



CENTER FOR ASIAN HEALTH EQUITY

**Media Contact**  
**L. Crawley**  
**(773) 834-6586**  
[l@asianhealth.org](mailto:l@asianhealth.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**10/13/2022**

### **Asian Health Coalition Launches Language Access Initiative Through Federal Minority Health Funding**

CHICAGO, IL – The Asian Health Coalition (AHC) announces the acceptance of the Promoting Equitable Access to Language Services in Health and Human Services (HHS) grant from the Office of Minority Health (OMH) initiative, dedicated to the advancement and evaluation of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) programs over the next three years.

AHC's Health Equity through Access to Language Strategy (HEALS) program will leverage existing knowledge of barriers to language services among LEP Asian Americans and partnerships with local organizations and health providers across Chicago to: 1) increase the number of individuals with LEP who are aware of and understand their right to language access services (LAS) through culturally and relevant outreach efforts, 2) increase awareness and knowledge of the availability of training opportunities for bilingual/multilingual community members to obtain a medical interpreter certification 3) increase access and utilization of interpreter services that are culturally appropriate, and 4) decrease miscommunication between LEP persons and healthcare teams through effective and current professional education on LAS.

*“The ability of our communities to effectively communicate within a healthcare setting is a critical and important step in eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity. Language is a social determinant of health because a lack of LAS affects healthcare access and contributes to serious health risks due to lower quality of care in our communities.*”

*HEALS aligns with AHC's commitment to building equitable and meaningful care for immigrant communities and will serve as another forward-moving step towards greater equity in healthcare access and outcomes.”* - Fornessa T. Randal, Executive Director

The Asian Health Coalition, established in 1996, strives to improve the health and wellness of Asian, African, and other immigrant communities through advocacy, technical assistance, education, and research. If you are interested in learning more about the organization, please visit: <https://www.asianhealth.org/>

Office of Minority Health Announcement:  
<https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/Content.aspx?ID=2759&lvl=1&lvlid=5>