Session 1: Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 12:00pm

Session 2: Friday, October 25, 2024, 07:30am



## **Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session**

# Vulnerable Populations & Language Access



## **Introductions & Agenda**

Topic	Topic Owner
Welcome, introductions overview of the meeting: rules and intent	Amber Lenhart
Partner Shares	Partners
Vulnerable Populations	Dan Blazquez
Language Access	Alvaro Figueroa
Wrap-up and Adjourn	Dan Blazquez



### **Guest Introductions**

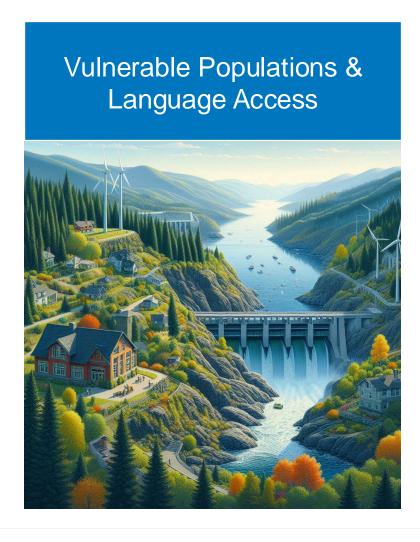
- Name
- Pronouns
- Organization or community



(she/her/hers)



## **Today's Equity Lens Session October 2024**



#### **EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Goals:**

- 1. Provide consultation pertaining to identifying Vulnerable Populations
- 2. Discuss Avista's multi-language strategy and potential future projects



## INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/ or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.



## Rules for Engagement



- Encouraged to actively participate in discussions
- ☐ Each member will be provided time to speak
- ☐ Healthy and civil debate is encouraged
- ☐ Members should be open to new ideas and concepts
- ☐ Respectful of differing opinions
- ☐ Collectively, the group should strive to align varying options (e.g., identify shared goals for different perspectives)



#### **Partner Shares**

- Upcoming relevant community events or opportunities
- Pressing issues facing our community or a need someone might be able to address
- Challenges your organization is facing (especially around equity)







## **Avista Vulnerable Populations**

Dan Blazquez, Avista Customer Engagement Manager



## **Agenda**

- Why are we talking vulnerable populations:
  - Washington Administrative Code (WAC)
  - Equity
- History of the Maps
  - Justice40
  - Washington State Department of Health (DOH)
- Defining Vulnerable Populations
  - Who they are in WA
  - How they are identified in Avista's Washington Service Territories
  - Maps: Here are the maps Avista is using, so what are we missing?



## **Named Communities**

Per WAC 480-100-605

## **Highly Impacted Communities**

A Community designated by the Department of Health based on the cumulative impact analysis required by RCW 19.405.140 or a community located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian Country," as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

## **Vulnerable Populations**

Communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to adverse socioeconomic factors (such as unemployment, high housing costs); and sensitivity factors such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

A total of 48 census tracts were identified as Named Communities.



## **Highly Impacted Communities**

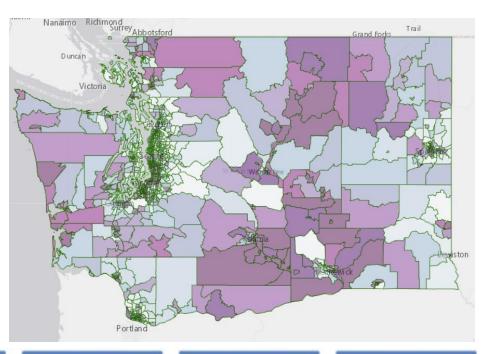
• CETA requires the Washington Department of Health (DOH) to determine each utility's Highly Impacted Communities.

 DOH used the combined average score of four categories.

 Those communities with a resulting score of nine or higher were areas determined to need immediate attention.

#### Environmental Exposures

- NOx-diesel emissions
- Ozone concentration
- o PM 2.5 concentration
- Populations near heavy traffic
- Toxic releases from facilities



#### Environmental Effects

- Lead risk from housing
- Proximity to hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Proximity to risk management plan facilities
- Wastewater discharges

#### Socioeconomic Factors

- Limited English
- No high school diploma
- o People of color
- Population living in poverty (<= 185% of federal poverty level)
- Transportation expense
- Unaffordable housing (>30% of income)
- o Unemployed %

#### Sensitive Populations

- Death from cardiovascular disease
- o Low birth weights



## **Vulnerable Populations - 2021**

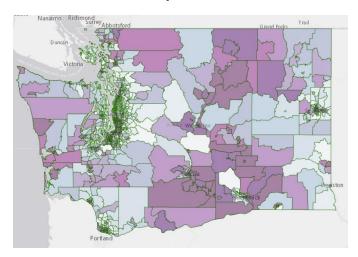




## **Vulnerable Population and Justice 40**

# Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map

- Environmental Exposures
- Environmental Effects
- Socioeconomic Factors
- Sensitive Populations



# Federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Map

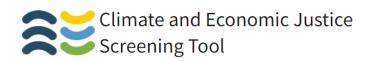
- Climate Change
- Energy
- Health
- Housing
- Legacy Pollution
- Transportation
- Water and Wastewater
- Workforce Development

