

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 4-01
ACCESS TO FEDERALLY FUNDED
CITY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits those who conduct programs or activities that receive federal funds from discriminating against persons on the basis of sex, race or national origin; and

WHEREAS, regulations enacted pursuant to Title VI prohibit practices that have the effect of discriminating against protected persons, as well as prohibiting intentional discrimination; and

WHEREAS, limited proficiency in the English language can prevent such persons from meaningfully accessing City services and activities; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2000, President Clinton issued an Executive Order declaring that Title VI regulations prohibit as discriminatory the refusal of a federal funding recipient to take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency can participate in the recipient's programs; and

WHEREAS, the City's immigrant population is credited in part with stemming the City's population loss during the 1990's, and a significant number of these new residents are of limited English proficiency; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 Census, Hispanic American residents now compose approximately 8.5% of the City's population; Asian American residents now compose approximately 4.5% of the City's population; and English is not the primary language for a significant number of these residents; and

WHEREAS, the City's immigrant residents and its Hispanic American and Asian American communities play an important role in the City's economic, civic and cultural life, and thus are entitled to the benefit of City services; and

WHEREAS, the City wants to reduce language barriers that may be preventing its residents with limited English proficiency from meaningfully accessing federally funded City services that are available to all Philadelphians;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power invested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, it is hereby ORDERED that:

SECTION 1.

In accordance with the federal government's interpretation of the requirements of regulations promulgated under Title VI, all City departments, boards and commissions ("City agencies") shall take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to their federally funded programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency. Such steps shall include:

(a) Assessments of programs or activities that receive federal funds to determine how and to what extent persons of limited English proficiency may currently be prevented from meaningfully accessing those programs or activities, and to determine the level of tangible and financial resources required to address the needs of persons of limited English proficiency served by those program or activities;

(b) Using such assessments, all City agencies shall develop Compliance Plans that detail the steps they will take to ensure that persons who are not proficient in English can effectively participate in and benefit from federally assisted programs and activities.

SECTION 2. The Managing Director and the City Solicitor shall direct the efforts of City agencies to comply with Section 1 of this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. All City agencies shall report within 120 days to the Managing Director and the City Solicitor as to the status of their office's compliance with Title VI.

9/29/01

Date

John F. Street, Mayor