



Language Program in the NWS: How It Started and Where It Is Going

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NWS/Office of Science & Technology Integration
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBES) Program

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Language Translation Timeline at the NWS

Decades ago

NWS San Juan translates

Bilingual forecasters translated local, NHC, CPC, & other weather text files. This added significant workload for local staff.

Statements, Watches and Warnings
Comunicados, Vigilancia y Avisos

Hydrology/Hidrológico	Hazardous Weather/Condiciones Peligrosas	Marine/Marítimo	
Area Forecast/Pronóstico de Área	Tropical	Climate/Clima	Aviation/Aviación
Fire Danger/Peligro por Incendios	Emergencies/Emergencias	Earthquakes/Tsunami	



Past Efforts

2014 & 2017

Two new volunteer teams

NWS bilingual forecasters created teams (SOT & MAS) to assist translating active weather products and preparedness information on a best-effort basis.



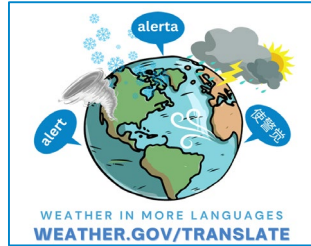
Present

2023

Use of AI to translate

NWS is using AI/ML & bilingual NWS staff to translate weather forecasts, warnings, and safety messaging into non-English languages.

Translations available at [weather.gov/translate](https://www.weather.gov/translate)



July 2023

Language Program Lead

NWS created a new position, the Language Program Lead, at the OSTI/Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBES) Program. Also, SBES hired a linguist to enhance the coordination and planning being done by NWS.



Fall/Winter 2024

Language Access Strategic Plan & Roadmap



SBES is currently working on a strategic plan and roadmap to provide direction of our language access efforts.

The NWS Language Strategy and Roadmap will address the following:

- 1) **Language, Translation, & Interpretation Services,**
- 2) **Training & Hiring,**
- 3) **Evaluation,**
- and 4) **Outreach, Communication, & Dissemination.**

Future

2025 and Beyond

Implementation of efforts

Many of these efforts will need funding! SBES and others across the NWS will continue to request for additional funding. In the meantime, we need your help!





Questions/Comments

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