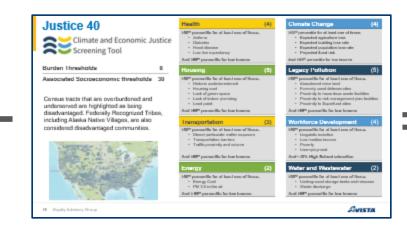


## **Avista's Identification of Vulnerable Populations**

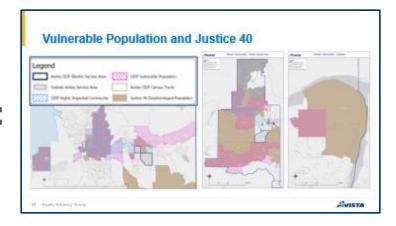


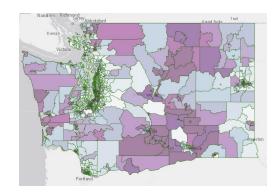












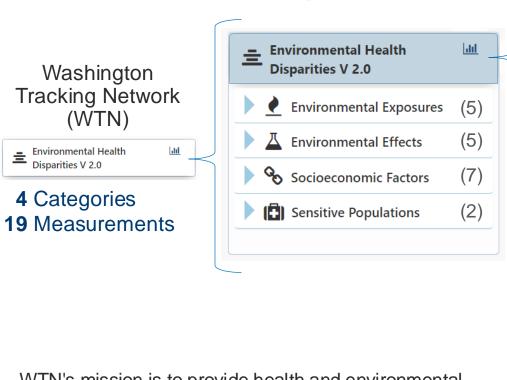






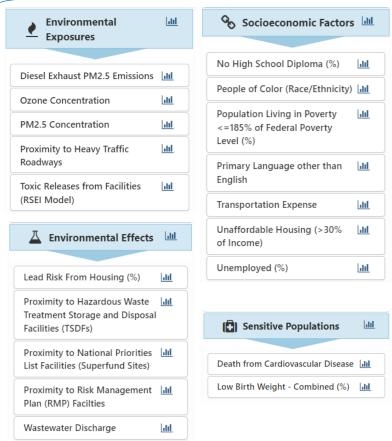


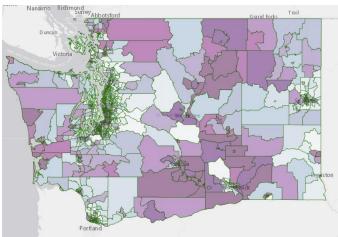
## The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map



WTN's mission is to provide health and environmental data and tools, develop partnerships, and inform data-driven policy and programmatic decisions, with the goal of improving health and health equity in Washington.

https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/Map/EHD

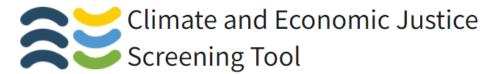




- The Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map evaluates environmental health risk factors in communities.
- It estimates a cumulative environmental health impact score for each census tract reflecting pollutant exposures and factors that affect people's vulnerability to environmental pollution.



## **Justice 40**

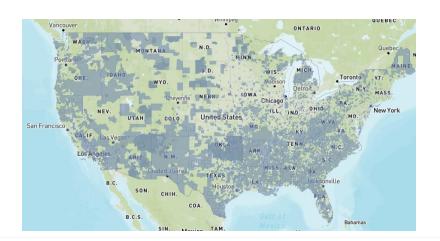


**Burden Thresholds** 

8

Associated Socioeconomic thresholds 30

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.



#### Health

(4)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Low live expectancy

And ≥65th percentile for low income

#### Housing

**(5)** 

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- Historic underinvestment
- Housing cost
- · Lack of green space
- · Lack of indoor plumbing
- · Lead paint

And ≥65th percentile for low income

#### **Transportation**

(3)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- · Diesel particulate matter exposure
- Transportation barriers
- · Traffic proximity and volume

And ≥65th percentile for low income

#### **Energy**

(2)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- Energy Cost
- PM 2.5 in the air

And ≥ 65<sup>th</sup> percentile for low income

#### **Climate Change**

(4)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- Expected agriculture loss
- Expected building loss rate
- Expected population loss rate
- · Projected flood risk

And ≥65<sup>th</sup> percentile for low income

#### **Legacy Pollution**

(5)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- · Abandoned mine land
- Formerly used defense sites
- Proximity to hazardous waste facilities
- Proximity to risk management plan facilities
- · Proximity to Superfund sites

And ≥65th percentile for low income

#### **Workforce Development**

(4)

≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

- · Linguistic isolation
- · Low median income
- Poverty
- Unemployment

And <10% High School education

#### **Water and Wastewater**

(2)

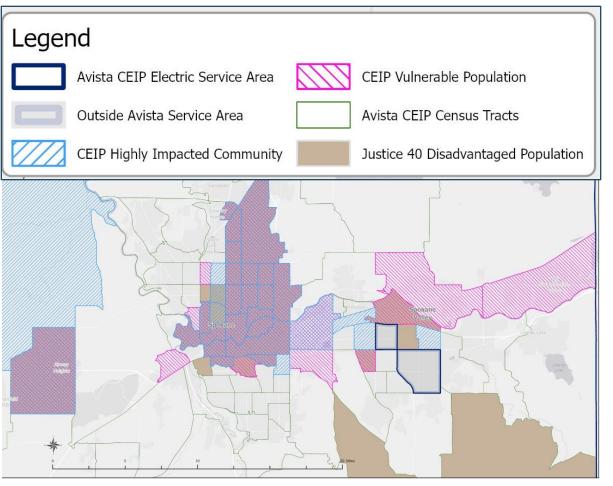
≥90<sup>th</sup> percentile for at least one of these:

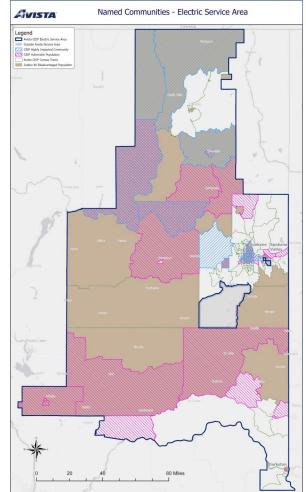
- Underground storage tanks and releases
- Waste discharge

