

Movimiento Tricolor

Camden to Congress



The Camden to Congress cohort was a 12-week, student-led leadership initiative that brought together six youth from across Camden County in a hybrid format, combining virtual sessions and in-person gatherings. From summer through fall 2025, participants learned about how power systems operate, how policies are made, and how organizing can advance equity. Centering Language Justice as their issue area, cohort examined how access to language shapes participation in schools, healthcare, and government. The experience culminated in a transformative trip to Washington, D.C., where students connected to real-world civic spaces.



**not pictured: Jamil Medina, Angel Pichardo*

Camden Youth Toolkit for Language Justice

A guide created by Camden youth leaders to advance language justice in schools, government, and communities.

It is designed for students, schools, local government, and community organizations to learn directly from youth voices.

Youth Definition of Language Justice

"Language justice means people can speak their language of comfort in public without judgment." *

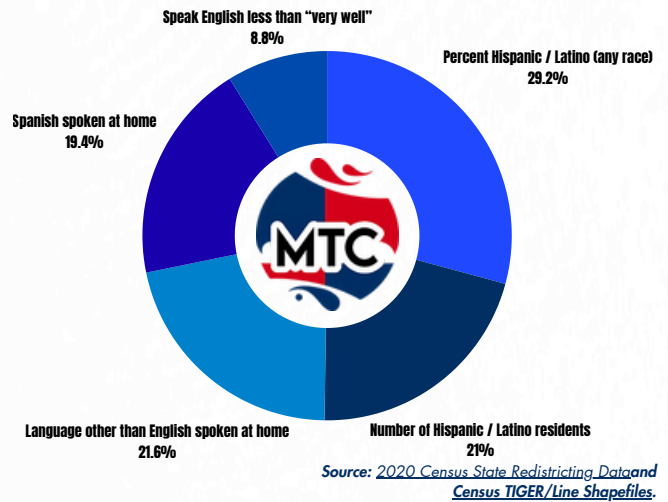
**Youth participants contributed personal definitions and artwork to explain how language justice shows up in their lives.*

Purpose of toolkit:

- Raise awareness of linguistic barriers.
- Share youth-led definitions of language justice.
- Provide strategies to make institutions more inclusive.
- Collect community data and stories about language equity challenges.

Why Language Justice Matters in Camden

Youth shared stories about challenges in schools, government services, and healthcare when language access was not provided. They highlighted the emotional, social, and financial harm caused by these barriers.



"Everyone has the right to understand and be understood..."



Strategies to Build Change

Youth identified key strategies for advancing language justice:

- Schools: Hire bilingual staff, translate materials, prevent bullying around accents/language.
- Government: Provide interpreters and official translation services.
- Community: Cultural events, awareness campaigns, youth-led education.

Collecting & Sharing Data

Youth can use short surveys to gather information from peers, families, and neighbors about language barriers. These findings can be presented to school boards or city councils as evidence for change.



Our Goal is to

make spaces where all languages are respected, while ensuring that equal access to information exist, no matter the language.



Movimiento Tricolor Call to Action

Schools, government agencies, and community organizations must support Camden youth in advancing linguistic equity. Adults can help by funding translation, hiring bilingual staff, and centering youth voices in decision-making. MTC and Camden youth leaders invite institutions to partner in building a language-inclusive Camden.

**This toolkit was created by students
of the Camden-to-Congress cohort**

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