

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' 22nd Annual National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education
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U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence



About the Office:

Created in 1995, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) implements the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation, and provides national leadership on issues of **sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking**. These responsibilities are largely accomplished through the administration of grant programs totaling approximately \$480 million annually.



About the Campus Program:

Congress created the Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus Program) in recognition of the unique issues and challenges that colleges and universities face in preventing and responding to these crimes.



About the Campus Program:

The Campus program is designed to encourage colleges and universities to:


- Use a comprehensive coordinated community approach that enhances victim safety, provides services for victims, and supports efforts to hold offenders accountable.
- Support activities that develop and strengthen trauma informed victim services and strategies to prevent, investigate, and respond to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- Develop campus-wide coordinated responses involving campus victim service providers, law enforcement/campus safety officers, health providers, housing officials, administrators, student leaders, and faith-based leaders.

Applicants are encouraged to support underserved and/or culturally-specific populations in a thoughtful and strategic way.



Campus Program Funding

Since its inception, OVW has awarded campuses across the nation over **\$147 million** in grants to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.




“Campus grant funding has allowed us to build a truly comprehensive prevention education and response program. We have been able to provide 24/7 crisis response services to students on our campus, and to build a multi-tiered approach. This has resulted in a direct increase in students seeking services.

University executive leadership has provided an additional full-time advocate and half-time prevention educator to complement our current grant-funded personnel structure based on the work that we have accomplished. this ability to build capacity is an accomplishment of which we are very proud, and certainly something we would not have been able to accomplish without grant funding.”

- **University of California, Santa Barbara**





What we have learned
through our work with HSIs:



Unlike Tribal institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), most HSIs were not initially created to serve the Latino(a) populations. They began as predominantly white institutions and changed with time to reflect new demographics.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, any institution with over 25% Hispanic populations, is designated as an HSI. **However, all institutions should be conscious and dedicated to serving this population, even if they do not have this designation.**

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- Many students work full-time while they are in school.
 - HSIs can often have student populations that are segregated by culture, interests, or religion.
 - HSIs most often work very well and closely with community-based organizations and off-campus service providers.
 - Students tend to have a high value in their spirituality and religion.

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- **Students tend to be very connected with their families.**
 - **Increased training and awareness of violence is needed.**
 - **Perpetrators can be someone close to the victim or a part of their community.**

Sexual Assault in Hispanic Communities in the U.S.

By 2050, the projected Hispanic population of the U.S. is expected to be 132.8 million, or 30% of the total population.

Nearly 1 in 3 U.S. residents will be Hispanic.

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2008)



One in six females ages 13 and older are victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.

(The National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004)



By the year 2050, the number of females of Hispanic origin who have experienced some form of sexual violence could reach 10.8 million.

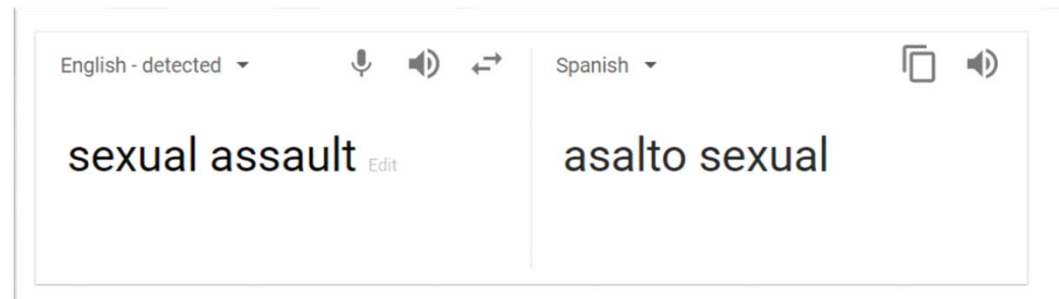
What HSIs Offer to this Work:

Foster innovative responses among advocates working to end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, both within and outside Latino(a) communities.

Create a welcoming academic environment with resources and prevention material relevant to the Hispanic or Latino(a) community.

HSIs are innovative in fostering working relationships with culturally specific community response groups to create more effective tools and resources for students.

A “one-size-fits-all” approach is not sufficient.



“The term ‘asalto sexual,’ more commonly used when things are translated into Spanish in the U.S., is not the best term to use in Puerto Rico. Instead, it should be called ‘Agresion sexual.’”

- Campus Program Grantee

A Strategic Approach to address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence on Campus:

It has become evident that it is necessary to build capacity, leadership, and implement culturally and linguistically relevant approaches, as well as develop innovative prevention and intervention strategies within particular communities.

Victims from Latino(a) communities can come from many subcultures with over 24 countries of origin.



Effective Strategies Identified by HSI:

- Developing and strengthening outreach initiatives on campuses to address issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
- Working to implement best practices such as: trauma informed and victim centered approaches, giving voice to victims/survivors, and culturally specific approaches in prevention education.



