



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Interpreting in Health and Community Settings Training

1. What is IHCS?

An intensive, interactive, (40) forty-hour course in professional interpretation, IHCS is designed for bilingual individuals seeking to enhance their interpreting skills for employability, job retention, or career change. The course covers the code of ethics, interpreting modes and techniques, cultural competence, memory development, professional conduct, human anatomy and physiology, and the healthcare system in the United States. IHCS is taught in English for multilingual groups.

2. Who can participate?

In order to qualify for the IHCS training, all candidates are required to take and pass a Language Proficiency test, which examines the fluency of the individual in English and their target language. It also tests the candidate's ability to transmit a message accurately and familiarity with a broad range of common and necessary vocabulary.

3. Do I have to have previous experience interpreting to be able to attend the IHCS training?

No, previous experience in the interpreting field is not necessary or required to attend the IHCS training.

4. What is the cost of the test and of the IHCS training?

Please call our office for testing and training costs at (703) 549-7060. Ask to speak with the Testing and Training Coordinator.

5. What is the timeline leading up to training?

It is highly recommended that you schedule and complete your language proficiency test at least 3 weeks before the first day of training, so that there will be enough time to process the test and report the results to you. Your results will be submitted to you within 2 weeks of your test. A registration form and further instructions will be provided with all passing results.

6. When should I register for the training?

In the email containing your passing language proficiency test results, there will be further instructions and a registration form. Register for training as soon as you receive your passing results, as space is limited.

7. I received my test results and they are passing. What's next?

Please complete and return the registration and payment forms included with your results as soon as possible so that a space may be reserved for you in the upcoming training.

8. Whom do I contact to take a test?

Please call [NV AHEC](#) at (703) 549-7060 or email the [Testing and Training Coordinator](#) to schedule your proficiency test. Tests will not be administered without appointments.

9. What does the language proficiency test consist of?

For questions about the language proficiency test, please refer to the [IHCS Test FAQ](#) document.

10. Where is the training held?

Fairfax County South County Health Building
8350 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
2nd Floor Classroom

11. How long is the IHCS course?

The 40 hours of instruction are divided into five, 8-hour sessions over the course of 3 weeks. Training is an all day event, taking place from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

12. Will I be hired by NV AHEC as an interpreter once I finish the training?

NV AHEC **does not** guarantee employment for candidates after the completion of training. You will be provided with a list of organizations which have a need for your *volunteer services* once you have completed the training.

13. What if I cannot afford the tuition of the training?

The Virginia Department of Health offers a [grant](#) to help you cover tuition costs. [Click here to visit the VDH Grant page.](#)

14. What if I have a question about the VDH Grant?

Please direct all questions about the grant to the contacts provided on the VDH Grant application and the [VDH Grant web page](#).

NV AHEC is not in charge of grant applications and approvals, and can not answer questions about the grant.

15. Will I receive a certificate when I complete the course?

Certificates of Completion will be issued upon successful completion of each course.

16. What are the Requirements for Training Completion?

- Attend 100% of class time - 40 hours for IHCS
- Score at least 80% correct on both exams
- Submit the completed vocabulary workbook and other homework assignments
(Average time for homework is 8-10 hours in addition to class time)

17. What will I learn during the IHCS course?

The first 3 days of training focus on interpreting modes and techniques, the rules, etiquette and codes of interpreting, and role-playing practice to ensure that all candidates will be able to take on any interpreting situation.

The last 2 days of training are medical days which focus on **human anatomy and physiology**, healthcare in cultural perspectives, the principles and structure of the US Healthcare system, the Biomedical system and role-playing scenarios. This will ensure that all candidates will have basic medical knowledge, necessary medical terminology, understanding of the healthcare system in this country and understanding of healthcare from a cultural perspective.

There are tests throughout the training to make sure all candidates are keeping up with the information.

18. What if my question was not answered above?

Please contact [NV AHEC](http://www.nvahec.org) at (703)549-7060 or email the [Testing and Training Coordinator](#).