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## **Purpose**

The intent of this Language Access Plan (the Plan) is to ensure the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) is prepared to address its responsibilities as a recipient of Federal Financial Assistance as they relate to the needs of individuals with limited English language skills. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 200d, *et seq.*, and Executive Order 13166, to follow when providing services to, or interacting with, individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP). Following these guidelines is essential to the success of our mission to protect life and property against man-made and natural disasters by directing the State's efforts in the areas of prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

GEMA/HS is a recipient of federal funds for a portion of its programs and, thus, obligated to reduce language barriers that can preclude Meaningful Access by LEP persons to GEMA/HS programs and GEMA/HS' Subrecipients' programs. GEMA/HS has prepared this Language Access Plan, which defines the actions to be taken to ensure Meaningful Access to Agency services, programs, and activities on the part of persons who have LEP.

## **Authority**

### **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, provides that no person 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."

Section 602 authorizes and directs federal agencies that are empowered to extend Federal Financial Assistance to any program or activity "to effectuate the provisions of [section 601] \* \* \* by issuing rules, regulations, or orders of general applicability." 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1.

### **Executive Order 13166**

Executive Order 13166, entitled "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency," authorizes the implementation of regulations afforded by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Executive Order 13166 ensures LEP persons have Meaningful Access to federally conducted and funded programs and activities. This protection requires that LEP persons be provided an equal opportunity to benefit from services that are normally provided in English. Executive Order 13166 requires that federal agencies create plans for ensuring that their own activities also provide Meaningful Access for persons who are LEP.

## **Definitions**

**Beneficiary:** The ultimate consumer of federally funded programs who receives benefits from a federally funded recipient.