

UNDERSTANDING K.C.C. § 2.15

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 507,000 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.



Refrain from asking about citizenship

Unless required to ensure compliance with state or federal law or court order, King County employees, agents, or agencies cannot inquire or request information about the citizenship or immigration status or place of birth of any person.



Restrict use and access of county resources

Unless required by state or federal law or presented with a judicial warrant, employees, agents, or agencies are prohibited from sharing information with Immigration Customs Enforcement and granting access to nonpublic areas of King County facilities, property, equipment, databases, or people in custody.



Refuse collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Unless required by state or federal law or presented with a judicial warrant, King County departments and agencies may not facilitate or enter any contract, agreement, or arrangement that would grant federal civil immigration enforcement authority over King County agents or law enforcement.

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.