

## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County's Line of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

**Request By:** Supervisor Hudgins

**Question:** What contracts do we have with other organizations for employees to acquire foreign language skills?

**Response:** Employees who need training to acquire foreign language skills use the language tuition assistance reimbursement program (LTAP) and take classes through Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Adult and Continuing Education or George Mason. In FY 2008, fewer than \$10,000 in LTAP reimbursements were requested and processed.

At this time, the County's Language Access Coordinator is exploring ways in which to evaluate and strengthen the skills learned in these classes so that they are more consistently demonstrated in interactions with the County's limited English proficiency customers.

It should be noted that the Fairfax County Police Department also offers language skills training. The department implemented a Language Immersion Program in FY 2006 which provided opportunities for sworn officers to become fluent in the Spanish language, graduating 30 officers from classes since inception through FY 2007. However the program was terminated in FY 2008 due to budget restrictions.