**Bakersfield College**

**CTE Program Application**

**ASL/English Interpreter Training Program**

**Labor Market Information**

In a separate attachment, provide current Labor Market Information showing that jobs are available for program completers within the local service area. Statewide or national LMI may be included as supplementary support but evidence of need in the specific college service area or region is also necessary.

The outlook for employment in the field of sign language interpreting is quite good, with a deficit of skilled workers at the local, state, and national levels. Both the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the National Association of the Deaf have declared “national states of emergency” regarding the paucity of trained, certified ASL interpreters.

Based on data presented in December 2017, there is an unmet need for interpreters and translators in the Los Angeles County region, the closes major region to Kern County. Reasons include:

* Through 2021 there are expected to be 409 annual openings.
* About 36% of the workforce in this occupation has completed some community college education as their highest level of education.
* Only about 47 associate degrees and certificates in sign language and interpreting are awarded by regional community colleges annually. In LA and Orange counties COE reports that there are eight interpreting training programs; however, those not reported include El Camino College, Cypress College, and Golden West College. In Kern County, there is only one ASL interpreting program, ours, and it is just starting.

According to national Bureau of Labor statistics, in May 2017, the number of employed interpreters was 53,150, earning a mean hourly wage of $24.90 and a mean annual wage of $51,790. Freelance community interpreters with RID certification typically earn $50 per hour. These statistics closely mirror those offered by the COE:

“In Los Angeles County, the number jobs for interpreters and translators are forecasted to increase by 16% over the next five years. More than 400 job opportunities will be available annually for this occupation through 2021 due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g., retirements). Exhibit 2 contains detailed employment projections data for this occupation.” <http://www.coeccc.net/Search.aspx#idDetailPanel>. Of 644 posted job openings in 2016, 515 required only vocational training, and 11 required an AA degree. Only 117 openings required a BA or higher. According to the COE, 66% of program completers are employed within six months.

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| **Employment** [**(1)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25281%2529) | **Employment** **RSE** [**(3)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25283%2529) | **Mean hourly** **wage** | **Mean annual** **wage** [**(2)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25282%2529) | **Wage RSE** [**(3)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25283%2529) |
| 53,150 | 3.2 % | $24.90 | $51,790 | 1.4 % |

Percentile wage estimates for this occupation:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Percentile** | **10%** | **25%** | **50%** **(Median)** | **75%** | **90%** |
| Hourly Wage | $12.32 | $16.65 | $22.69 | $30.38 | $39.56 |
| Annual Wage [(2)](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25282%2529) | $25,620 | $34,620 | $47,190 | $63,180 | $82,290 |

In addition to community interpreter, potential areas of specialization include

* Court Interpreter
* Deaf Interpreter
* Educational Interpreter
* Medical Interpreter
* Paraprofessional Interpreter

Other areas of employment include legal interpreting, performance interpreting, television interpreting, mental health interpreting, religious interpreting, and others.

Three of the five industries with the highest published employment and wages for this occupation are elementary education, secondary education, and “junior colleges.” These are among the areas of greatest need in Bakersfield College’s local service area. Each of these areas represent among the highest concentration of employees and one, postsecondary education, is noted as among the five top paying industries.

As can be seen from the table below, California leads the five states with the highest rates of employment in the United States. Only New York, fourth on the list, pays more than California.

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| **State** | **Employment** [**(1)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25281%2529) | **Employment per thousand jobs** | **Location quotient** [**(9)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25289%2529) | **Hourly mean wage** | **Annual mean wage** [**(2)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25282%2529) |
| [California](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ca.htm) | 8,670 | 0.52 | 1.39 | $26.70 | $55,540 |
| [Texas](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_tx.htm) | 4,850 | 0.41 | 1.09 | $24.81 | $51,600 |
| [Florida](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_fl.htm) | 3,110 | 0.37 | 0.99 | $20.85 | $43,370 |
| [New York](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ny.htm) | 2,700 | 0.29 | 0.79 | $31.38 | $65,270 |
| [Arizona](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_az.htm) | 2,550 | 0.94 | 2.53 | $19.88 | $41,340 |

As might be expected, Los Angeles, California, BC’s nearest metropolitan area, is ranked number one among ten states as having the highest concentration of employment in the field of interpreting, with numbers closely mirroring national data.

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| **Metropolitan area** | **Employment** [**(1)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25281%2529) | **Employment per thousand jobs** | **Location quotient** [**(9)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25289%2529) | **Hourly mean wage** | **Annual mean wage** [**(2)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25282%2529) |
| [Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA Metropolitan Division](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_31084.htm) | 2,070 | 0.47 | 1.25 | $25.93 | $53,940 |

Considering nonmetropolitan areas, which more closely align with Kern County, the following data from California’s Northern Coast reveals that mean wages and rate of employment closely align with national averages:

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| **Nonmetropolitan area** | **Employment** [**(1)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25281%2529) | **Employment per thousand jobs** | **Location quotient** [**(9)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25289%2529) | **Hourly mean wage** | **Annual mean wage** [**(2)**](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes273091.htm#%25282%2529) |
| [North Coast Region of California nonmetropolitan area](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_0600003.htm) | 30 | 0.33 | 0.88 | $28.37 | $59,000 |

The demand for an interpreter training program has been evident for many years. With only one other program, a new program, in our local service area, the Bakersfield Interpreter Training Program will provide students with certain employment opportunities locally, state-side, and nationally in educational and community interpreting as well as in specialized settings such as theatrical, mental-health, and legal interpreting, among other.