

Information Paper National Language Service Corps (NLSC)

What is the National Language Service Corps?

The National Language Service Corps (NLSC) is a Congressionally-authorized civilian corps of volunteers with certified expertise in languages important to the well-being of the United States. NLSC members are willing to serve as on-call Federal employees, using their diverse language skills across local, state and federal agencies. The opportunities for service include emergency relief as well as service in support of domestic and international crises—wherever language skills are needed. The NLSC, a major component of the National Security Language Initiative, is currently in its pilot stage and its development is overseen by the National Security Education Program in the U.S. Department of Defense. Fully implemented, NLSC is expected to include more than 30,000 members in over 150 languages.

Facts about the NLSC

- NLSC is a national asset designed to provide a surge capability for the full range of language needs
- NLSC will notify and place its members on assignment wherever needed to support national needs
- NLSC provides its Members the opportunity to help people in their community and from their culture and background.
- NLSC is the first organization of its kind in the United States to gather a network of people speaking foreign languages, dedicated to the good of all, and offering an opportunity to improve cross-cultural communication.
- The NLSC pilot program is being conducted to develop, test and evaluate NLSC alternatives leading to a fully operational NLSC in 2010.
- The NLSC is recruiting for speakers of the following languages: Mandarin, Hindi, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Russian, Hausa, Swahili, Somali, Thai and Marshallese.
- During the pilot phase, NLSC will offer a minimum of 1,000 individuals the opportunity to be part of an elite group of Charter Members.
- Charter Members will make a major contribution to establishing a national capability for using the power of language and communication to support the security and welfare of the nation.
- There will be three activation exercises with federal agencies, during the pilot phase, where selected Charter Members will be offered an opportunity to participate.
- Members are prepared for placement as a member of a government team in support of federal departments and agencies. Member readiness includes working culture of supported organization
- The NLSC certifies the language skill proficiency levels of its Members who must generally possess ILR 3/3/3 Proficiency (Listening/reading/Speaking) in a foreign language and in English.
- NLSC offers a dedicated sponsor pool for specific specialized support to any agency including advanced training and qualifications such high level security clearances

Eligibility for the NLSC

NLSC membership is open to U. S. Citizens who are 18 years or older, have language expertise and are motivated to help their fellow citizens throughout the nation and world. Males are required to have met their selective service obligations.

For additional information on the NLSC contact: Call toll-free (888) SAY-NLSC (729-6572) or e-mail Recruiting@NLSCorps.org. Please visit our website at www.NLSCorps.org.

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