



American Sign Language Interpreting Services

7.18.22

Diana Pryntz, Executive Director  
Deaf Refugee Advocacy Inc  
POB 10335  
Rochester, NY 14610

Dear Ms. Pryntz:

Interpretek is pleased to provide this letter of support to Deaf Refugee Advocacy (DRA), regarding the Monroe County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant application. We have worked with DRA many times in the past and recognize the necessity of your services.

DRA has been providing on-going community support with extremely vulnerable citizens: deaf refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers (RIAs) during the past few years. (Name of Organization/Business/Club) is aware there are significant inequities, systemic barriers, and disparities that exist for RIAs as well as other at-risk deaf people including DeafBlind, Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HH) homeless (some of which are RIAs), Deaf/HH Disabled, Deaf Seniors, Deaf/HH Mental Health and Deaf/HH who have aged out of the education system without adequate supports. Many of these Deaf/HH individuals are unable to either attend college, receive training and/or obtain marketable skills, continually perpetuating underemployment or unemployment due to systemic communication barriers that exist in Monroe County.

Consequently, there is a critical need to have a major transformative approach that transcends language access inequities. DRA's ARPA grant proposal focuses on a long-term framework to address the needs of this long-impacted community utilizing an American Sign Language (ASL) multicultural model with a three-pronged service delivery program which will benefit the entire Monroe County community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Brewer*

Michelle Brewer, Regional Director  
Interpretek  
75 Highpower Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14623  
[www.interpretek.com](http://www.interpretek.com)  
[mbrewer@interpretek.com](mailto:mbrewer@interpretek.com)  
585-235-7500