

# Latinas y Niños Center

Casa Esperanza, Inc.

Boston, Massachusetts

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“It was a big step to say ‘I need help,’ but from day one, the staff and tools were there for me. It helped me discover a lot of things I didn’t realize about my life, but also helps me put the past in the past, and to look into the future. It gave me back the strength to live without using.”

- Latinas y Niños Client

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# Program Overview

Latinas y Niños focuses the unique **cultural & social needs** of Latina women in recovery, and their children.

The program promotes **positive female roles** as a nurturing parent, supportive partner and friend, and contributing community member through:

- ❖ Blended family and single woman model
- ❖ Focus on pregnant and Post-Partum women
- ❖ Mothers reunifying with their children
- ❖ Family engagement focus
- ❖ 6-9 month program for single adults
- ❖ Up to 12 months for families



# Population in Need

Homeless Latinas with substance use disorders who have experienced sexual and related victimization, as well as who:

- ❖ Have co-occurring mental illness, and/or other trauma-related conditions
- ❖ Are re-entering from incarceration
- ❖ Are living with HIV/AIDS, and/or other chronic medical conditions
- ❖ Are single, pregnant, and/or have children under 10 years of age

Virtually 100% of the women we serve have child abuse histories, and approximately half were introduced to substance use by their parents.

## Key Facts:

- ❖ Women who experience IPV and/or sexual assault frequently have SUDs or SMI; and women with SUDs are much more likely to experience sexual assault.
- ❖ 33% of women with SMI experienced physical or sexual abuse in the past year (Goodman et al., 2001).
- ❖ 97% of homeless women with SMI experience sexual assault (Goodman et al., 2006). In Boston's Annual Homeless Census, 16% of individuals and 43% of families identified as Hispanic. (2008-2009).



# Goal 1: Increase Agency-Wide Capacity to Address IPV

- a. Train a Survivor Advocacy Counselor to provide culturally specific services addressing sexual assault, IPV, and stalking.
- b. Partner with BARCC to implement intensive training and case consultation to enhance staff integration of victimization issues into care.
- c. Develop policies and procedures that integrate victim safety and autonomy principles.



# Our Culturally-Focused Approach



- ❖ Draw on **cultural strengths** to deliver victim services that **reduce stigma and shame**.
- ❖ Partner with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) to engage staff in intensive training that **addresses unique victimization issues** within the Latina population, and **reduces repeat incidences**.
- ❖ **Address IPV** in the context of substance use, mental illness, and homelessness **in an integrated way**.
- ❖ Increase engagement in survivor services and retention in addiction services through a **comprehensive, in-house approach**.

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