

JB Pritzker
Governor



Marc D. Smith
Director

April 1, 2023

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker,
Governor of Illinois
Office of the Governor
401 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Governor Pritzker,

The State Service Assurance Act, Public Act 95-707, passed in November 2008, requires each state agency to annually report to the General Assembly on their staffing level of bilingual employees.

Please find the enclosed report of bilingual employees currently employed by the Department of Children and Family Services. Establishing positions with multilingual options and incorporating multilingual skills into existing positions allows our agency to provide better services more effectively to our clients and to the public. On June 30, 2007, the Department had 154 bilingual frontline staff. PL 95-707 established an expectation for 40 additional bilingual frontline staff for a total of 194. This was to be incrementally achieved. The listing below demonstrates steady progress until the Pandemic occurred. In conjunction with significant staffing issues across the Department, it also affected our ability to comply with PL 95-707.

The figures below are for frontline bilingual DCFS staff on March 31 of each year.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bilingual Frontline staff	153	178	156	171	167	157	142	141

We continue to recruit at colleges and universities that are designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions by the United States Department of Education. We are working with Loyola University to enter into agreements to develop a 'pipeline' of BSW and MSW students into DCFS employment. We also are working to provide an avenue for current bilingual staff to gain an MSW. Loyola University reportedly has the only bilingual MSW program in Illinois. We have increased the number of Human Resource Representatives and are now able to cover more recruitment and outreach events targeted at the Hispanic/Spanish Speaking community.

The Department is under the Burgos Consent Decree that requires that we provide services in Spanish-to-Spanish Speaking clients and families. We also comply with the Presidential Executive Order 13166 which requires agencies receiving federal funds to provide access to language services for all languages used by agency clients.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lourdes M. Rodriguez, Statewide Burgos Consent Decree/Inter Ethnic Placement Act/ Language Access Coordinator, Office of Strategy and Performance Execution at, 312-808-5264.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Smith".

Marc D. Smith
Director
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