Effective Strategies Identified by HSIs

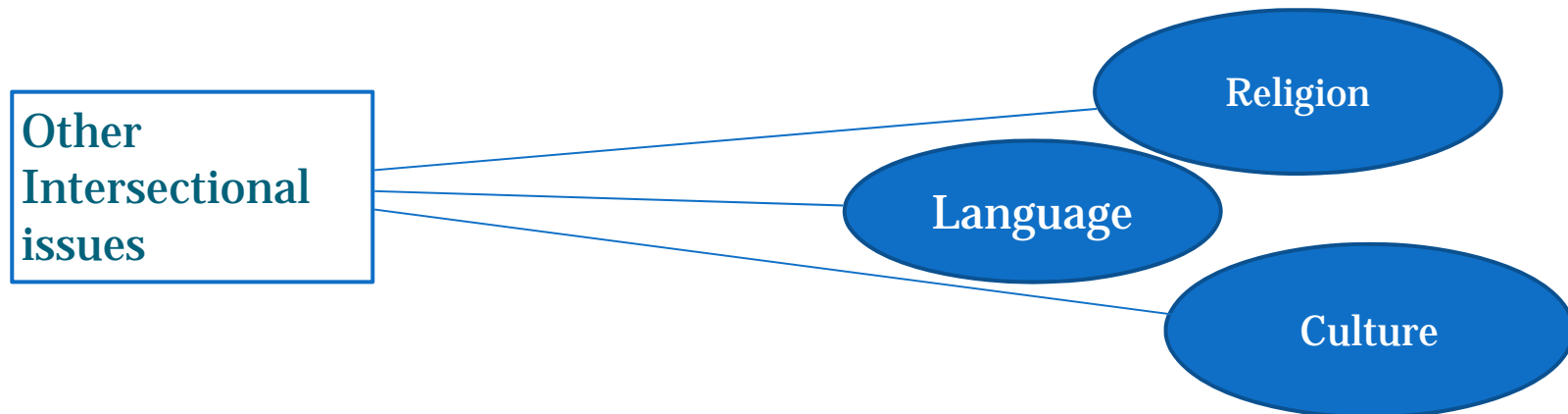
Continued:

- **Creating the infrastructure and staffing needed to appropriately respond to sexual assault, including bilingual and bicultural staff.**
- **Fostering partnerships with community organizations and collaborating with administration, students and faculty to ensure a trained campus community, including sexual assault and domestic violence trainings for campus security/law enforcement or local law enforcement.**

We still have work to do.

Challenges Identified by HSIs:

- Intersectional issues such as gender bias, gender roles, and sexuality present challenges in addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; as a result, many victims struggle to break the silence and report.





Challenges Identified by HSIs Continued:

- **There is a lack of statistics on sexual violence at Hispanic Serving Institutions.**
- **Many students at HSIs have transportation problems and are unable to access off-campus resources.**
- **Law Enforcement is generally the first point of contact for reports of any form of sexual assault and domestic violence, however, this often decreases a victim's likelihood to report.**



Challenges Identified by HSIs Continued:

- Policies don't reflect differences of student populations on Hispanic Serving Institutions (e.g. non-traditional ages, first generation in college, immigrants).
- Multiculturalism of the student body, faculty, and staff is not taken into consideration.



Challenges Identified by HSIs Continued:

- It is important to understand the impact of family dynamics that are often different from the majority population. All students are not raised in traditional nuclear families/households.
- Often, issues of diversity within and outside of the Latino(a) community are not understood.

The Impact:

23.4% of Hispanic/Latino(a) females are victimized by rape, sexual assault, or stalking. (The National Violence Against Women Survey, NVAWS)

Hispanic Women are more likely than non-Hispanic women to report that they are raped by a current or former intimate partner. (The National Violence Against Women Survey, NVAWS)

In a 2010 study on victimization rates among Latino women, about 36% did not engage in any help seeking, either formal or informal. Of the women who did not disclose the incident, 31.8% reported shame as the main reason for keeping it to themselves. Cuevas, C. A., Sabina, C. (2010). *The Experience of Sexual Victimization and Help-Seeking Among Latino Women*.



What resources are available to assist HSIs interested in addressing sexual assault and domestic violence?

With the growing number of HSIs in the U.S., it is even more important to have culturally relevant programs, protocols, policies, and procedures that adequately respond to sexual assault and domestic violence.



Resources:

- **OVW Technical Assistance Provider for HSIs**
- **Fiscal Year 2018 Campus Program**
- **The Center for Changing Our Campus Culture**
- **OVW Contact Information**

Technical Assistance for HSIs:

Currently, Casa de Esperanza, provides culturally specific technical assistance (TA), training, and support to HSIs.

Resources developed by HSI Grantees of OVW are also available to support other HSI campuses around the nation, regardless of their status as recipients of funding from OVW.



Casa de Esperanza works to:

- Enhance capacity of HSIs to identify and employ culturally specific and effective strategies to address gendered violence. These strategies reflect the experience and realities of the Latino(a) community.
- Increase opportunities to build community among students, faculty and staff on HSI campuses across the nation working to end violence against women. This will allow for long term dialogue, resource development, and sharing of information and strategies far beyond proposed grant projects.



Casa de Esperanza works to:

- Provide technical assistance to HSIs using a variety of methods including conferences, individualized onsite visits, webinars, policy review, and program/education materials.
- Develop culturally and linguistically specific educational tools and resources.
- Increase the level of information and knowledge on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on HSI campuses.

For more information, visit: <https://casadeesperanza.org/>



FY18 Campus Program Solicitation

The Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program solicitation will open on or about mid-January, 2018 for applications.

For information regarding the 2018 solicitation or for additional information on the Campus Program, please visit our website:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>



The Center for Changing Our Campus Culture

The Center for Changing Our Campus Culture: An Online Resource to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking (The Center) is an innovative clearinghouse that includes the latest research, sample campus policies, protocols, best practices, and information on how to access training opportunities and technical assistance.

Link: <http://changingourcampus.org/>



OVW Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact the OVW Campus Unit to learn more about our Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program!

Main Line: 202-307-6026

Email: Ovw.Campus@usdoj.gov

Website: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw>