



# Interpreter Career Outlook Guide: How to Turn Your Passion for Language into a Full-Time Job

If you've always wondered how to turn your passion for language into work as an interpreter, the time has never been better to learn about this burgeoning career path. While the United States has been a destination for immigration throughout history, that trend continues today with an increasing influx of immigrants finding their way to the country in recent years.

This continual rise in non-English language speakers requires English language interpretation in many fields, including healthcare, which has already seen a dramatic increase in need since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, according to World Population Review<sup>1</sup>, the United States leads the globe in residents who were born in another country, with 50.6 million immigrants and growing. At almost 15% of the country's population, and with 350 to 400 languages spoken<sup>2</sup>, the need for translators and interpreters in the U.S. continues to expand.

In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that career outlooks for translators and interpreters in the U.S. will grow by 24% by 2030<sup>3</sup>, hence the country must create a workforce of trained personnel to handle mounting needs.

### TRANSLATORS VS. INTERPRETERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you're considering a translator or interpreter career, it's good to understand the difference between the two fields. While both career paths require a solid grasp of language, a translator works with the written word while interpreters work in spoken or signed words between individuals (in the healthcare setting, think physician and patient, for example).

**BEGINNING IN 2030, AND BECAUSE OF POPULATION AGING, IMMIGRATION IS PROJECTED TO OVERTAKE NATURAL INCREASE AS THE PRIMARY DRIVER OF POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES.<sup>4</sup>**

To learn more, visit:



## Rewarding Work

The most rewarding part of my work is the thanks I receive from doctors, nurses and patients, that feeling I get when I am contributing to someone's health is the best.

— Spanish Video Interpreter

## A FEW OTHER NOTABLE DISTINCTIONS

Interpretations typically happen live, with no scripts or dictionaries, and require the interpreter to also consider language colloquialisms, idioms, and culturally-specific references when interpreting what the speaker is saying.

In many ways, an interpreter's arsenal includes a lot of experience with both English and the additional language(s), the ability to quickly understand meaning, and a firm commitment of making sure the speaker's intent is conveyed both accurately and in its entirety.

Translators, on the other hand, often use computer-aided tools for their work and will also refer to glossaries and translation style guide templates to ensure the quality of their translation. In addition, the work of translators is often passed on to a linguist who will proofread the document for final accuracy.

## EXAMPLE ROLES FOR INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATOR CAREERS

While there is significant crossover in the types of career paths for language interpreters and translators, some common roles include the following:



### INTERPRETERS

- Medical Appointments
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Sign Language
- Live TV Coverage
- Legal Work/Proceedings
- Public Meetings/Community Events



### TRANSLATORS

- Translating Medical Documents
- Subtitles on Videos
- Multimedia
- Book Translator
- Minutes from Business Meetings
- Website Content

To learn more, visit:



## Constant Support

I have a very supportive and understanding manager and good communication with friendly and supportive and knowledgeable colleagues.

— Cantonese & Mandarin Video Interpreter, Colorado

## HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATION: A GROWING FIELD WITH MANY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The rise of remote interpretation during COVID-19 was a lifeline for LEP patients (Limited English Proficiency). Telehealth systems that use telephonic and video remote interpretation (VRI) were crucial in helping patients and their caregivers overcome language barriers.

And, with advances in video technologies, interpreters can now better discern visual and auditory signals, including body language, linguistic cues, and more.

Finally, these lifesaving options can be vital in urgent situations where facilities do not have adequate interpreting staff for the vast amount of languages spoken in the U.S.

**FROM A HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR'S PERSPECTIVE, REMOTE INTERPRETING SERVICES CAN ALSO BE A GREAT WAY TO REDUCE COSTS, HENCE THE PRACTICE IS BECOMING VERY WIDESPREAD.**

## QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR AN INTERPRETER IN HEALTHCARE

Gaining access to the growing number of interpreter jobs in the country does require proof of language proficiency and interpreting qualification credentials, including certifications for many languages through either the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) or the National Board for Certified Medical Interpreters.

## QUALIFICATION FOR BOTH CERTIFICATIONS CAN VARY SLIGHTLY, BUT BOTH PROGRAMS REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

- BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD
- HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED EQUIVALENCY
- COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 40 HOURS OF MEDICAL INTERPRETING TRAINING
- PROFICIENCY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD

To learn more, visit:



## Flexibility in Schedules

I have a high degree of flexibility with regards to my schedule as far as medical appointments and procedures and can better schedule my time as a parent and caregiver.

