

Language for Limited English Proficiency Persons (LEP)

Language for Limited English Proficiency Persons (LEP) can be a barrier to accessing important benefits or services, understanding and exercising important rights, complying with applicable responsibilities, or understanding other information provided by RIHousing. In certain circumstances, failure to ensure that LEP persons can effectively participate in or benefit from federally-assisted programs and activities may violate the prohibition under Title VI against discrimination on the basis of national origin. This part incorporates the Notice of Guidance to Federal Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, published December 19, 2003 in the Federal Register. RIHousing will take affirmative steps to communicate with people who need services or information in a language other than English. These persons will be referred to as Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). LEP is defined as persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. For the purposes of this notice, LEP persons are applicants and participants, and parents and family members of applicants and participants seeking federal benefits. In order to determine the level of access needed by LEP persons, RIHousing will balance the following four factors: (1) the number or proportion of LEP persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered by the federal programs administered by RIHousing; (2) the frequency with which LEP persons come into contact with the programs; (3) the nature and importance of the program, activity, or service provided by the program to people's lives; and (4) the resources available to RIHousing and costs. Balancing these four factors will ensure meaningful access by LEP persons to critical services while not imposing undue burdens on RIHousing.