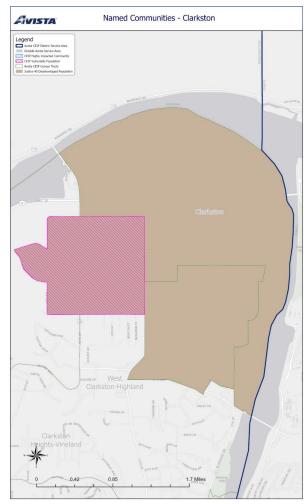
And ≥65th percentile for low income



## **Vulnerable Population and Justice 40**









**Avista's Map Uses All of the Following Measurements** 

(11)



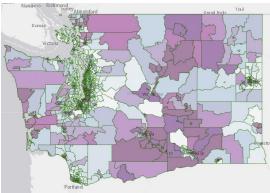


## WA DOH & Justice 40 Measurements

Unemployed %

- Proximity to risk management plan facilities
- Proximity to hazardous waste treatment facilities
- Toxic releases from facilities
- Poverty
- Populations near heavy traffic
- PM 2.5 concentration
- · Diesel particulate matter exposure
- Limited English (Linguistic isolation)
- Lead paint
- Unaffordable Housing (>30% of income)



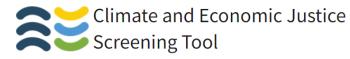


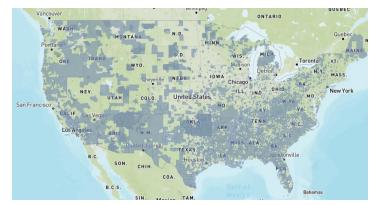
#### Unique

#### **WA DOH Measurements**

- · Low birth weight
- · No high school diploma
- · People of color
- · Wastewater discharge







#### Unique

#### **Justice 40 Measurements**

- Abandoned mine land
- Asthma

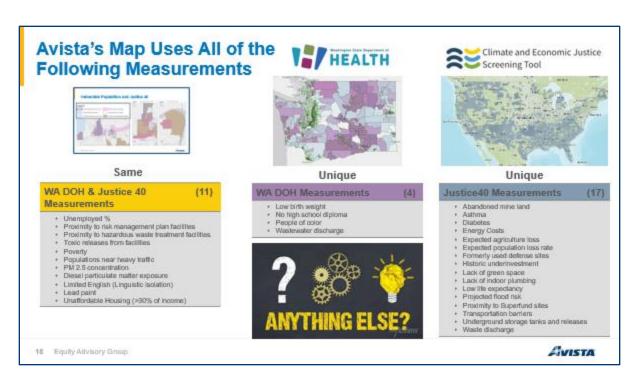
(4)

- Diabetes
- Energy Costs
- Expected agriculture loss
- Expected population loss rate
- · Formerly used defense sites
- Historic underinvestment
- · Lack of green space
- Lack of indoor plumbing
- Low life expectancy
- Projected flood risk
- Proximity to Superfund sites
- Transportation barriers
- Underground storage tanks and releases
- Waste discharge



(17)

## What's Missing?









## Multi-Language Efforts

Alvaro Figueroa, Customer Solutions Program Manager

October 2024

### **Contents**

- Multi-Language Overview
- Our Customers
- Customer Facing Channels
- Foundation, Organization
- Language Projects
- Multi-Language Roadmap





### **Overview**

#### Multi-Language Strategy (MLS)

Avista is identifying opportunities using a holistic approach for multi-language needs. The objective of the MLS is to solution around effective long-term organizational changes and project implementations to provide adequate assistance, information, and accessibility for non-English speaking customers.

Our goal is to build a multi-language roadmap to help meet *customer needs*, and legislative requirements as set forth by the public utility commissions (PUCs) and other government bodies. This includes evaluating options to translate customer facing channels such as the website, mobile app, the IVR, and more. The success of the new translated customer facing channels will increase self-service success rates and reduce hands-on assistance to resolve customer questions and concerns.

The MLS is designed to be a strong foundation for Avista to continue meeting changing customer needs, demands, and preferences.



## Multi-Language Charter, est. Aug. 2023

Purpose

 To align on multi-language needs and define a strategy for serving Avista's diverse community. This strategy aims to identify problem statement(s) and evaluate multi-language customer needs.

Scope

• Create definitions, identify requirements, analyze current processes, implement changes, establish success metrics, and establish a program-level roadmap.

How

• Establishing a sustainable model that incorporates ongoing assessment of multi-language needs, value, and processes. This includes creating metrics, and accountability for the multi-language strategy roadmap.



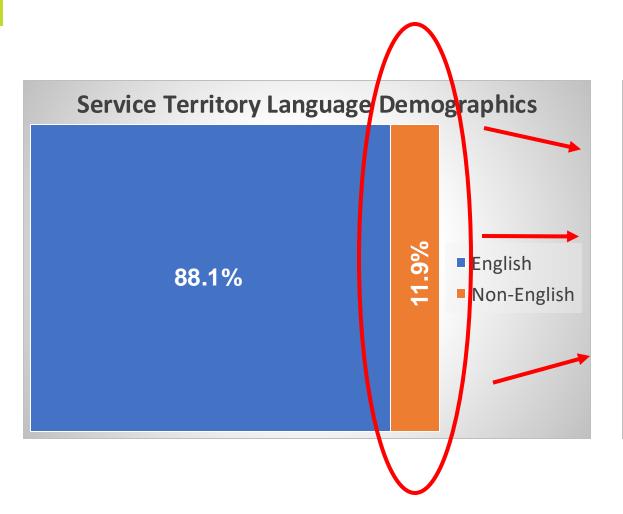
## Key factors in multi-language decision making process

