

Creating Interpreter Resources



An Alaskan Experience

Photo credit: ACVB Ak Div. Tourism 6655 Alaska Immigration Justice Project
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Some Background

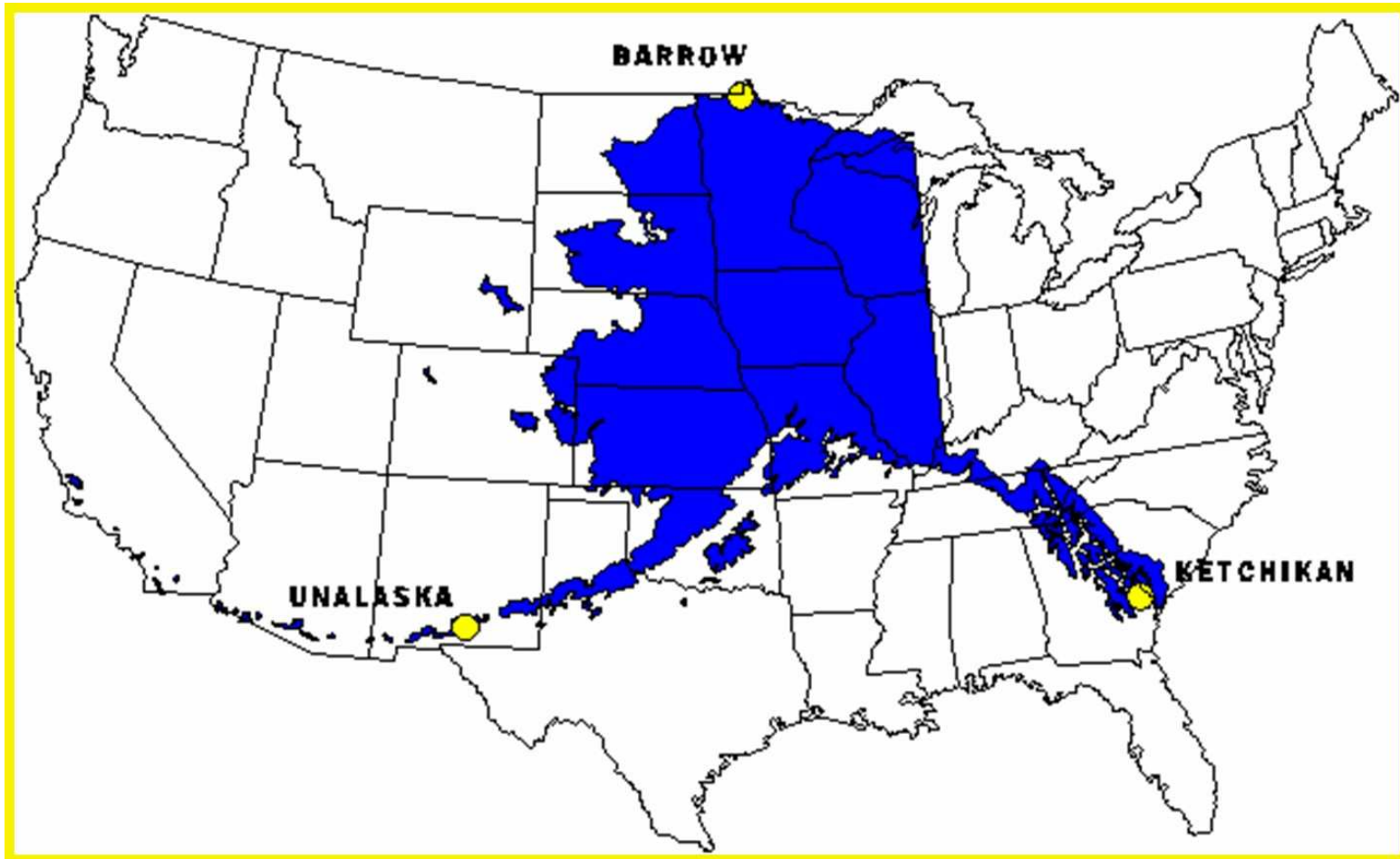
- 665,000 residents
- 14.3% of households speak a language other than English at home
- 4.2% LEP residents
- Many different languages spoken



Photo credit Eric Luse 4012

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Scope of the Problem: Geography



Population density of Alaska = 1.1 persons/square mile
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Scope of the Problem: Supply and Demand

- Inadequate supply of qualified interpreters
- No method to determine interpreter qualifications
- No central place to find interpreters
- Each agency had independent list



Photo credit John Hyde Ak Div. Tourism

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One Solution/A Public Private Collaboration How We Got There



Photo credit Rex Melton Ak Div. Tourism

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1. Do your homework



Anchorage Museum of History & Art. Library & Archives.

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BUILD SOLID FOUNDATION

- Needs Assessment
 - Survey documenting interpreters needed
 - Resources to provide
 - Ask Decision-makers able to make funding allocations and Front-line staff

BUSINESS PLAN

- Outline Plan
 - Identify Funding Sources
 - Identify Staffing
 - Identify Training/Technical Assistance
 - Identify legal structure

2. Cross Disciplines and Boundaries



Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

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3. Involve Everyone



Photo credit: E. Schneider Ak Div. Tourism

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- Businesses – real estate companies, banks
- Federal government agencies, i.e. post office
- State government agencies
- Non-profits
- Health Care providers

4. Call meetings (free food)



Photo credit: Ak Dept Tourism

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LEAD AGENCY

- Has the ability to bring people together
- Identify Key People in Different Sectors
- Keep people involved and informed

5. Ask for Commitments/Build on Successes



Photo credit K. Ozaki Ak Div. Tourism

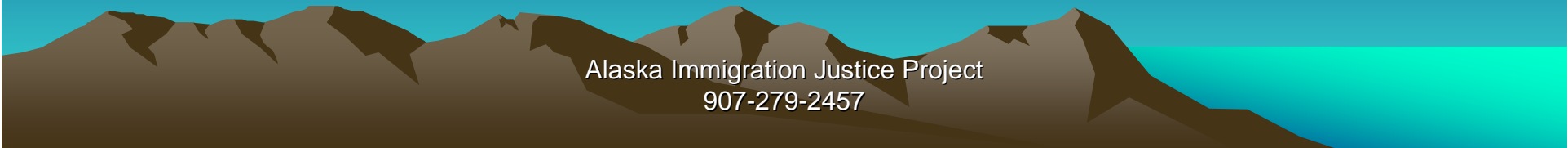
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Looking Forward

- Planning for long-term sustainability (funding, but also interpreters)
- Need to show “deliverables” every year to justify ongoing commitment
- Technical issues concerning Alaska Native languages



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A stylized, low-poly silhouette of a mountain range in shades of brown and tan, positioned at the bottom of the slide. The background behind the mountains is a gradient from light blue to white.

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