



**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Drinking Water Bureau**

**Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Analysis
for the
State of New Mexico Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
State Fiscal Year 2020 Intended Use Plan**

May 2019

APPROVAL PAGE



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Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Analysis for the Statewide DWSRF Intended Use Plan Report

1. Number and proportion of LEP persons estimated to be served or encountered in the community of concern.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data through the American Community Survey (ACS) to assess language characteristics within a geographic area. These data identify a person's ability to speak English "very well" or less than "very well" and the language predominately spoken at home for those populations age 5 and older. The **2010-2018** ACS, through U.S. Census Quick Facts, provided quantitative information regarding LEP populations in New Mexico. An analysis of these data identified LEP populations within New Mexico and their language characteristics.

Census Quick Facts¹ data for the state of New Mexico indicate that the total population within New Mexico is **2,095,428**. In addition, **35%** of the total population is age 5 and older and speaks a language other than English at home. Census data of Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2009-2013² estimates 79.5% of this population speaks Spanish in the home and of these individuals, approximately **26.5%** speak English less than "very well" representing **9%** of the total population within New Mexico. Approximately **80%** of the **695,931** LEP individuals speak Spanish.

The Bureau reviewed their records and found that, historically, there has been no LEP participation regarding the State of New Mexico DWSRF Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List.

2. The frequency with which LEP individuals might come in contact with the program.

There is one potential area where the Drinking Water Bureau might interact with LEP individuals with regard to the Intended Use Plan (IUP) for the 2020 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) publication. The Bureau publishes the Notice of Public Comment of the IUP in three major newspapers around the State. The IUP is specifically for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) to describe how it proposes to use the DWSRF to meet the objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the New Mexico DWSRF Act. This IUP is the central component of the State's FFY 2019 Capitalization Grant application to the EPA, and it communicates the plans to stakeholders and covers the period of July 1, 2019 through July 1, 2020. This document describes the short- and long-term goals of the program, the priority setting process used to rank projects on the Fundable Priority List, and it describes how the State will use the set-asides to support the program. Comments can be submitted in writing or by phone call. These interactions are not frequent. In the last four years we have received 3 comments on the IUP and have never had an interaction with an LEP individual on the IUP.

An identifier of "**not frequent**" is being assigned because, although the actual interaction with LEP individuals has been non-existent, there is potential given the demographics of the state and the extent of projects that the IUP and PPL cover.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/nm,US/PST045218>

² <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2013/demo/2009-2013-lang-tables.html>

3. The nature and importance of the activity or service provided by the subject material of the program.

Many people in New Mexico depend on community water systems to serve their drinking water needs. The Intended Use Plan and associated Project Priority Lists provide information to the public about program goals, program expected expenditures, what water infrastructure projects have applied for funding and which ones are likely to receive subsidy for the annual funding cycle.

Considering the importance of the DWSRF funding to the Department to provide a way for communities to get low cost funds to alleviate problems with their drinking water systems and to the State to assist in maintaining water quality to protect public health in New Mexico, an identifier of "**very important**" is being assigned.

4. The resources available to NMED and the associated costs.

From the Bureau's assessment, there are adequate resources available within the Department to address LEP requirements. NMED recently hired a certified translator who can translate public notices and vital documents for the Department. If it is discovered that additional LEP services are needed, the Bureau will contract with a translator/interpreter to communicate with those LEP individuals. Other expanded outreach activities that may be utilized, as identified and necessary, include:

- Posting translated materials and information on the Bureau's website;
- Identifying personal to provide language assistance services, such as an interpreter, to facilitate phone interpretations with LEP individuals;
- airing announcements in Spanish or other languages as deemed appropriate on local radio stations;
- printing translated materials on postcards that are distributed to the affected community; and,
- working with community leaders (tribal chapter houses, church leaders, community centers, libraries, etc.) to disseminate the information to the affected population.

5. LEP Plan for the Statewide DWSRF Intended Use Plan

Census Quick Facts data for the state of New Mexico indicate that the total population within New Mexico is **2,095,428**. In addition, **35%** of the total population is age 5 and older and speaks a language other than English at home. Census data of Detailed Languages Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over: 2009-2013 estimates 79.5% of this population speaks Spanish in the home and of these individuals, approximately **26.5%** speak English less than "very well" representing **9%** of the total population within New Mexico. Approximately **80%** of the **695,931** LEP individuals speak Spanish.

The Bureau has had limited to non-existent interaction with LEP individuals; an identifier of "**not frequent**" was assigned to the frequency of interaction with LEP individuals, but there is potential given the demographics of the state.

Based on the assessment above, **all public notices will be published in both English and Spanish** (see Public Involvement Plan).

If LEP individuals call the Bureau to request information about the Program or Report, the person answering the call will find appropriate staff (see table below), if they do not speak Spanish, to field the call, or will take down the caller's name and number to have somebody call back:

"Lo siento. No hablo español. Puedo tomar su nombre y número (para alguien pueda llamarlo)?"

If LEP individuals provide written comment during the public comment period for inclusion in the record, the Bureau will translate their response and include both English and Spanish versions in the Response to Comments.

If an LEP individual has in-person contact with Bureau staff, and the staff does not speak Spanish, the staff will attempt to find a coworker (e.g., the Department's interpreter) who can talk with the LEP individual. If another coworker is not available, the staff will take the LEP person's name and number for follow-up communication (see above).

If the LEP individual speaks a language other than Spanish, the responding staff will coordinate interpretation services with the Department's interpreter. The Bureau may arrange for on-call telephone interpretation services.

DWB Employees who may be used to field phone calls and in-person interactions, and languages spoken.

DWB Employee	Language Spoken	Office	Phone Number
Pedro Archuleta	Spanish	Santa Fe	505-476-8636
Melanie Delgado	Spanish	Espanola	505-753-7256 ext. 109