



# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

*Michael D. Planet*  
*Executive Officer/Clerk*  
*and Jury Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COURT RECEIVES GRANT TO TRAIN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

The FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA has awarded a grant of \$2,500 to the Ventura County Superior Court for the legal training of indigenous language interpreters. The grant was announced at The FUND's annual Spring Grant Awards Party on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Santa Barbara.

The grant will provide the necessary funding for a one-day workshop on professional interpretation in the American legal system to Spanish/indigenous language bilinguals in the areas of the American judicial process, legal language, and interpreter protocol of local courts. The workshop will be held at the Santa Barbara courthouse in September.

Workshop participants will become familiar with the meaning of common legal terms and find equivalents in their indigenous language, be introduced to the Professional Standards for Court Interpreters in California, and learn to team with a Spanish/English interpreter to perform relay interpreting.

The group receiving training will be comprised of Spanish/indigenous language bilinguals who are working in Santa Barbara County, formally or informally, as interpreters, and wish to pursue this field in a more formalized manner with the legal system. They will form a trained pool of

indigenous language interpreters that will be able to serve the needs of their communities in a local, and more cost efficient manner.

The list of trained interpreters will be submitted to the courts of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, the California Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Mexican Consulate.

The large agricultural labor demands which have traditionally drawn Spanish speaking Mexicans into our region are now pulling from the less integrated and more rural Mexican populations, most notably from Oaxaca. Mexico has more than 100 distinct indigenous languages that exist in combination with or in isolation from the Spanish spoken in Mexico. The indigenous languages do not have written forms, and literacy among its speakers is dependent upon the education provided and fluency gained in Spanish. Demographic studies show that the percentage of indigenous people in our communities is steadily rising.

The indigenous speaking communities, local law enforcement, and the courts will all benefit by having access to qualified interpreters who can aid in providing meaningful and full access to the judicial system.

The FUND FOR SANTA BARBARA is a 501c3 nonprofit community foundation dedicated to addressing the root causes of social, economic, environmental and political challenges in Santa Barbara County.

The FUND raises money through donations of all sizes in order to provide grants and technical assistance to local grassroots efforts. The FUND supports community-based projects working for "Change, Not Charity" through a variety of strategies including community organizing, direct action, popular education, legislative advocacy and the arts.

For nearly more than thirty years, the FUND has been at the forefront of responsive and progressive philanthropy in our community, distributing over \$4 million to more than 800 grassroots projects working for social justice, fair and affordable housing, accessible education, economic renewal, and a clean and healthy environment for all.

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