

Legal Services Program To Aid Limited English Speakers

HARRISONBURG — Starting Tuesday, Blue Ridge Legal Services Inc., a non-profit law firm serving the Valley, will launch a new program for low-income adults with limited English proficiency.

The program offers free civil legal services on various dates in November and December to Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish, Russian and Tigrinya speakers. Tigrinya is primarily spoken by people living in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

People with limited English ability are encouraged to attend the meetings for free civil legal assistance or advice. While no appointment is necessary, all potential clients are required to go through an eligibility screening before receiving legal assistance.

With exceptions made for survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking, federal law prohibits the service from giving legal advice to those whose earnings amount to more than 125 percent of

the federal poverty level, as well as undocumented immigrants.

The dates and locations of the meetings are as follows:

Meetings, which will take place from 1 to 4 p.m., at Blue Ridge Legal's office, 204 N. High St., Harrisonburg, are:

- Arabic, Tuesday and again on Dec. 2, 16 and 30.

- Kurdish, Nov. 25, Dec. 9 and 23.

- Russian, Thursday and again on Dec. 11.

- Tigrinya, Dec. 4 and 18.

Meetings held at the New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center, 70 S. High St., Harrisonburg, are:

- Spanish, Wednesday and again on Dec. 3 and 17.

For the calendar of 2015 meetings or for questions about the program, call Mark Dawson at 433-1830.

— **Elaina Sauber**