

Application Report

Applicant Name:	Westside Regional Center
Application:	FY2628 WRC LACC Funding
App ID:	App-26-1415
Funding Announcement:	FY2026-28 Language Access and Cultural Competency Regional Center Plans
Requested Amount:	\$1,032,370.00



Project Summary: Westside Regional Center plans to use this LACC funding to fund the LACC Project Specialist position, the Service Access & Training Specialist position, a portion of bilingual stipends, and several other endeavors. These endeavors include trainings on Cultural Competency, ASL, Deaf sensitivity training, and Spanish for social services professionals courses for WRC staff. We will continue translation and interpretation for families. We will also provide technology classes for parents, plain language rewrites of some parts of the WRC website, parenting classes in English and Spanish, translation of e-learning modules completed in early 2026, and further e-learning courses to help the community learn about disabilities, caring for the caregiver, and processing grief. We will hire an AAPI consultant, a Farsi-speaking consultant, and a website consultant to help with outreach efforts and to make accessible changes to the WRC website.

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APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Section Name: Regional Center Eligibility
Sub-Section Name: Regional Center Information

1. APPLICANT QUESTION: PROJECT TITLE

What is the Project Title?

Please respond to this question adding the regional center name to following the format:

26/28-LACC-RC

Applicant Response:

26/28-LACC-WRC

2. APPLICANT QUESTION: ALLOCATION AMOUNT

The allocation amount for FY2026/27 has been provided to each regional center. The Department will apply the same methodology for both fiscal years. Therefore, the amount you enter here should double the FY2026/27 allocation.

Applicant Response:

1032370

3. APPLICANT QUESTION: DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

Include your regional center's name and provide a brief description of your organization.

Applicant Response:

Westside Regional Center (WRC) is one of the 21 regional centers that provide services to persons, age three and above, with a disability pursuant to the Lanterman Act and infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months, who have a need for early intervention services and who meet the eligibility criteria for the California Early Start program. It is WRC's mission to support people with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities of choice by facilitating access to person-centered, culturally responsive services and resources.

4. APPLICANT QUESTION: COUNTIES SERVED

Select the counties in the geographic region that your regional center serves.

Applicant Response:

- Los Angeles
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Section Name: Plan Summary

Sub-Section Name: Regional Center Plan Summary

5. APPLICANT QUESTION: PROJECT PLAN

Please review the FY26-28 DDS LACC Activities & Measures Definitions document for detailed information.

I acknowledge that I have read the LACC Activities & Measures Definitions and completed the Project Plan (see Project Plan tab above). I acknowledge that the completed project plan aligns with the proposed budget.

Applicant Response:

Yes

6. APPLICANT QUESTION: ETHNIC/CULTURAL GROUPS SERVED

Select the ethnic/cultural group(s) the regional center LACC plan will focus on. For "Indian," "Middle Eastern," "Mixteco," "Native American," "Pacific Islander," "Slavic," or "Other" use comment section to list specific groups. Click "Show Instruction" for reference.

Applicant Response:

- Black/African American
- Chinese
- Hispanic
- Korean
- LGBTQIA+
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) / Deaf+
- Other (list in comment section)

Additional Comments:

Persian

7. APPLICANT QUESTION: LANGUAGE(S) SERVED

For the ethnic or cultural groups selected in the previous question, choose the languages your regional center will be supporting. If the language(s) is not listed, please select "Other" and enter it in the comment section.

Please List Only The Language(S) Your RC's LACC Plan Will Prioritize Conducting Activities In (Other Than Interpretation And Translation).

Applicant Response:

- Amharic
 - American Sign Language
 - English
 - Farsi
 - Korean
 - Spanish
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8. APPLICANT QUESTION: DATA AND COMMUNITY INPUT

Explain How Your Regional Center Has Incorporated Department-Provided Ethnicity And Language Data Into The LACC Planning Process, And How Community Input Has Guided The Development Of Culturally And Linguistically Responsive Initiatives. Please Include Both Internal And External Review Strategies.

Applicant Response:

WRC recognizes that we serve a large number of Black/African American, Hispanic, and White individuals with diverse needs as it relates to language and culture. Many of the individuals served by WRC speak Spanish, English, Farsi, Amharic, and Korean, or use ASL. It is important for staff at WRC to understand the cultural background of the individuals they serve and have ongoing training on cultural competency.

