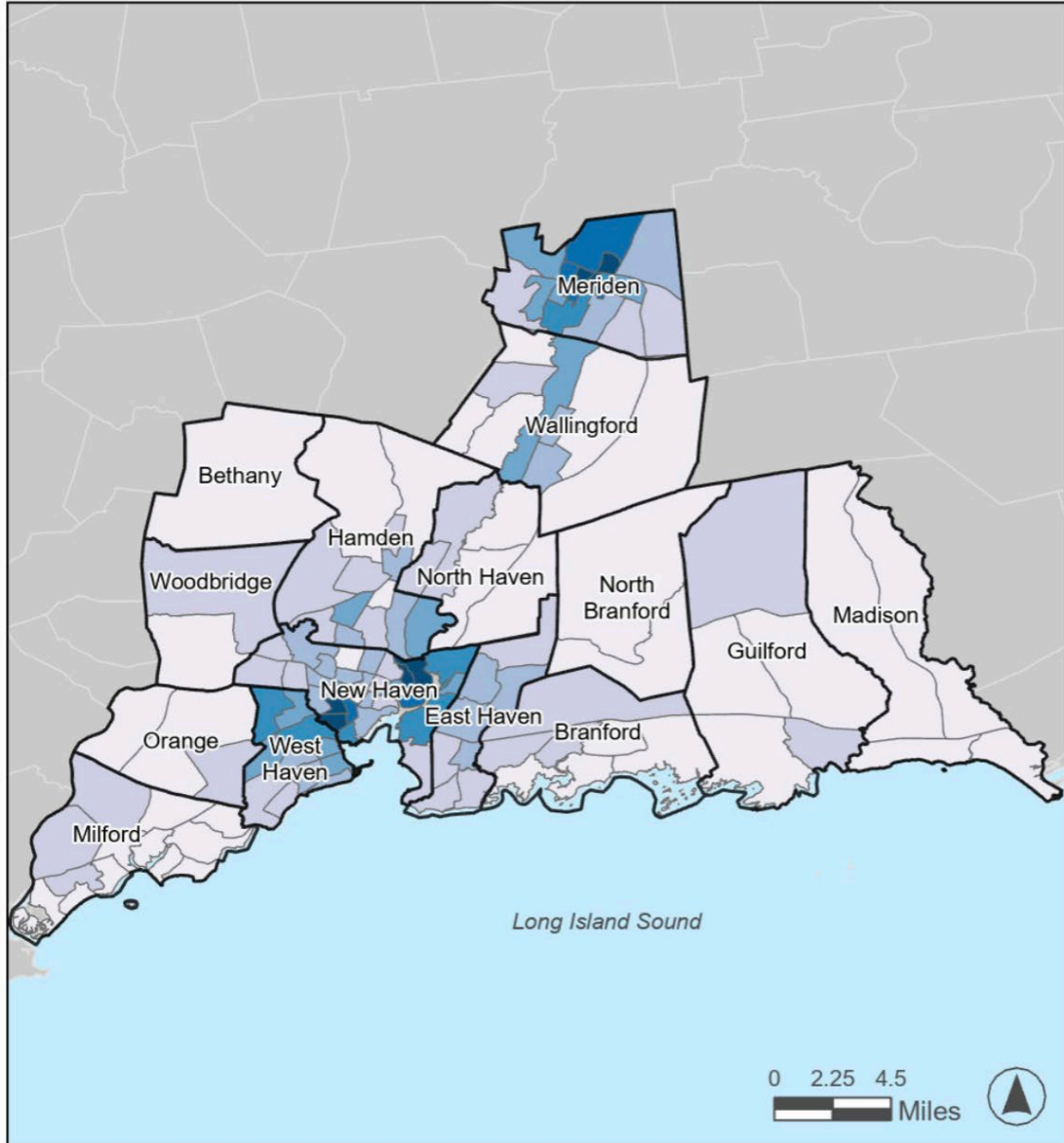
Table 2

Non-English-Speaking Households with Limited English Proficiency

South Central Region

<u>Language</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Limited English Proficiency</u>
Spanish	32292	7423
French, Haitian, or Cajun	2298	384
German or other West Germanic languages	972	33
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	2209	396
Other Indo-European languages	6839	881
Korean	597	361
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	3073	800
Vietnamese	526	55
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	677	32
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	1743	292
Arabic	1043	380
Other and unspecified languages	2177	304
Total	54446	11341
Percent of Non-English Language Speakers with LEP		20.83%

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All Spanish Speaking Households
Figure 1

