

National & Statewide Language Access Timeline

Sexual Violence Survivor Assistance & Prevention Efforts in Spanish

1976-2011

The following timeline was drafted with input from state coalition staff, victim advocates, and prevention specialists. It includes first-time efforts to eliminate language access barriers for Spanish-speaking survivors of **sexual violence**, and efforts to actively engage Latin@ communities as partners for change. For now the timeline only includes the efforts in 14 states, and not activities offered in territories or countries in which Spanish is a primary language.

This initiative to chronicle *and* promote “firsts” across the nation is an initiative of **Arte Sana** and the recently established **Aliad@s National Network for the elimination of sexual and domestic violence against Latin@s**.

Many actions with a lasting impact were not funded but rather the product of victim rights activism. Consequently, some early pioneer efforts were either short-lived or denied the possibility to evolve because of the lack of agency support.

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(1976 – 1998)

YEAR	STATE	ACTION <i>Non-funded efforts are shaded.</i>	GROUP(S) RESPONSIBLE
1976	CA	In 1976 the “East Los Angeles Rape and Battering Hotline” opened its telephone lines and became first Spanish language 24-hour crisis hotline for survivors of sexual assault in California.	Now the East Los Angeles Women’s Center
1988	MN	Spanish language posters about child sexual abuse were posted at Twin Cities bus stops and sent to community-based organizations throughout Minnesota.	Minnesota Migrant Farmworkers, Inc.
1988/89	MN	A group of Latin@ advocates wrote the SA Advocate Training Manual module for working with Latin@ victims/survivors.	Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
1991	OR	Oregon offers the first Spanish SA/DV support group that has continued to this day.	Mid-Valley Women’s Crisis Center in Salem
1992	OR	The first Spanish SA crisis line, advocacy center and volunteer training for Latin@s is offered in the Northwest Oregon tri-county area.	Programa de Mujeres of the Hispanic Access Center
1994	OR	<i>Pláticas</i> (small presentations/talks) about sexual assault issues are offered in Spanish to migrant female students for the first time.	The High School Equivalency Program University of Oregon
1995	MA	The first statewide Spanish language Sexual Assault Helpline is offered in the United States: “Llámanos y Hablemos.”	Rape Crisis Center of Central Massachusetts

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(1999- 2003)**

YEAR	STATE	ACTION <i>Non-funded efforts are shaded.</i>	GROUP(S) RESPONSIBLE
1997	TX	Text in Spanish is included in a state sexual assault coalition website for the first time.	Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)
1998	CA	Advocate training was offered in Spanish in California.	Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center
1999	CT	A statewide Spanish Language hotline for Sexual Assault victims was established in Connecticut: VEDAS (<i>Voluntarios en Contra del Asalto Sexual</i>)	Now the SRT (Spanish Response Team) CONNSACS
	OR	The first outreach program in Oregon that offers community education and advocacy on sexual violence and workplace harassment throughout migrant camps	Bradley-Angle House
	OR	The first bilingual conference that includes SA issues is offered in Oregon.	Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (DIF)
	WA	The publications “Community Development & Sexual Assault Prevention” and the “Sexual Assault Prevention Resource Manual” are translated into Spanish for victim sexual assault programs in Washington State.	Washington Coalition Of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)
2000	TX	The first all-day training on sexual assault issues in Spanish is offered in Texas to <i>promotoras</i> / community health workers (CHWs) and victim advocates.	Mujeres Unidas/ Women Together & former TAASA Training Specialist, L.Zárate.
	TX	SafePlace Life Skills Classes for survivors of violence are offered in Spanish for the first time and include sexual assault topics.	SafePlace Austin
	WA	The Board of Directors Handbook is translated into Spanish.	WCSAP
2001	TX National	Arte Sana is founded and the bilingual website is activated without any grant or foundation funding.	Arte Sana (art heals)
2002	TX	The Capacitadoras en Acción (trainers in action) grant, awarded by the Office of the Attorney General, is the first statewide Spanish language training project funded in Texas to train <i>promotoras</i> /CHWs along the Texas-Mexico border on sexual assault issues.	Arte Sana
	IA	The first all-day training in Spanish on sexual assault issues is offered in Iowa for Latina community leaders including volunteers for the soon-to-be-incorporated Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.) .	IowaCASA & Arte Sana
	CT	Spanish Language Certification training began to be offered for advocates in Connecticut.	Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut
	OR	<i>Programa de Mujeres</i> expands services to include support groups for survivors (topics on healing, sexual health, rights) and community education on sexual assault and sexual violence prevention.	Now “Proyecto UNICA, Un Nuevo Inicio para Concluir el Abuso” part of Chatholic Charities

