

## **STUTSMAN COUNTY PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE/LANGUAGE POLICY**

### **Notice**

Stutsman County, North Dakota, in an effort to comply with Title VI, hereby assures its citizens that a paper notice of all public announcements and meetings shall be made available for publication to the following organizations:

- 1) Stutsman County Social Services
- 2) Stutsman County Auditor's Office
- 3) Stutsman County Chamber of Commerce
- 4) James River Correctional Center
- 5) Jamestown City Hall

By providing notice to the organizations listed above, Stutsman County, North Dakota hopes to encourage all Stutsman County citizens, including women and minorities, to attend and participate in public outreach programs.

### **Language**

Statistics gathered from the Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)) demonstrate that a vast majority (18,265 people out of a reporting 19,412 people - 94%) in Stutsman County, North Dakota, speak only English. 127 Spanish-speaking individuals speak English "less than very well" and 182 German-speaking individuals speak English "less than very well." The amount of other non-English speaking individuals who speak English "less than very well" is less than 100 per language. For example, the amount of Scandinavian-speaking individuals who speak English "less than very well" is 30.

As such, Stutsman County will not provide interpreters for non-English speaking individuals at public meetings and will not provide notice of public announcements in languages other than English. However, the relevant Stutsman County department hosting the meeting or publishing the notice shall make arrangements for a necessary translation upon request. The relevant Stutsman County Department shall seek guidance from the Title VI coordinator where necessary to determine the most efficient method of providing a translation. Additionally, if a public notice or meeting is likely to affect individuals who speak English "less than very well," the relevant Stutsman County Department shall make necessary accommodations automatically.

### **Documentation**

When notice of a public meeting or outreach program is made available to the public, the relevant Stutsman County Department shall provide a copy of the notice and a brief indication of whether language services are expected to be necessary and an explanation of why/why not.

When language services are requested or the relevant Stutsman County Department feels that a translation will likely be necessary, the relevant department shall provide a brief documentation

to the Title VI Coordinator indicating: 1) the date, 2) why language services were necessary, 3) what they did to provide the necessary services, 3) how many people were served, and 4) whether the services were adequate.