The purpose of this survey was to obtain a better understanding of our membership and how we, the Government Division (GovD) of the American Translators Association, can best serve our members. We feel the survey was successful on both fronts. We were particularly pleased to note that our recent plans with our Leadership Council to begin posting two blog posts per month, more frequent webinars, and virtual meet and greats are well-aligned with our members' interests.

Please check our website (https://www.ata-divisions.org/GovdD) regularly for new content and events.
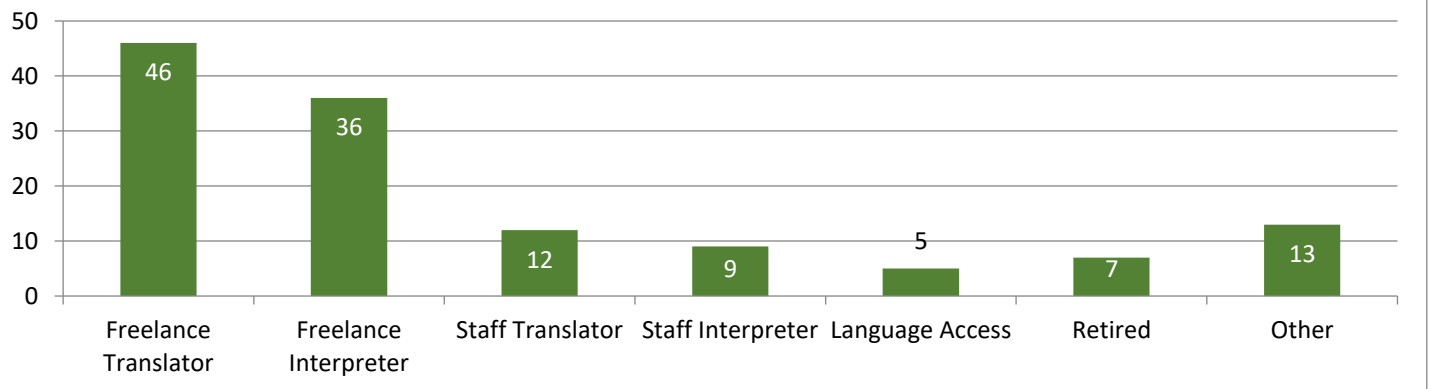
Background

The survey was open for one month from April 28, 2023, through May 28, 2023. Responses were solicited via a broadcast sent by ATA Headquarters to the ATA Government Division distribution list. Answers were recorded anonymously. The respondents were given the option to include their name and contact information in the final question.

We received **73** responses.

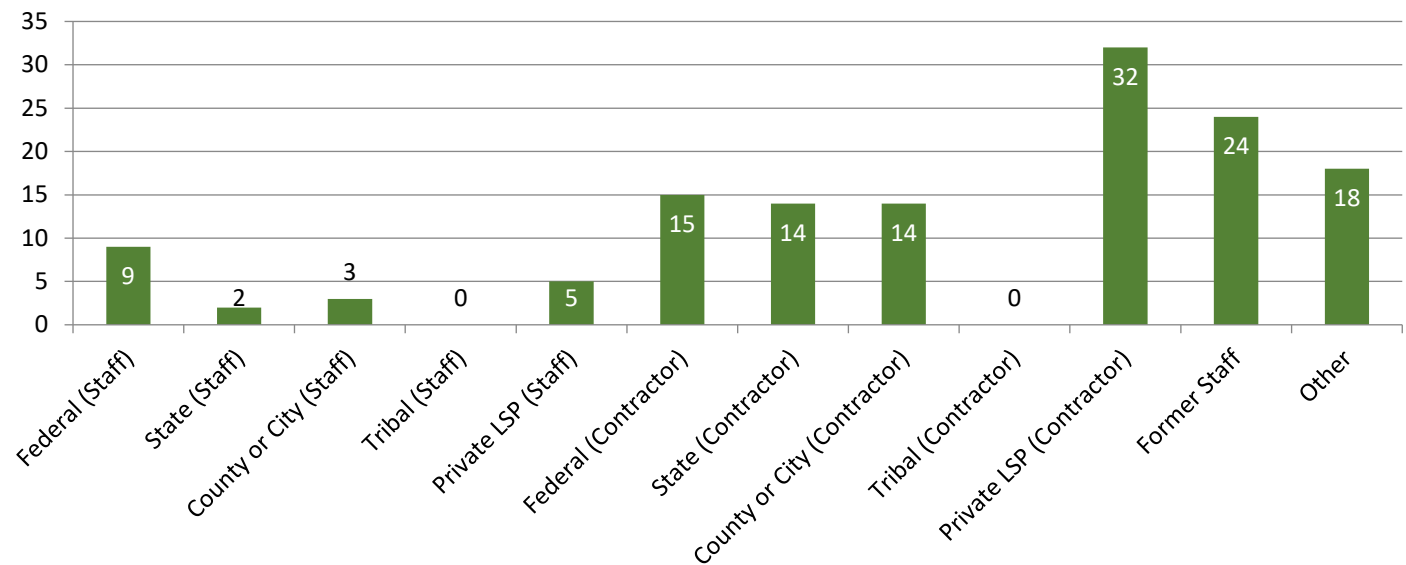### Q1: Which of the following best describe your employment situation?

