



Bridging the Gap: training of medical interpreters

Information and application

Becoming a Medical Interpreter

Are you interested in a healthcare career that uses your bilingual and bicultural skills? Here is a great training opportunity for you!

For more than 25 years, the Utah Department of Health & Human Services has trained bilingual and bicultural individuals to become effective medical interpreters. We are a licensed provider of the *Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreter Training*, a nationally recognized training course from the Cross-Cultural Health Care Program.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) is a **64-hour** professional development program that prepares bilingual individuals to work as medical interpreters. BTG is used to train both novice and experienced medical interpreters and is the first step towards national certification. Both accredited national certifying bodies, the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI), accept the BTG training certificate.

Description of the Program

This 64-hour professional training is provided in English over three weeks. The course covers:

- Basic Interpreting Skills
- Codes of Ethics.
- Integrated Medical Terminology
- Anatomy, and Physiology
- Healthcare Systems.
- Culture in Interpreting.
- Communication Skills for Advocacy
- Professional Development.

After successful completion, participants will receive a certificate of completion for 64-hour professional medical interpreting training. This certificate may be used to provide proof of professional training to employers and meet educational requirements for state or national certification programs.

Cost of the Training

This training is **FREE** to individuals who submit a complete application and meet the minimum requirements. Space is limited and very competitive.

All training books and materials are provided at no cost to those who complete the course.

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the minimum requirements, provide proof of language proficiency, and submit a complete application packet.

Minimum requirements:

- Sponsorship by a not-for-profit organization
- Be 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae describing your experience with medical interpreting
- Proof of language proficiency: participants must be bilingual in English and at least one other language. Proof of proficiency in English and other language may include one of the following for each language:
 - State or Federal court interpreter certification, or
 - Education: High school diploma or equivalent, or university/college degree from a school using the assessed language(s)
 - Five or more years of verified professional experience working in the language(s) being assessed (as demonstrated in resume or CV)
 - Bilingual language proficiency exam results with scores equivalent to ACTFL Advanced Mid-level or ILR Level 2. Participants need to schedule their assessment as soon as possible (at least 3 weeks before the 1st day of class), to get their results in time. We accept any of the following standardized assessments:
 - [Commgap Language Services](#) – Language Fluency Assessment. A score of 18 out of 25 is required for admission. Contact Commgap (DBA Global 1 Voice) at [801-944-4049](tel:801-944-4049)
 - [ACTFL](#) - Proctored by Languagetesting.com - A score of “Advanced-Mid” or higher is required for admission.
 - [LanguageLine Academy](#) - Interpreter Readiness Assessment (eIRA) or Bilingual Fluency Assessment (eBFA). A score of “Competent” or higher is required for admission.

Training Hours and Location:

This professional training will be taught in person in Salt Lake City in 8 daily sessions, beginning Wednesday, October 21 through Thursday, November 5, 2026. Please see the schedule below.

Week 1	Day 1	Wednesday	21-Oct	8:30AM - 5:00PM
	Day 2	Thursday	22-Oct	8:30AM - 5:00PM
	Day 3	Friday	23-Oct	8:30eAM - 5:00PM
Week 2	Day 4	Wednesday	28-Oct	8:30AM - 5:00PM
	Day 5	Thursday	29-Oct	8:30AM - 5:00PM
	Day 6	Friday	30-Oct	8:30AM - 5:00PM
Week 3	Day 7	Wednesday	4-Nov	8:30AM - 5:00PM
	Day 8	Thursday	5-Nov	8:30AM - 5:00PM

Application Information

Space is limited and very competitive. Approved participants MUST attend the entire 64 hours to take the final exam and receive a certificate of successful completion. Failure to attend any portion of the course will result in failure of the course. Participants who fail to attend the entire course will be required to return all the training materials provided or their sponsoring agency must pay for them.

Application deadlines for the 2026 Fall training:

- Application opens October 1, 2026
- Application closes October 9, 2026
- Notification of acceptance October 15, 2026

**Applications received before or after the registration period will NOT be accepted.
Incomplete or ineligible applications will NOT be accepted.**

For more information

Please e-mail Edwin Espinel at eespinel@utah.gov to be included in the prospective participants list and to receive additional information about this training.

[Application Form](#)

[Sponsor Form](#)