Community input from the purchase of service data meetings, from surveys, and from focus groups conducted at with the Amharic support group and with Latinx parents demonstrate the following:

1. Families want more information about events, vendors, and services. We hope to provide more information through continued translation, interpretation, and plain language rewrites. We want to make information easier to find by providing parent technology classes, a computer station for families to use at WRC, a WRC-specific vendor database, and courses on services easily accessible through the WRC website.
2. Families are concerned about high caseloads. We want to alleviate this by reducing staff turnover by providing bilingual stipends to staff who are proficient in a language other than English.
3. Childcare makes it easier to attend events. We will provide childcare for ASL courses for families, and for other parent/family educational opportunities whenever possible.
4. It can be difficult to use WRC's website. This is the main driver for plain language rewrites/sections of the website and hiring a consultant to help with this effort.
5. Recommended staff training. We will address this through our work with CircleUp to provide cultural competency training, through staff ASL classes, Deaf Sensitivity training for staff, and by having opportunities for staff to learn basic Spanish related to social services.

9. APPLICANT QUESTION: EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Describe your regional center's prior and ongoing efforts to improve language access and cultural competency (interpretation, translation, bilingual staffing, outreach, resource development, etc.).

Applicant Response:

In prior years, WRC has conducted a DEIB audit to understand the demographics of our staff and how it relates to serving our community. This audit led us to the conclusion that reducing staff turnover, especially of bilingual staff, improves continuity of care for individuals served. One of our current efforts is conducting bilingual proficiency testing of staff so that we can pay out a stipend that will encourage retention.

We have had interpretation and translation efforts coordinated by the LACC project specialist since this individual was hired in 2023. The number of translations and interpretations requested has steeply increased and will continue to be coordinated in this manner so that families receive materials in their preferred language in a timely manner.

Over the past two years, WRC has focused on improving our community's understanding of regional center services through updates to our Services and Supports flyers and brochures, and translation of those materials into Spanish and Farsi. We also created 11 e-learning modules for families and individuals on various services and aspects of the regional center system, which are available on our LMS. These were translated into Spanish and we hope to translate them into Farsi, Korean, ASL, and Amharic to be able to reach more families.

WRC has conducted a detailed 8-hour cultural competency training for Service Coordinators and Intake staff in collaboration with CircleUp to help client-facing staff have more productive interactions with individuals/families. These trainings wrapped up in December 2024. We hope to offer an advanced refresher for staff who completed the training, another round of 8-hour training for staff who are new to WRC, offer this training to vendors with continuing education units, and conduct a training on gender.

10. APPLICANT QUESTION: COLLABORATION

In What Ways Will Collaborations With Community Partners Help Your Regional Center Address Service Disparities And Improve Culturally Responsive Practices?

In your response, briefly describe the community partners you will engage, the purpose of each collaboration, and how these partnerships will support equitable service delivery. Include examples such as community-based organizations, advocacy groups, cultural organizations, educational partners, local agencies, or tribal and immigrant-serving groups.

Applicant Response:

WRC will work with several partners to accomplish the objectives of FYs 2026-2028. We don't have the exact community partner for each objective decided yet, as we are planning to put out RFPs closer to the dates we plan to conduct each activity. We will continue work with Burg Translations for staff bilingual testing, with Hanna Interpreting

Services for on-demand interpretation services, with Certified Interpreting Services for interpretation and translation, and with CircleUp for cultural competency training. The purpose of our work with Burg is to retain bilingual staff. The purpose of our work with Hanna and Certified Interpreting Services is to provide skilled interpretation and translation for individuals/families in a timely manner. The purpose of our work with CircleUp is to provide staff training and improve working relationships with individuals/families. We are hoping with the AAPI consultant to work with the International Rescue Committee and International Institute of LA.

PROJECT PLAN

Obj. #	Ref. ID	Objective Name	Objective Description	Manager	Start Date	End Date
001		WRC LACC FY 26/28 Objectives to Increase Access to Services	WRC FY 26/28 intends to use LACC funding to improve access and knowledge about services by our community, with a focus on those who speak languages other than English or have experienced cultural barriers to accessing services. We will be addressing barriers to service access by conducting staff trainings on the following topics: Cultural Competency, American Sign Language, Deaf Sensitivity, Motivational Interviewing, and Spanish for Social Services Professionals. We will also offer bilingual stipends to staff who are proficient to increase staff retention and facilitate better relationships between service coordinators and individuals/families they serve. We will be conducting outreach to improve trust between the regional center and the community. We plan to hire an AAPI consultant and a Persian/Farsi-speaking consultant. We will host trainings for families and individuals on the following	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028

topics: ASL (with childcare available), technology, and parenting (primarily in Spanish). We will also translate existing e-learning courses to more languages. We are planning to create more e-learning courses to provide families with more information on each disability and other important topics. To make it easier to use existing resources, we will be conducting plain language rewrites of important parts of our websites. We will set up a computer station near our reception. We will update code on our website to be able to make the e-learning courses we create easier to find (families would be able to bypass LMS). We will also create a WRC-specific vendor database.

Performance Measure (0)

Ref. ID	Measure Description	Manager	Type	Planned	Actual	Start Date	End Date
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No Data Found!