Respondents were allowed to mark all answers that apply.

The vast majority of the respondents are freelance translators and/or interpreters. More than a quarter of our members also serve in staff translator and/or interpreter positions. We also have a diverse group of other areas of specialization (e.g. language access, language technology, and retirees.)

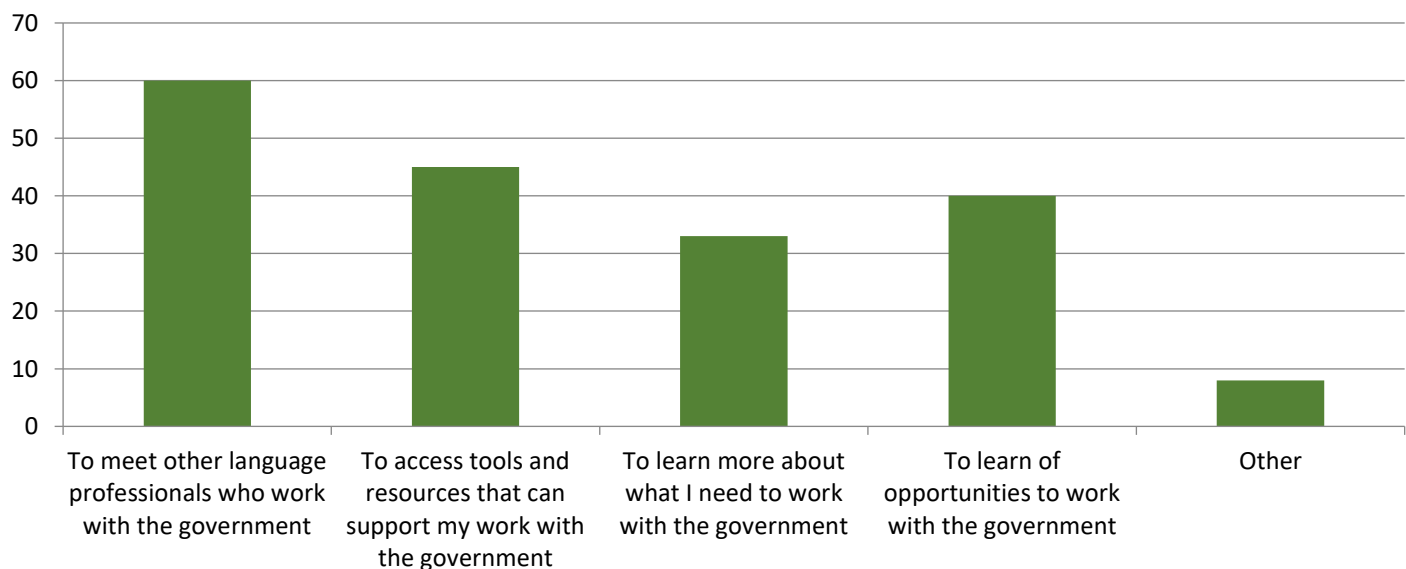## Q2: Please indicate which of the following best describes your relationship with government entities.

Respondents were allowed to mark all answers that apply.

Category	Value
Federal (Staff)	9
State (Staff)	2
County or City (Staff)	3
Tribal (Staff)	0
Private LSP (Staff)	5
Federal (Contractor)	15
State (Contractor)	14
County or City (Contractor)	14
Tribal (Contractor)	0
Private LSP (Contractor)	32
Former Staff	24
Other	18

Most respondents are employed by a government contractor, and there is an almost even split between contract work at the federal, state, and county or local government levels.

Q3: Why did you join GovD?

Respondents were allowed to mark all answers that apply.

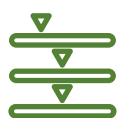| Category	Value
To meet other language professionals who work with the government	60
To access tools and resources that can support my work with the government	45
To learn more about what I need to work with the government	33
To learn of opportunities to work with the government	40
Other	8

Nearly all respondents joined to meet other language professionals who work with the government. The majority of respondents also want access to tools and resources that can support their work and to learn more about opportunities to work for the government, both as an employee and as a contractor or language service provider.

Q4: How often do you currently access each of the GovD resources?