— Spanish Video Interpreter

## TYPES OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES WHERE ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS WORK

The vast array of settings for medical interpreters grows every day, but the following locations demonstrates how much need there is for the services of these professionals. The beauty of these types of jobs is that most of them can be done remotely from the comfort of your home office or in a space you've deemed your work area.



HOSPITALS



CLINICS



PRIVATE PRACTICES



TRAUMA FACILITIES

## AMN HEALTHCARE'S LANGUAGE SERVICES DIVISION

AMN Healthcare Language Services is an industry-leading language interpreting provider that uses a technology-driven solution to bridge communication gaps between patients and medical professionals—thus facilitating the equity and continuance of care for all.

Our language access services include opportunities for interpreters to work in a variety of modalities. Many of our professionals begin working in one modality and then decide to transition to other interpretation opportunities within the company, including interpreting on various telehealth platforms.

**IN 2021, AMN HEALTHCARE'S TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS INTERPRETED OVER 177,000,000 MINUTES OF PATIENT/CLINICIAN INTERACTIONS**

To learn more, visit:



## A Safe Work Environment

Ability to work for different clients during a shorter period of time that allows for better work/life balance and a safer working environment.

— Arabic & Italian Video, In-Person & Over-the-Phone Interpreter

## HOW WILL YOU WORK AS AN INTERPRETER AT AMN HEALTHCARE?

With these various career options, you'll have the ability to take your interpreting career as far as you want.



VIDEO



AUDIO/  
OVER-THE-PHONE



IN-PERSON



TELEHEALTH

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLYING AT AMN HEALTHCARE



### FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

- ✓ National certification at or above NAD level 4, RID CSC, RID CDI, CI/CT, NIC or BEI Advanced
- ✓ Minimum of 2 years of community / medical interpreting experience
- ✓ Familiar with state laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ✓ Extensive working knowledge of the NAD/RID Code of Professional Conduct and Deaf Culture



### FOR SPOKEN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

- ✓ Minimum of 2 years of community / medical interpreting experience
- ✓ When applicable, national certification endorsed by NCIHC or NBCMI preferred (CHI, CMI)
- ✓ Third-party Medical Interpreter Language Proficiency Assessment
- ✓ Credentialed in medical interpreting preferred
- ✓ Extensive working knowledge of the National Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice (IMIA, CHIA, and NCIHC)

To learn more, visit:



## Remote Working Options

I love the ability to work from home with flexible hours. And, if I want to relocate I can still keep my position.

— Russian & Ukrainian Video, In-Person & Over-the-Phone Interpreter, California

## BENEFITS FOR OUR VALUABLE HEALTHCARE INTERPRETERS

- **Guaranteed work schedule**
- **Competitive pay**
- **Generous 401k matching**
- **Paid time-off for both full & part-time employees**
- **Referral bonuses**
- **Health insurance (for full-time employees only)**
- **Professional development opportunities**
- **Management by supportive/knowledgeable interpreting professionals**



AMN Healthcare is ranked the largest global healthcare interpreting platform.

— The 2022 Nimdzi 100: The Ranking of the Top 100 Largest Language Service Providers

## JOIN OUR CAREER-FOCUSED TEAM OF INTERPRETERS

To learn more on how you can create a career path of interpreting at AMN Healthcare, connect with one of our experienced team members by emailing us at

**[LanguageServicesRecruitment@amnhealthcare.com](mailto:LanguageServicesRecruitment@amnhealthcare.com)**

or visiting **[amnhealthcare.com/careers/language-interpreters/](https://amnhealthcare.com/careers/language-interpreters/)**.

### SOURCES:

<sup>1</sup> Immigration by Country 2022,

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/immigration-by-country>

<sup>2</sup> Language Data for the United States of America,

<https://translatorswithoutborders.org/language-data-for-the-united-states-of-america>

<sup>3</sup> Occupational Outlook Handbook, Interpreters and Translators,

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators>

<sup>4</sup> Demographic Turning Points for the United States: Population Projections for 2020 to 2060,

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p25-1144.pdf>

To learn more, visit: