

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Communications and Public Information Office

CBQ NO.: 122

REQUESTED BY: Vela

DATE REQUESTED: 07/25/2023

DATE POSTED: 08/01/2023

REQUEST: Does the budget include funding for additional staff for the Language Access Coordinator (current formal title - Community Engagement Specialist)? If so, for how many FTEs and/or PTEs?

RESPONSE:

The Communications and Public Information Office currently has 2 FTEs and 1 temporary employee dedicated to Language Access. Citywide, CPIO coordinates with 39 department Single Point of Contacts (SPCCs) who are responsible for implementation and accountability of the department's language access plan.

The current CPIO FTEs are a Community Engagement Consultant (Language Access Program Coordinator), a Community Engagement Specialist, and a temporary position dedicated to language access filled each year by the AmeriCorps VISTA program. The Community Engagement Specialist is a new position which was added in FY23 and was filled March 31, 2023. This team manages contracts with translation and interpretation vendors, provides training and guidance on developing departmental Language Access Plans, leads language access activities during emergency activations, and administers the Language Access policy.

The FY 2023-24 proposed budget does not include additional staff in CPIO. Each department SPOC works with the Language Access Program Coordinator to assure that policies, services and education are implemented to ensure meaningful access to all Austinites with limited English proficiency.