



THE NEED IS GREAT

The Language & Culture Bank (LCB) connects bilingual and multi-culturally savvy volunteers with community agencies (like homeland security, disaster response, emergency preparedness, crisis management, public health and public safety) as they work with people in the Tulsa Metro area whose ability to receive and interpret life saving information is presently compromised by culture, ethnic or religious traditions, or language.

By participating in the Language & Culture Bank, volunteers can help build bridges to all people in our community so that when an incident occurs or as anxiety increases in our neighborhoods, they have the knowledge and skills to work together quickly and effectively to meet the needs of families in greater Tulsa.

WE NEED YOU

Do you speak another language? Do you know American Sign Language? Do you understand the cultural or religious traditions of a particular community? If so, we can put your knowledge to use! Whether you were born speaking another language or learned one in school, we need your expertise.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

For everyone's safety, all volunteers must sign a Code of Conduct and give permission for a criminal background check. We encourage additional training through Citizen Corps and the American Red Cross.

EXAMPLES OF SERVICE

- Doing a radio interview in Spanish about how to prevent the flu.
- Giving a presentation about disaster preparedness at a Russian church.
- Translating for a Red Cross volunteer who is helping a Vietnamese family after a tornado.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

We're all different, whether it's because of the country where we were born, the language we speak, our religious affiliation, or our skin color. We should celebrate those differences. But what if those differences stand in the way of people receiving vital services? That's why we need the Tulsa Language & Culture Bank so that a team of volunteers will always be ready to help others during a difficult time.

If you'd like to volunteer with the Tulsa Language & Culture Bank, please contact us today. We'll be happy to send you a volunteer application and enroll you in a training program.

Tulsa Language & Culture Bank
c/o Tulsa Partners Inc
Phone: (918) 632-0044
www.Tulsapartners.org

GETTING STARTED

WHEN PEOPLE NEED HELP, THEIR LANGUAGE SHOULDN'T STAND IN THE WAY.

TRAINING COURSES

All volunteers will be required to take a course that introduces them to protocols regarding safety, communications, accountability and command, and the interpreter's role on the scene of an incident.

BEING DEPLOYED

Volunteers' names and qualifications will be kept in a database at Tulsa Partners Inc. for deployment to whichever agency requires their particular skills in times of emergency. Volunteers willing to offer more time will also be offered the option of interpreting for community disaster preparedness classes.

OUR PARTNERS

The Language & Culture Bank is a program of Tulsa Partners Inc, which maintains the volunteer database, helps coordinate volunteer deployments and provides liability insurance to volunteers in the field. We are fortunate to have many nonprofit partners, including the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, Catholic Charities, City of Tulsa Human Rights Department, Greater Tulsa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, Islamic Society of Tulsa, Jewish Federation of Tulsa, Pakistani American Society of Tulsa, Russian Pentecostal Gothic Church, Slavic/Russian Baptist Church of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College, Tulsa Global Alliance, Tulsa Human Response Coalition, 2-1-1, Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce, TSHA Inc., United Nations Association of Eastern Oklahoma, and the YWCA Multicultural Center.

We hope you'll join us!

When there's a disaster, people may feel more comfortable with a person from the same cultural background or who speaks the same language.

Cultural sensitivity is important to all of us, especially during an emergency.