

Image Description: Video opens with Text of Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and Louisiana Department of Health. Slide text:

Announcement: Needs Assessment of Sign Language Interpreting in the State of Louisiana.

New Image- White lady with short blonde hair stands in front of brown wall made of wooden logs. She wears a black blouse, white pearl earrings and a golden necklace.

Jana Broussard: Hello, my name is Jana Broussard and I am the interim Executive Director for the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD). Today I am pleased to announce that the LCD will conduct a needs assessment of the current state of American Sign Language / English interpreting throughout the state of Louisiana. This project will support one of the 2022-2024 LCD strategic priorities, which is to establish interpreting standards and systems, “which define, describe, and incentivize new expectations for and oversight of the quality of ASL interpreters, including those in educational settings.”

LCD has contracted with Innivee Strategies, Inc., an organizational and leadership development firm to lead this need assessment project. Innivee Strategies will focus on three deliverables between now to the end of 2022:

1. Gathering key data from LCD and its stakeholders on expectations for interpreter standards for the state;
2. Conducting a comparative assessment of similar frameworks in other states; and,
3. Developing a comprehensive report with recommendations for a multi-year implementation plan.

New image description - White man with a beard stands in front of a dark solid gray background. He wears a light gray button down shirt with a dark gray blazer. He wears hearing aids.

Shane: Since we first began working with LCD in 2021 on developing the organization’s strategic priorities, we continue to be impressed by the commission’s commitment to strengthening its strategic focus, governance, and engagement of its community members in leading the organization. Innivee Strategies is thrilled to work with LCD on this interpreter needs assessment project.

We recognize that interpreting is a complex issue with many different perspectives with different groups that are invested in the process: Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals, interpreters, agencies, training programs, and more.

Our goal through this project is to position Louisiana to make fully informed decisions and communicate this information with stakeholders, through a community- and data-driven approach to the needs assessment project. Innivee Strategies will work closely with LCD to achieve a gradual yet proactive approach to transforming the state of interpreting in the state. The result of our work aims to provide the interpreter and Deaf communities in Louisiana with a clear path forward toward the future they wish to achieve with interpreter standards in the state.

Please watch for more information from us later this summer. For questions, reach out to us at contact@innivee.com.

Thank you!