

National Standards for Training Programs

A report from the NCIHC Standards, Training and Certification Committee

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, ignition . . . lift off! The development of National Standards for Healthcare Interpreter Training Programs is underway!

Many of you will have read on the NCIHC listserv this past month that the Council's Standards, Training and Certification (STC) Committee has officially launched a national consensusbuilding effort to develop standards for healthcare interpreter training programs. This is the next step in the Council's overall strategy to develop the healthcare interpreting profession, which started in the mid-1990s with a discussion of the interpreter role, followed by the development of the NCIHC National Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. This next set of standards will help assure consistency and promote effectiveness in healthcare interpreter training.

So, here's where we are as of June 1.

- We have obtained partial funding for the project from The California Endowment. This money will help us start the process, but we need to raise more funds in order to complete the work. We have put together both a grant proposal and fundraising plan and will be actively searching for financial support.
- We have broadcast a Request for Proposals for a literature search regarding: the development of training standards in other fields; effective methods for teaching interpreters; and the knowledge, skills and attitudes that should be included in an interpreter training. We have received some excellent proposals from experienced researchers and have extended the due date in order to give ample opportunity for all interested parties to apply.
- We have conducted one focus group to date (at the NCIHC Annual Membership Meeting) to identify aspects of training other than content that should be addressed in standards.

This whole process of standards development will take about 18 months and will provide ample opportunity for all stakeholders to have input. So stay tuned and watch for your opportunity for your voice to be heard!