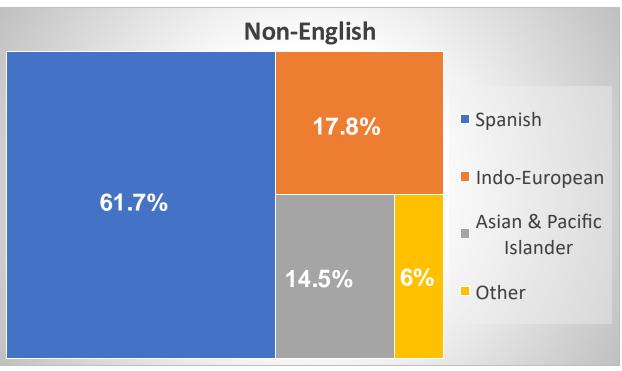


# Language, By the Numbers



## **Service Territory Language Demographics – 2018-2022**



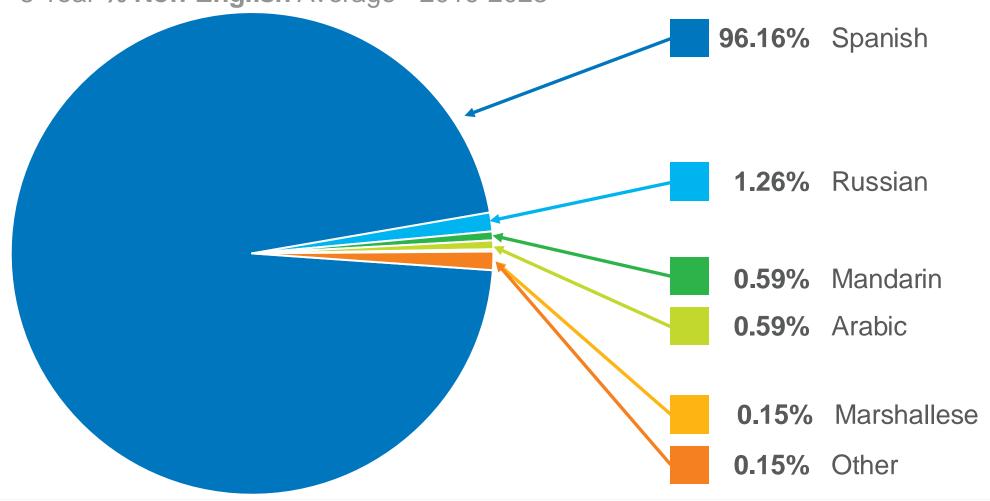




## **Language Line**

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
% Non-English	0.15%	0.19%	0.15%	0.20%	0.23%
% English	99.85%	99.81%	99.85%	99.80%	99.77%





#### Language Line Service- Count, 2019-2023





#### Most Commonly Spoken Language Other than English





#### Most Commonly Spoken Language Other than English or Spanish





# Customer Facing Channels



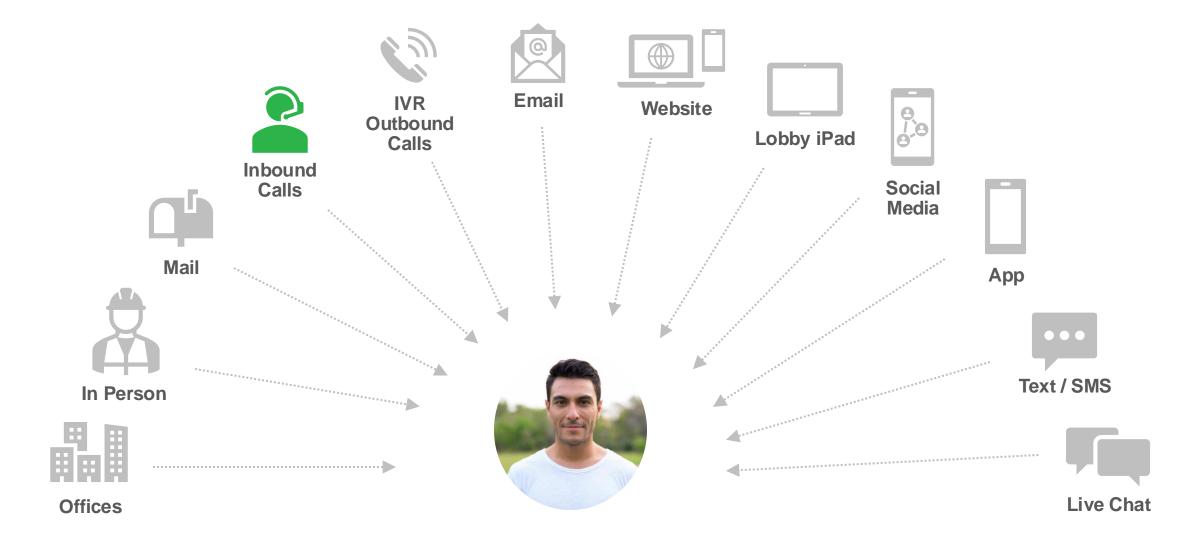
**Avista-Customer Interaction Opportunities** 5.08M 1.3M **Email IVR** Website **Outbound** Lobby iPad **Calls** 1.71M Inbound Social Calls Media Mail App 000 Text / SMS **In Person** 

Offices



**Live Chat** 

## **Avista Multi-Customer Interaction Opportunities**



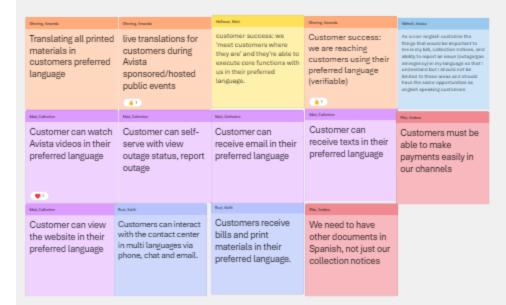


# **Building Blocks**

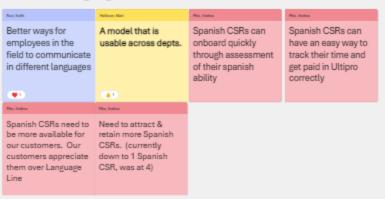


Core Team Exercise - what does progress look like, what does success look like, what does customer experience mean to you in the lens of a non-English speaker?

