

**Indigenous Interpreting+**  
A SERVICE OF NATIVIDAD MEDICAL FOUNDATION

## FACT SHEET

**Indigenous Interpreting+**, a service of Natividad Medical Foundation, provides high-quality indigenous language services – specializing in languages from Mexico and Central and South America – to ensure health care and community services are accessible and useful for persons of limited English proficiency.<sup>1</sup>

- Natividad Medical Foundation’s **Indigenous Interpreting+ Pilot** is funded in part by support from Driscoll’s, the world’s largest distributor of fresh berries, The Agricultural Leadership Council (TALC) and Community Foundation for Monterey County.
- There are 685,000 Latinos of indigenous origin living in the U.S., representing a 68% increase from 2000 to 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau).
- In addition to California, there are large indigenous Mexican populations in Texas, New York, Arizona, Colorado and Illinois (2010 U.S. Census Bureau).
- 38% of newly arrived farmworkers, living in the U.S. less than two years, were indigenous (The California sample of the National Agricultural Workers Survey [CAL-NAWS], 2005).
- Monterey County’s \$8.7 billion agricultural industry is the third largest agricultural county in California (Monterey County Economic Development Department).
- Monterey County’s Salinas Valley – known as “America’s Salad Bowl” – is home to more than 27,000 indigenous immigrants (Indigenous Farm Worker Study).
- 4 of the top 10 languages spoken by patients at Natividad Medical Center, located in Salinas, California, are indigenous (Mixteco, Zapotec, Triqui and Chatino).
- **Indigenous Interpreting+** was developed in response to The Joint Commission’s recommendations for providing services to limited English proficient (LEP) people. This population has poorer health outcomes and health statuses secondary to:
  - Erroneous communication
  - Poor decision-making on the part of both providers and patients

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<sup>1</sup> Limited English proficient (LEP) is defined as a person age 5 or older who reported speaking English “less than very well” as classified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

- Ethical compromises
  - Less awareness about healthcare benefits
  - Less frequent clinic visits, more emergency room visits and less follow-up
  - Less understanding of the physicians' explanations
  - Less satisfaction with healthcare services
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires federally subsidized organizations to provide spoken language assistance to limited English proficient people. Title VI governs all federal fund recipients, from education, social services and transportation to law and medicine.
  - **Indigenous Interpreting+** helps health care providers, community based organizations and public agencies meet regulatory requirements for language access, minimize costs and ensure quality services with competent, trained interpreters.
  - **Indigenous Interpreting+** has trained 68 indigenous language interpreters from California, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas and Minnesota who speak languages from Central and South America, including Mixteco, Triqui, Zapotec, Chatino, Tarasco, Purépecha, Náhuatl and others.
  - **Indigenous Interpreting+** uses an innovative teaching model to train indigenous interpreters, including paid, internships supervised by an experienced Certified Medical Interpreter.
  - **Indigenous Interpreting+** is continually expanding the number of indigenous languages available for interpreting services. **Indigenous Interpreting+** is also developing training products to improve communication between providers and indigenous people, including video teaching tools addressing palliative and end of life care and transport of premature and sick infants to Natividad Medical Center's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
  - **Indigenous Interpreting+** Director, Victor Sosa, received the 2013 National Council on Interpreting in Health Care (NCIHC) Language Access Champions Award and was a featured speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> InterpretAmerica Summit (2013), *From Indigenous Immigrant to Professional Medical Interpreter*. He was also an invited panelist at the international 2013 Critical Link 7 conference discussing *Breakthroughs in Aboriginal Interpreting: Innovation and Insight for Indigenous Communities*.

**To learn more about Indigenous Interpreting+, please visit [www.interpretnmf.com](http://www.interpretnmf.com) or call toll-free 1-855-662-5300.**