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(2003 – 2008)**

YEAR	STATE	ACTION <i>Non-funded efforts are shaded.</i>	GROUP(S) RESPONSIBLE
2003	National	The first bilingual SAAM e-toolkit is shared nationally and in Puerto Rico as an attempt to engage Spanish-speaking communities in SAAM activities.	Arte Sana
	National	The first national online directory of sexual assault services offered in Spanish (with service-specific icons) is activated to prevent the re-victimization of LEP survivors seeking help from rape crisis centers without bilingual staff or comprehensive services in Spanish.	Arte Sana
	FL	The SAVE (Screening Your Patients for Sexual Assault) handout was translated into Spanish.	Florida Council Against SV (FCASV)
	KS	The first official translation of the forms used to apply for a Protection from Stalking and Protection from Abuse Orders were translated into Spanish.	Office of Judicial Administration
2004	National	The first national Latina victim advocate listserv Alianza Latina en contra la Agresión Sexual ALAS (the national Latina alliance against sexual violence) is activated.	Arte Sana
	National	The first national position statement by Latina victim advocates and allies regarding the elimination of Spanish language access barriers in services is developed and endorsed by 46 coalitions and organizations.	Arte Sana & ALAS
	WA	Sexual Assault Awareness Materials are offered for the first time in Spanish to community programs, and have continued to be translated and offered in Spanish.	WCSAP
	FL	The state coalition translates all of their information brochures and vital documents into Spanish.	Florida Council Against SV (FCASV)
2005	TX National	The very first national SA conference that includes workshops offered in Spanish (rather than via interpreter services) is offered in Texas.	Arte Sana Nuestras Voces (Our Voices)
	IA	The first 20-hour certification training is offered in Spanish.	IowaCASA
	WA	A legal publication (Know Your Rights) detailing rights of survivors of sexual violence in Washington State was translated to Spanish.	WCSAP
2006	National	The “La Víctima y la Sobreviviente” training CD on sexual assault issues is marketed across the nation to state sexual assault coalitions and rape crisis centers, to provide some operational revenue between grants.	Arte Sana
	KS	The state coalition translates all of their information brochures and vital documents into Spanish.	Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
	NY	The statewide bilingual hotlines (English/Spanish, dual SA/DV) are established in New York	NYSCASA
	National	The Office for Victims of Crime awards a grant to Arte Sana for the Existe Ayuda (Help Exists) National Outreach project, to primarily develop original materials in Spanish; and then test the content with diverse Latina advocate and <i>promotora</i> populations across the nation. The project continues through 2010.	Arte Sana and 641 victim advocates and promotoras in 25 states
2007	KS	A Model LEP Plan is developed for SA/DV Programs.	KCSDV
2008	National	Cosechando Mis Derechos /Harvesting my Rights - a fotonovela on safety and the rights for farmworkers who face sexual harassment at work, is published.	Victims Rights Law Center, in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center

Sexual Violence Survivor Assistance & Prevention Efforts in Spanish (2009 – 2011)

YEAR	STATE	ACTION <i>Non-funded efforts are shaded.</i>	GROUP(S) RESPONSIBLE
2009	PA National	Interpreter services and some workshops are offered in Spanish at the National Sexual Assault Conference for the first time.	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) & NSVRC
	OR	The first statewide SAAM Campaign Kit is offered in Spanish in Oregon.	OCADSV
	IA	The “Seeking Safety” support group for incarcerated women is offered in Spanish for the first time in Iowa (<i>grupo de apoyo para víctimas y sobrevivientes de trauma y abuso de substancias</i>)	IowaCASA
	National	The Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign materials are offered in Spanish by the NSVRC for the first time.	National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
2010	National	A review of 497 active victim assistance and SA coalition websites in states with half a million or more Latin@s revealed that 397 or 80% did not include a single word of translated text in Spanish.	ALAS & Arte Sana
	PA National	Funding is awarded for a National Language Needs Assessment, and the Multilingual Access Project Advisory (MAPA) Committee is created.	NSVRC
	CA	Promotora training is expanded to address sexual assault in Spanish.	East L.A. Women’s Center
	TX National	The need for a national dual SA/DV Latin@ initiative to promote collaborations & honor the activist spirit of Latin@ communities was discussed during the Nuestras Voces National Conference.	Arte Sana & Nuestras Voces Conference attendees
	WV	Advocates formed a partnership to create an Interpreter Fund for advocates serving victims of SV and DV who are LEP or have a hearing disability and are in need of an interpreter.	WV Supreme Court of Appeals, Coalition Against DV, & Foundation for Rape Information and Services
	KS	The first “Know Your Rights: A Guide for Sexual Assault Survivors in Kansas” was released in English and Spanish.	KCSDV
2011	National	The Existe Ayuda Toolkit (with its 12 original products) is made available online. http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/existeayuda/	Office for Victims of Crime & Arte Sana
	WI	The first SAVAS (Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy School) was offered en español.	The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) & UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence
	WI	A page is launched on WCASA website <i>en Español</i> , funded in part with RPE (Rape Prevention Education)	WCASA
	SC	Information for survivors of sexual violence is offered in Spanish for the very first time on a victim assistance website. This effort was inspired on part by the Arte Sana/ALAS report shared in 2010, on limited victim assistance web access in Spanish.	Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands in Columbia

With only 14 states currently represented in this timeline it will continue to be a work-in-progress.

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