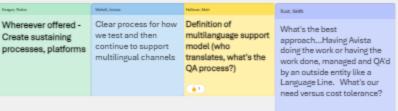
#### Customer: Language Access Across Our Channels



#### Internal Language Needs



#### Process



We include change management into this project.

Change ability to reliably store customer preferences easily for all customers

#### Requirements

Builty Tenus	Witholl, Smales	Hallman, Marii	Witholl, Droine	Bushy Tomas	Bushry, Torsaru
Having set goals and deadlines that we meet to show progress towards are customers and the WUTC, and other commissions	Clear requirements	Defined Organizational strategy for multilanguage	Prioritize efforts	Understanding how this work plays into our organizational key strategies and values	Ice cream social after the work is done.

#### **Customer Facing Impacts**

Hallman, Mark	Kinegar, Parler, Figuresa, Aluera	Ohering Amunda
Definition of what channels multilange will be supported on	Agree to the scope of multilingual channels and langauges Duplicate	website/mobile app translation preferences

[internal Success]
Developing a clear
understanding of of CX vs
Affordability relating to
muttilingual

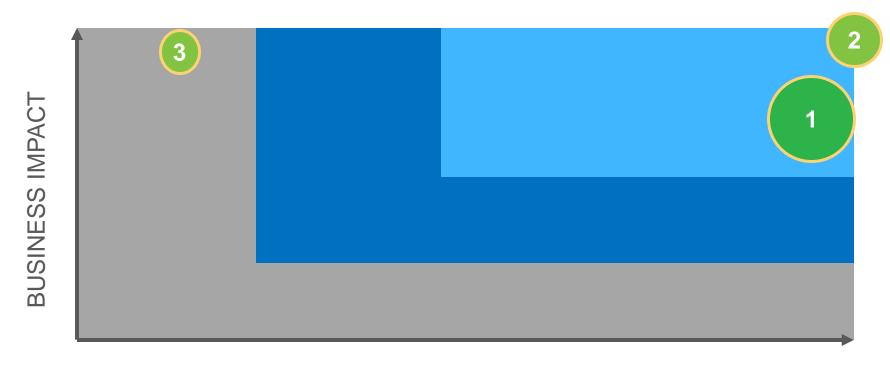
#### Capacity

how many languages n	Agree to the scope of multilingual channels	Definition of what languages we
me oun support.	and langauges Duplicate	officially support





## Roadmap | Opportunity Scoring and Mapping



#### CUSTOMER IMPACT

#### **Projects**

- 1. Myavista.com Phase 1
- 2. Avista Outage Map
- 3. Lobby iPad

#### **BUSINESS IMPACT (Y-Axis)**

- CSR Interactions
- Payments & Collection Activity
- Efficiency
- Equity

#### **CUSTOMER IMPACT (X-Axis)**

- Customer Satisfaction
- Self-serve Success
- Time Savings

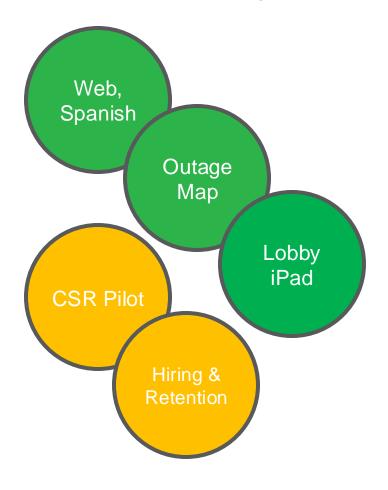
#### LEVEL OF EFFORT (Size of Dot)

- Cost
- Time
- Internal Resources





## **MLS** Priority



Project prioritization underway-

- 1. (Complete) Myavista.com Phase 1 (Spanish)
- 2. (Complete) Avista Outage Map
- 3. (Complete) Lobby iPad
- 4. [1] Spanish Automated Phone System
- 5. [1] Bills
- 6. [1] Email External Communications
- 7. [1] Notices & Letters
- 8. [2] Text Campaigns
- 9. [2] Avista Mobile App
- 10. [2] Customer Language Preferences
- 11. [2] Rebates
- 12. [3] Myavista.com, *Russian*
- 13. [3] Bidgely energy usage vendor on website
- 14. [3] Non-HTML, Web
- 15. [3] Bill Inserts
- 16. [3] Email CSR-facing Communications
- 17. [3] Chat
- 18. [3] Two Way Text



Email -**CSR** 11

Inserts 12

Text 13

Email -Comms 14

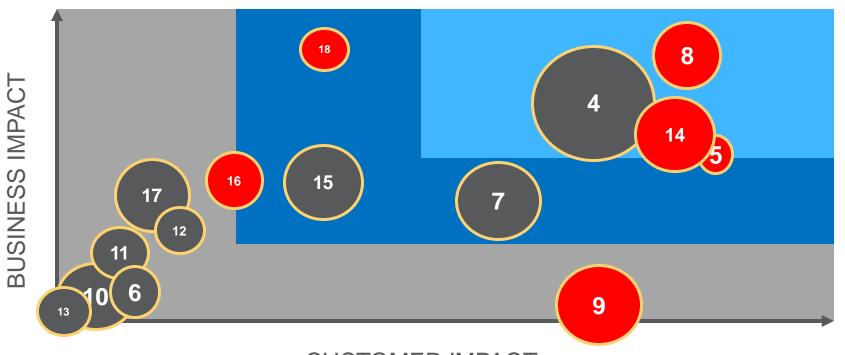
Text Campaigns 15

Rebates 16

Non-HTML 17

Cust. Preferences 18

#### ROADMAP | OPPORTUNITY SCORING AND MAPPING



#### **BUSINESS IMPACT (Y-Axis)**

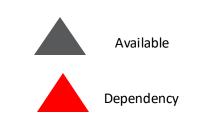
- CSR Interactions
- Payments & Collection Activity
- Efficiency
- Equity