Activity (13)

Ref. ID	Activity Description	Manager	Start Date	Due Date
CONSULTANT	01. Hire 4 subject matter experts/consultants: 1. developing Yukon Courses. 2. Plain Language Re-writes. 3. Outreach to AAPI communities and 4. Outreach to Persian community.	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028

FOCUS, LISTENING, PUBLIC	02. Conduct focus groups, listening sessions, and public meetings to engage diverse communities and gather feedback on cultural and linguistic accessibility of services	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
HIRE BILLING	03. Retain dedicated WRC bilingual staff (Language Access and Cultural Engagement Specialist and Service Access and 03. Training Specialist) to strengthen community engagement and support LACC implementation and mandated reporting.	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
HIRE BILLING	04. Conduct formal bilingual proficiency assessments for Regional Center staff eligible to receive bilingual stipends	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
INTERPRET, TRANSLATE	05. Provide culturally responsive interpretation and translation services to improve access to information and support meaningful participation among diverse communities	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
INTERVIEW	07. Conduct Interviews with families from diverse communities on how to access information and services	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
ORIENT	08. Conduct Orientations for diverse communities to provide information on RC services and generic resources.	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
OUTREACH	09. Conduct focused outreach to diverse communities (resource fairs & events)	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
PARTNERSHIP	10. Establish partnerships with community-based organizations to conduct outreach and trainings, for diverse communities	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
RESOURCE	11. Develop or refine resources (videos, plain-language re-writes, training modules, computer station, vendor databased, etc.) for different cultures and/or languages	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028
SURVEY	12. Conduct surveys with diverse communities to assess cultural and linguistic responsiveness of interpretation and translation services.	Sarah Rasmussen	07/01/2026	06/30/2028

TRAINING

13. Provide training to individuals, families, community partners, service providers, and/or RC staff

Sarah Rasmussen 07/01/2026

06/30/2028

TRAINING

14. Conduct Cultural Humility Training for WRC Staff and Board of Directors

Sarah Rasmussen 07/01/2026

06/30/2028

BUDGET

Budget Year: 1

Budget Category	Direct	Total
▼ Personnel Expenses	\$515,531.26	\$515,531.26
Language Access and Community Engagement Specialist - Bilingual (Spanish) FTE 100% LACC Funded	\$234,595.20	\$234,595.20
Service Access and Training Specialist - Bilingual (Spanish) FTE 100% LACC Funded	\$229,936.06	\$229,936.06
Bilingual Stipends for RC Staff	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00
Personnel Expenses - other		
▼ Operating Expenses	\$516,838.74	\$516,838.74
Motivational Interviewing: Cultural Competency Training for Staff	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Consultant to Create an Educational Curriculum	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Yukon E-Learning Courses in English and Spanish		

	\$67,943.24	\$67,943.24
Computer station for families near reception	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Consultant - Plain Language/Re-writes	\$21,212.21	\$21,212.21
Spanish Courses for RC Staff	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
AAPI Consultant	\$9,100.00	\$9,100.00
Persian / Farsi-speaking Outreach Consultant	\$9,100.00	\$9,100.00
Deaf Sensitivity and ASL Training for Staff	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Bilingual Parenting Education	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
ASL Courses for families & Childcare Support	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
WRC Vendor Database	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Interpretation & Translation Services	\$109,940.00	\$109,940.00
Translation of E-Learning Courses	\$26,486.79	\$26,486.79
Community Engagement and Outreach Activities	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Parent Technology Classes (2 series)	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00

Staff Bilingual Testing with Burg Translations	\$5,060.00	\$5,060.00
Cultural Competency Training - CircleUp	\$116,896.50	\$116,896.50
Operating Expenses - other		
Indirect/Administrative Expenses	0.00	
Total	\$1,032,370.00	\$1,032,370.00

Budget Justification

Category Name	Category Narrative
▼ Personnel Expenses	
Language Access and Community Engagement Specialist - Bilingual (Spanish) FTE 100% LACC Funded	This allocation covers 100% salary and benefits for the LACC Project specialist. This is a bilingual English/Spanish position. This person will coordinate translation, interpretation, data gathering, assist with project coordination, and oversee consultant activities. This position oversees the Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) Plan by tracking progress on activities and transactions and completes mandated reporting.
Service Access and Training Specialist - Bilingual (Spanish) FTE 100% LACC Funded	This allocation covers 100% of Salary and benefits for the Service Access and Training Specialist. This position is bilingual English/Spanish position. This person will coordinate trainings, contract with training vendors, and