Very few respondents are currently using the GovD website or listserv. We hope GovD members will use and actively contribute to the website and listserv as we create more content and plan more events.

Q5: Rank the following GovD tools and resources from which you are most interested in (1) to least interested in (5).

Respondents were asked to rank the following tools and resources:

GovD website static tools and resources	GovD webinars	GovD blog with new content, posted regularly	GovD Presentations at ATA annual conference	GovD Listserv
Ranked #1 **26%**	Ranked #1 **25%**	Ranked #1 **20%**	Ranked #1 **15%**	Ranked #1 **14%**

Responses were split fairly evenly, however, most respondents are interested in static tools and resources and new blog content on the website, followed closely by webinars and presentations at the ATA annual conference.

Q6: What tools or resources would you like GovD to provide to better support language professionals who work with the government? *Open response.*

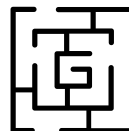We categorized the responses into the following categories:
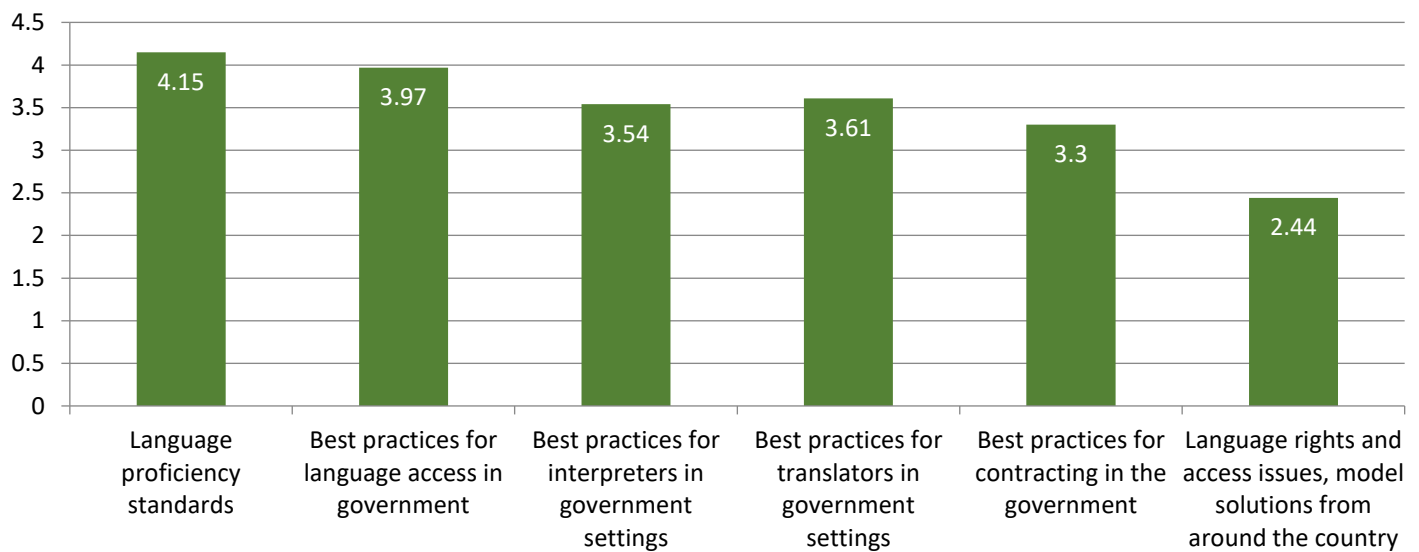
Reference materials	Training	Guidance on working with the government	Job opportunities

Many respondents were uncertain about what tools or resources they would like us to provide.

Q7: Rank the following topics in order of interest, where the first topic is the one you are most interested in, and the last topic is the one you are least interested in.

Respondents are most interested in the following topics: language proficiency standards, best practices for translators and interpreters in the government, and best practices for language access in the government. The responses were given an average score of 1-5 based on their overall rankings.

Q8: Is there a specific resource or project you would like to see GovD prioritize in 2023?
Open response.

Many respondents skipped this question. Of the 44 responses, approximately half were "no." The remaining answers align with the responses from Question 6. The responses can be categorized as follows:

- Hiring or contracting with government agencies;
- Support for linguists working with languages of lesser diffusion;
- Networking opportunities;
- Terminology and glossary resources;
- Information about obtaining security clearances;
- Best practices for translators and interpreters in a government setting; and,
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Translation (MT).

Q9: Is there any topic you personally would be willing to write about for a blog article, give a GovD virtual presentation about, or lead an informal virtual coffee chat about?

Many respondents skipped this question. Of the 34 responses, the majority were "no." The 12 remaining responses align with the responses from Question 7.