

# Overview of Title VI

**Discrimination**

**Environmental Justice**

**Limited English Proficiency**

# Title VI Legislation

- No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.



# What is Federal Financial Assistance?

- Federal financial assistance includes grants, training, use of equipment, donations of surplus property, and other assistance.
- Title VI applies to the federally assisted program or department. However, since the County receives federal financial assistance in to the General Fund, all general fund departments are required to comply with Title VI, not just the department receiving funds.

# What Discrimination Is Prohibited By Title VI?

In operating a federally assisted program, the County cannot, on the basis of race, color, or national origin, either directly or through contractual means:

- Deny program services, aids, or benefits
- Provide a different service, aid, or benefit, or provide them in a manner different than they are provided to others
- Segregate or separately treat individuals in any matter related to the receipt of any service, aid, or benefit

# What Does Title VI Do?

- Encourages the participation of minorities as members of planning or advisory bodies for programs receiving federal funds
- Prohibits discriminatory activity in a facility built in whole or part with federal funds
- Requires information and services to be provided in languages other than English when significant numbers of beneficiaries are of limited English speaking ability

# Environmental Justice

- This Section of Title VI provides that “each agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.”
- In other words, the County should consider the impact of its policies, programs, new construction, etc on minority or low-income populations.

# **Title VI & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

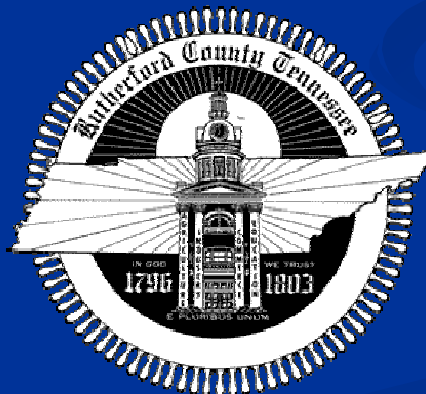
- The federal government and those receiving assistance from the federal government must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to the programs, services, and information those entities provide.

# LEP Requirements

- The County is required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons.
  - Utilizing Interpreters
  - Posting Signs in Spanish
  - Utilizing Language Line (Phone Service)

# What Do I Do If I Receive A Title VI Complaint?

- If you receive a Title VI complaint from a citizen, contact Vicki Taylor (898-7745) or Sonya Stephenson (494-4480).



# Quiz

- <https://secure.rutherfordcountyttn.gov/titlevi/>