#### **CUSTOMER IMPACT (X-Axis)**

- Customer Satisfaction
- Self-serve Success
- Time Savings
- Awareness
- Empowering understanding (kids)

#### LEVEL OF EFFORT (Size of Dot)

- Cost
- Time
- Internal Resources



**CUSTOMER IMPACT** 

Spanish **IVR** 

**Notices** & Letters

Myavista - Ph. 2 6

Mobile App

Bills 8

Bidgely 9

Chat

10



PROJECT	SPANISH	RUSSIAN	ARABIC	MANDARIN	UKRAINIAN	VIETNAMESE	MARSHALLESE	DARI	
MYAVISTA.COM	April-24								
SPANISH IVR									
AVISTA BILLS									
EMAIL - COMMUNICATIONS									Executed
NOTICES & LETTERS	August-21	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	_
TEXT CAMPAIGNS									Available
MOBILE APP	+		+	+					•
CUSTOMER PREFERENCES									Not Available
REBATES									•
IN PERSON PAYMENT SOLUTION	September-24								Dependency
STORM CENTER	June-24								Needs More
BIDGELY									Discovery
Non-HTML (Web)									
INSERTS									
EMAIL - CSR									
CHAT SUPPORT									
TWO WAY TEXT									<b>AVISTA</b>

# Myavista.com











Su cuenta

Ahorrar energía

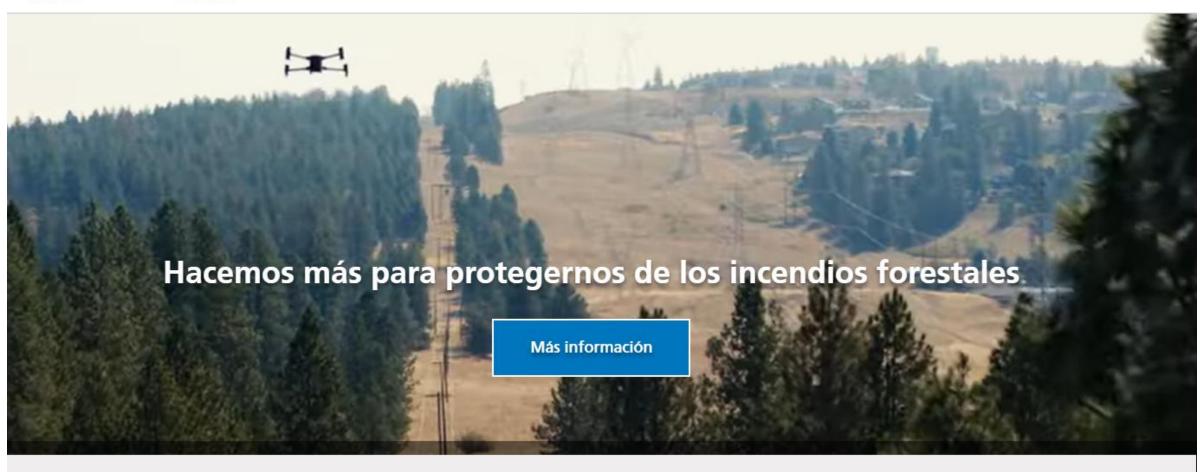
Seguridad

Cortes

Quiénes somos

Contáctenos

Cuenta: 8843650000 Dirección: 611 S Custer Rd









Entrada y salida



Informar de una interrupción

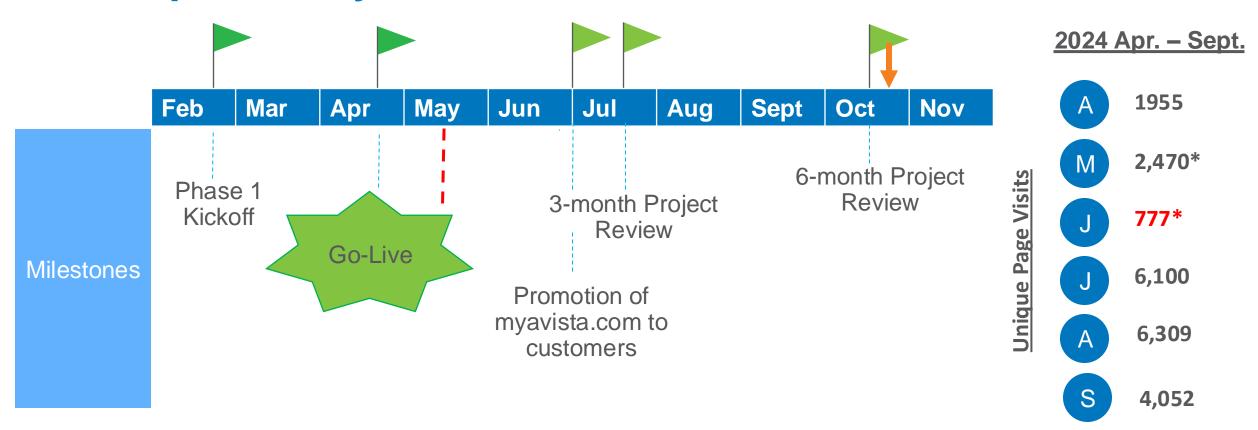


Informar de una fuga de gas



¿Nuevo cliente?

