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October 2023

## Take Action for Language Access



Dear Friends,

As a government agency, the Port has an imperative to ensure that all the residents we serve have meaningful, equitable access to our operations and opportunities. Earlier this year, the Port of Seattle Commission adopted a [Language Access Order](#) to systematically ensure that all audiences have access to critical Port information, despite language or accessibility barriers. This order addresses the mandates of both Title II and Title VI

of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and it goes beyond these mandates to make language access a permanent, ongoing commitment of the Port in every department and division.

During the past several months, we have conducted an internal assessment of our current language access practices and procedures. As part of this assessment, we're asking for help and input from the communities we serve to understand their Language Access needs as they pertain to interactions with the Port.

**Are you a leader in your community and connected to the Port of Seattle's work? If so, please take our [Community Language Access Survey](#)!**

We are assessing the barriers that Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals experience in accessing Port services. Your feedback will directly influence how we provide services to LEPs, and by sharing your thoughts, you will help to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for the communities we serve. This survey is in five languages (Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, and Amharic) and should only take about 10 minutes to complete. It closes on October 31 at 11:59 p.m.

If you choose to participate in this survey, your responses will remain confidential and only be used for the purpose of improving the Port's Language Access Plan.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to making our community more inclusive. We look forward to your valuable input and the positive impact it will have on our language access initiatives.

In Unity,



**Bookda Gheisar**  
Senior Director, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (OEDI)

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## Centering Equity and Taking Action

### Voices of Immigrants on Their Citizenship Journey

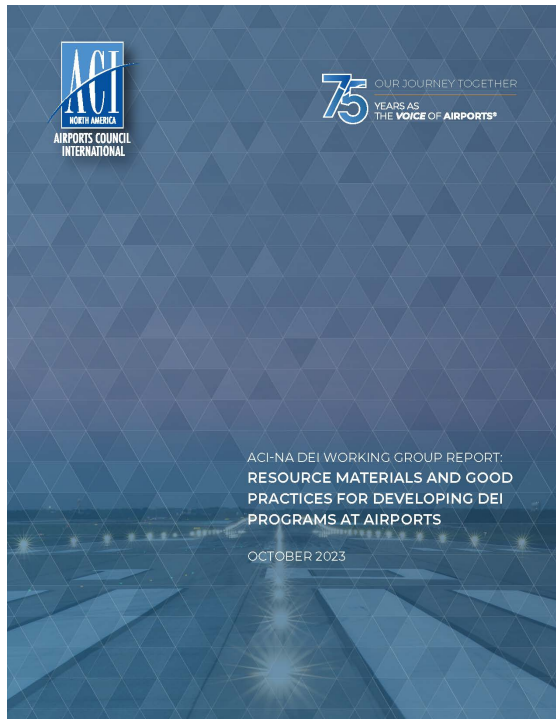


Although approximately 260,000 legal permanent residents are eligible for citizenship in Washington State, many don't apply due to a lack of information and the expense. The Port of Seattle, Washington New Americans, and OneAmerica [are partnering to spread awareness](#) about pathways to citizenship.

[Learn more about the citizenship process](#) first-hand from two members of the Port's Voice of Immigrants Committed to Equity (VOICE) [employee resource](#)

[group](#). It includes Port employees who identify as immigrants, refugees, people who speak multiple languages, global citizens, multicultural employees, and allies. Read the blog post →

## DEI Report: Resource Materials and Good Practices to Develop DEI Programs at Airports



About a year ago, the Airports Council International (ACI) — North America created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group. OEDI's Community Investments Program Manager Guadalupe Torres and Systems Change Program Manager Tania Park both served as members of this working group, playing an integral role in the creation of [\*The ACI-NA DEI Working Group Report: Resource Materials and Good Practices to Develop DEI Programs at Airports\*](#). The report itself is a guidebook that is designed to serve as a compendium of resources for airports to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion. While this was designed for airports, there are tools and information that may be relevant for many different organizations. Download the report →

## Sound Insulation Program Reduces Noise for More Airport Neighbors

To date, the Port's Sound Insulation Program has completed nearly \$300 million in noise reduction improvements for communities surrounding the airport. In July 2023, the Port of Seattle Commission authorized the latest phase of its Sound Insulation Program (SIP), with a [focus on eligible apartments](#) within the current noise remedy boundary around SEA Airport. [Learn more about the process](#) and see if you qualify for the program.



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