



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

This part of The Maya Essay documents the economic challenges for Maya Language Interpreter Service Providers and Maya Interpreters.

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THE NATIONAL GUATEMALAN MAYA INTERPRETERS NETWORK

This essay will inform the reader about the National Maya Interpreters Network, which is currently functioning but not yet fully established. The Network should be completed before summer of 2013. By the end of 2013 we plan to offer links to non-Guatemalan Maya. However, requests for interpreter are welcome, and currently we are receiving two or three national requests per week varying from medical interpretation to legal interpretation. Our interpreters have been screened or recommended by Maya partners, and our goal will be to certify Network Interpreters in language legitimacy, ethics, confidentiality, and cultural congruency. The Network will work to overcome problems in health-care or justice caused by gaps in language communication, help preserve the Maya languages, and promote respect and dignity for the Maya. We are looking for grants to make Network services free of charge. Until recently, many of our services were free or very low cost for non-profit agencies or for destitute clients, but with the current economy many of our interpreters have been hurt financially themselves. The Network was created by the three-way partnership between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS); the Organization Pastoral Maya USA; and the Maya Partnership Program at Kennesaw State University. See: <http://mayanetwork.org/>