## 2024 Project Timeline: Spanish Myavista.com



"It's awesome to know you're making it easier for customers who have a language barrier to be able to receive the assistance in Spanish. Thanks to you and Avista"

"Spanish website will be helpful"



"It's good to hear Avista is providing Spanish services"

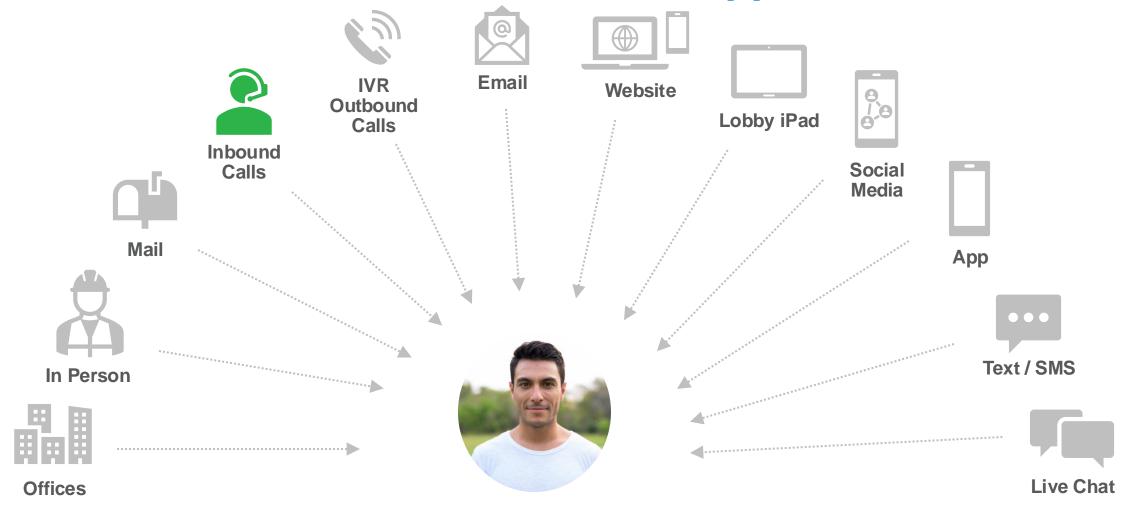
"My kids are the ones that help me if I don't understand but it's nice to be able to call in and have my questions answered in Spanish"

"It's good to know there's a Spanish website now available" "We appreciate the help for us that don't speak English. It makes it so much easier"

"I wasn't aware of the online options. I will definitely be using the website or even app so my payments post same day and don't have to worry or be charged a service fee"

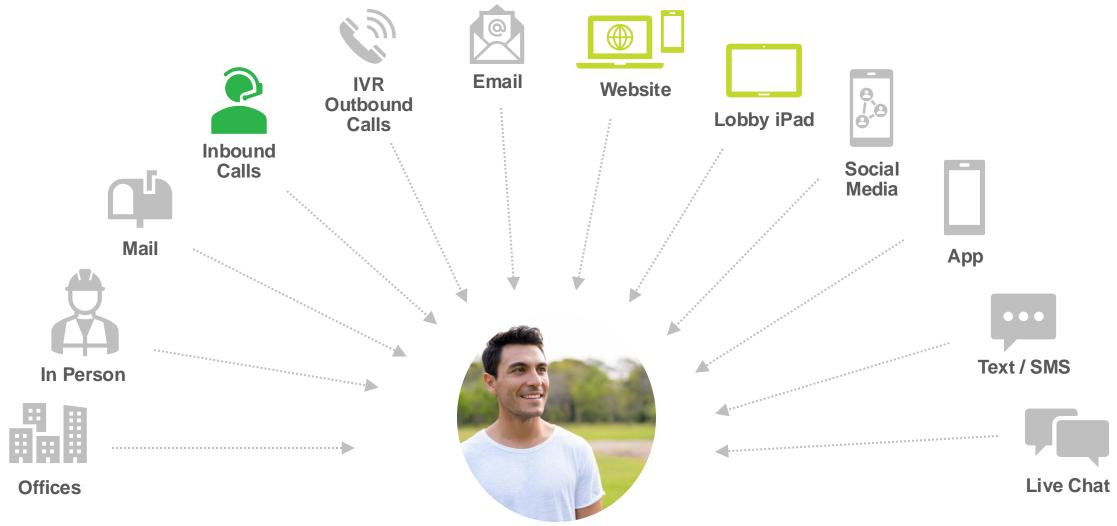


## **Avista Multi-Customer Interaction Opportunities**



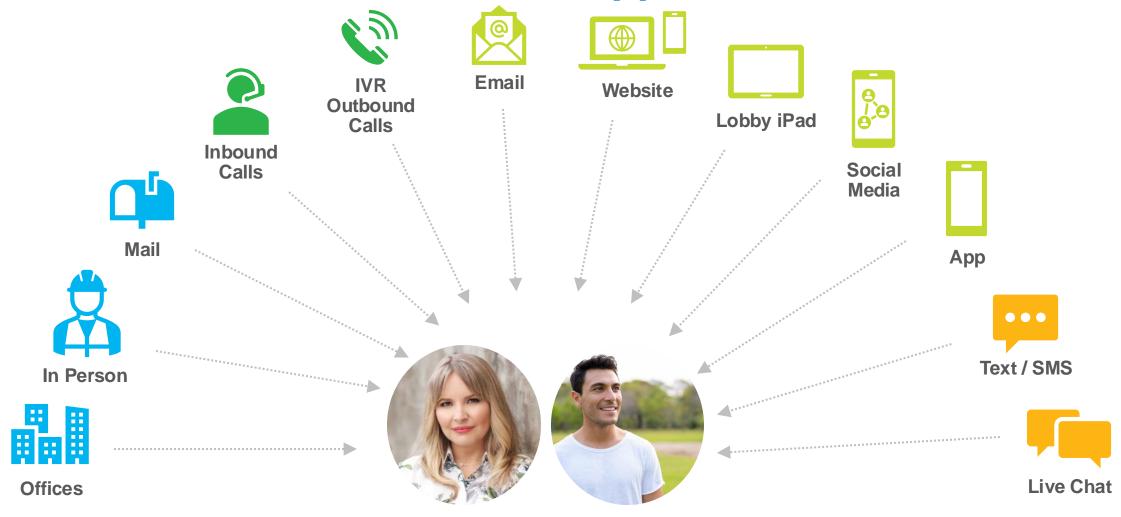


## **Avista-Customer Interaction Opportunities, Spanish**





## **Avista-Customer Interaction Opportunities**





# Multi-Language Roadmap



## **Multi-Language Roadmap**

2005 to Present Est. 2025 2021 2023 2024 Spanish ✓ MLS CSRs, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party ✓ Past due & automated Multi-Language ✓ Myavista.com, Interpreters, and Text Final Notice Spanish Strategy Team Spanish phone system Telephone Devices (TTY/TDD) Myavista.com, Multi-Language ✓ Storm Center, Mobile App Discovery Outage Map Spanish Russian Multi-Language Web In-Person Payment Discovery Solution Spanish MLS Strategy Adoption(s)