	conduct outreach for diverse communities. This position also supports WRC efforts to enhance accessibility to information and services for multilingual communities. Conduct trainings for staff on culturally responsive translations, Assistive technology and Person Center Thinking.
Bilingual Stipends for RC Staff	Bilingual stipends will be partially covered by LACC funds to help retain bilingual service coordinators, intake staff and program managers to facilitate better working relationships between RC staff and individuals/families from diverse communities. This allocation will support that families receive culturally and linguistically responsive information and services. WRC has an established process to certify RC staff who meet the criteria for the bilingual stipends.
Personnel Expenses - other	
▼ Operating Expenses	
Motivational Interviewing: Cultural Competency Training for Staff	Develop a Motivational Interviewing course for staff with an emphasis on cultural competency to strengthen relationships with families and support increased utilization of services.
Consultant to Create an Educational Curriculum	Identify a vendor to develop a multicultural educational curriculum for new families when they receive the diagnoses and offer emotional support. This will include information on regional center services and generic resources. Once curriculum is created WRC will work with

	Yukon Learning to create a course that is self-pace and can live in WRC LMS.
Yukon E-Learning Courses in English and Spanish	Develop Yukon courses for families of recently diagnosed individuals, providing information on specific disabilities, caregiver self-care, and processing the emotional impact of shifting expectations following a diagnosis. Courses will be available in Spanish to support linguistic accessibility. This activity also includes updating website code to enable the Yukon courses to be uploaded and accessed through WRC's website
Computer station for families near reception	Create space for families who don't have a computer to be able to access WRC information, DDS information, and SDP orientations. The focused population for this is the Spanish-speaking community.
Consultant - Plain Language/Re-writes	Contract with a plain-language and website consultant to assess how WRC can best present information that is clear and accessible. The estimated cost is \$45/hr. for 10hr/week for 26 week. This work will allow WRC to improve access to information and resources in multiple language by completing plain-language rewrites of key materials.
Spanish Courses for RC Staff	Offer Spanish courses for SCs/ PMs/ intake staff who do not speak Spanish so that they can learn basics.
AAPI Consultant	Hire AAPI consultant to help conduct outreach to recent immigrants in their community centers. Estimating \$35/hour, 10hr/week, for 26 weeks.
Persian / Farsi-speaking Outreach Consultant	Hire Persian/Farsi-speaking consultant to help make headway in outreach to this community. Estimating \$35/hr, 10hr/week, for 26 weeks

Deaf Sensitivity and ASL Training for Staff	Conduct Deaf Sensitivity training for Service Coordinators to deepen understanding of Deaf culture and strengthen working relationships with Deaf+/Hard-of-Hearing individuals and families, and provide ASL courses for staff to improve communication with the Deaf+/HoH community
Bilingual Parenting Education	Host structured parenting classes delivered in Spanish with English interpretation, offered as two six-week series. The program provides culturally and linguistically appropriate guidance for families raising children with I/DDs. These sessions will focus on strengthening parenting skills, increasing access to relevant resources, and supporting families in navigating the Regional Center service system.
ASL Courses for families & Childcare Support	Provide ASL courses for individuals and families, including childcare support to facilitate participation. This activity strengthens language access by offering instruction tailored for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community and supporting families who may face barriers to attending in-person classes
WRC Vendor Database	Create Vendor database in WRC's website that will enhance staff and family ability to quickly locate vendor information, including language capacity. We will prioritize plain language, identify multilingual vendors, and provide user-friendly navigation. The enhancement will be ADA-accessible.
Interpretation & Translation Services	This allocation is to conduct translation of documents that provide information about events, facilitate transparency between WRC and the community, and assist families with accessing services. Additionally, WRC will provide

	interpretation services at public events to help families and individuals learn about services and fully engage with RC staff and their community
Translation of E-Learning Courses	Conduct translation of e-learning courses created in 2025 and completed in 2026 to Farsi, Korean, ASL, and Amharic
Community Engagement and Outreach Activities	Allocation is for expenses related to rent for events, printing materials, and refreshments for participants. During these events WRC will provide informational sessions, resource fairs, and orientation, on WRC services and generic resources. Purchase 2 iPads for families to fill out surveys at sign-ins. Focus Groups and Listening Sessions will be also conducted to provide information and resources and identify barriers.
Parent Technology Classes (2 series)	Classes for individuals and families served by WRC. Courses will be conducted in English and Spanish and interpretation in other languages as needed. The courses will provide training to diverse families on how to use a computer, with end goal of helping families access information about WRC services including how to enroll for the SDP orientation offered by SCDD.
Staff Bilingual Testing with Burg Translations	We will continue to work with Burg Translations to test staff for bilingual capability and eligibility for bilingual stipend
Cultural Competency Training - CircleUp	Contract with CircleUp to deliver a comprehensive series of cultural competency trainings, including advanced and introductory modules, vendor-specific sessions, and cultural sensitivity training on how better support the LGBTQIA+ communities. Cultural Competency training will be provided to staff and RC Board of Directors

Operating Expenses - other

Indirect/Administrative Expenses