UMTIA Volunteer Interpreters Policy

We feel honored that many organizations consider us the “go to” nonprofit when it comes to requesting the assistance of interpreters and translators. We do everything in our power to be responsive to these requests, including posting or sending them out when they align with our mission, and also encouraging our members to be active participants of the community and serve with their skills and expertise when the request is for volunteers.

We would also like to point out that interpreters and translators, on average, do not earn high wages or salaries as other professionals might. Hence, to volunteer time is particularly burdensome when a full time occupation is hardly sufficient to earn a living wage. Paying for their services would not be particularly onerous on the organizations requesting these skills. It would represent a realistic appreciation of the skills demonstrated by interpreters to budget payment for these services. If you feel that your organization does not have the capacity to fully pay for interpreters or translators services, then at least a partial payment for services offered would be considerate.

One exception to this would be future professionals in training who might need volunteer opportunities in order to meet coursework requirements. The T&I Programs at the University of Minnesota and Century College could be good contact points when searching for volunteers.

Above all, we, as well as you, are interested in serving the needs of the populations whose languages we speak and in which we are also personally and professionally invested. Feel free to contact us with your needs, and we will be happy to provide you with orientation and assistance, to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Regards,

For the UMTIA Board

President Isabel Montañez Secretary Aida Azzazi