Percent of Total Households

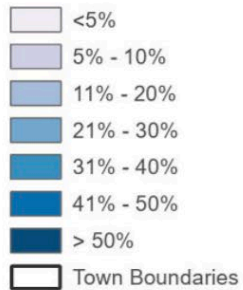
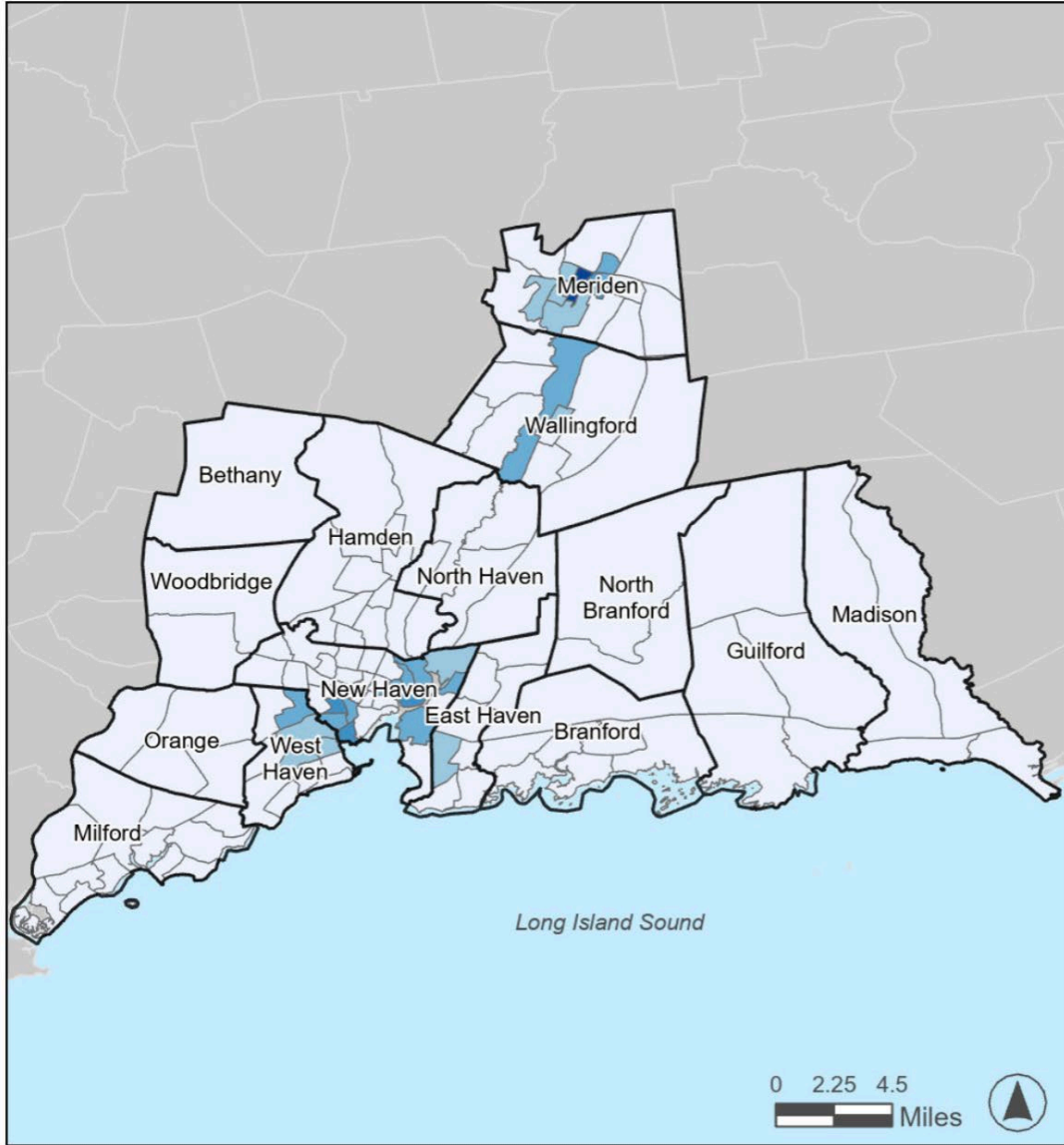


Figure 1. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Detailed Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B16002, 2023, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2023.B16>

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Spanish Speaking Households
with Limited English Proficiency
Figure 2