#### Recommendations

- 1) [Strategy] As a utility, we are adopting Spanish as the second official language for customer facing channels and customer services. We understand we have diverse linguistic customers living in our service territory, and our approach is to focus on the largest non-English linguistic customer demographic Spanish and continue to evaluate other languages to eliminate communication gaps and improve services.
- **2)** [Project] The multi-language team recommends Russian as the third language to be released on myavista.com following phase 1 (Spanish) business requirements.
- 3) [Project] The multi-language team recommends to move forward with the implementation of a Spanish automated phone system option. Our numbers show there are multiple opportunities to increase self-serve options through this customer facing channel.



# 



#### Thank you!

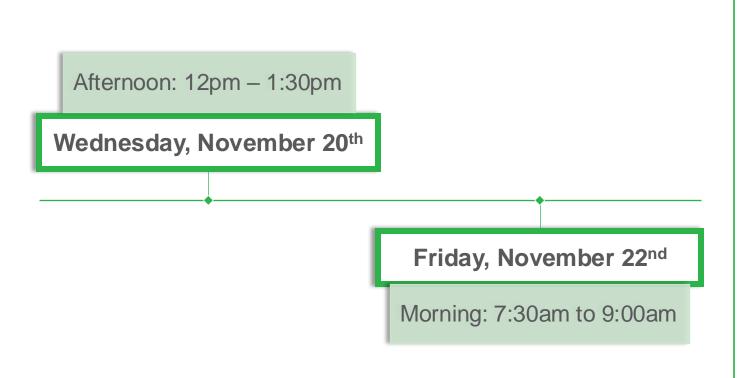


# Avista Clean Energy Future Newsletter:

Click Here

Sign up for our quarterly CEIP newsletter

#### **Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings**



Amber Lenhart

amber@sip-nw.org 509.475.9575

**Dan Blazquez** 

<u>Dan.Blazquez@avistacorp.com</u> 509.495.7685

## **Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) Resources**

Resource Link	Description					
Washington's Clean Energy Future	Avista page for CETA related activities					
Clean Energy Transformation Act	Clean Energy Transformation Act - Washington State Commerce					
Chapter 19.405 RCW	Laws and Regulations: Revised Code of Washington Investor-owned utilities					
Chapter 480-100 WAC	Laws and Regulations: Washington Administrative Code Investor-owned utilities					
WA Energy Strategy  Washington St. Department	Washington State Energy Strategy					
CETA Overview  Washington St. Department	CETA overview and interim assessment					

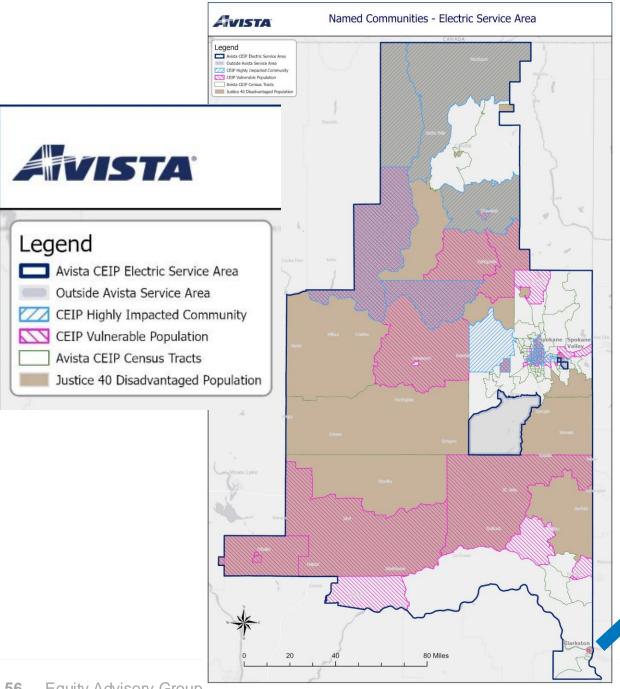


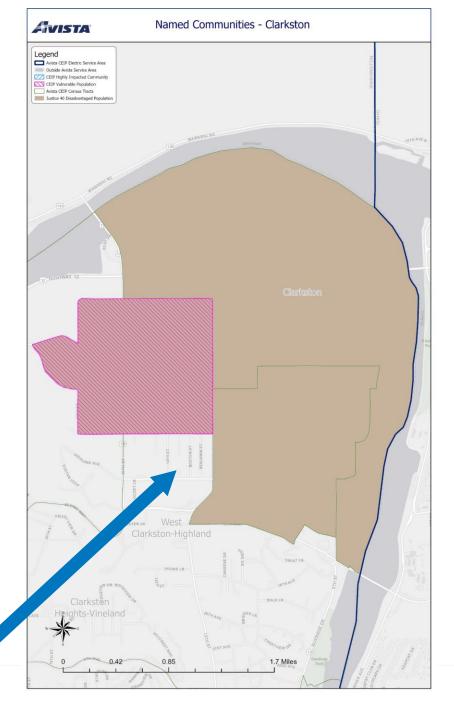
## DRAFT



# **Appendix**









## **Vulnerable Population and Justice 40**