Percent of Total Households







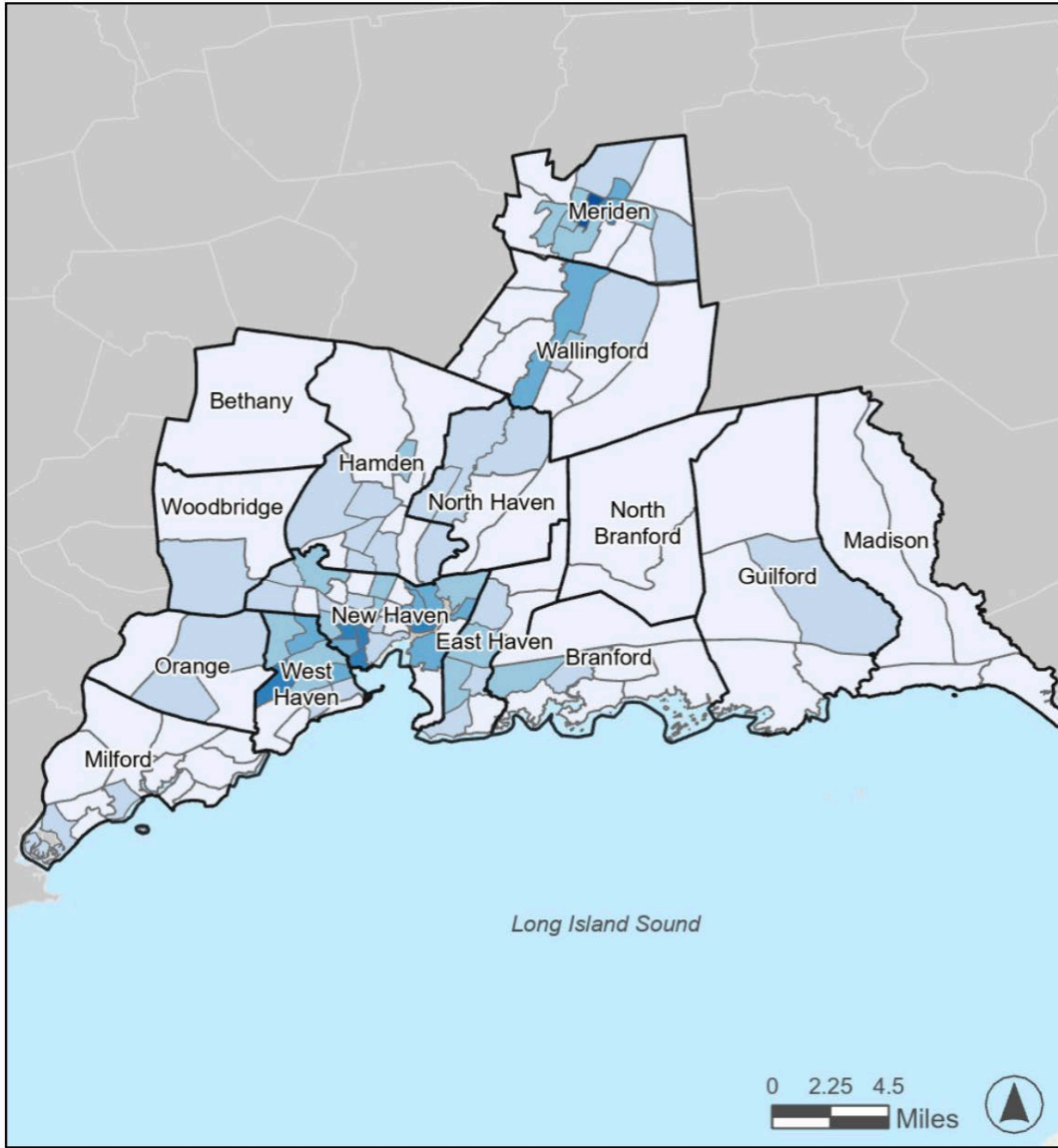
-  <5%
-  5% - 10%
-  11% - 20%
-  21% - 30%
-  >30%
-  Town Boundaries

Figure 2. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Detailed Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B16002, 2023, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACS5Y2023>.

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All Households with Limited English Proficiency

Figure 6

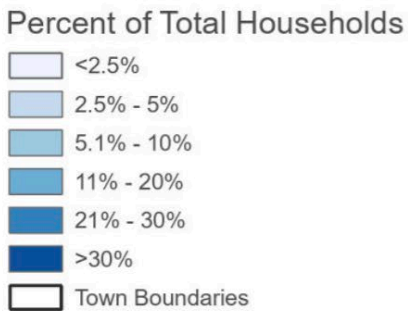


Figure 3. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Detailed Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B16002, 2023, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACS5Y2023>.