icyepez@sbcglobal.net (414) 975.6842

PROFILE

Committed leader with extensive experience in program planning, development and management. Loyal, driven, self-motivated and resourceful team player with a history of achieving goals, learning quickly, motivating others and leading change. Consistently successful in establishing a high level of confidence from clients, business partners and centers of influence resulting in long- term, productive relationships.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Zilber Family Foundation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin *Program Officer*

Jan 2019 to Present

- Learn and remain current with community issues, needs, interventions and organizations working on priority issues/fields of interest aligning with the Foundation's strategic priorities
- Keep abreast of local and national issues, trends, and organizational best practices relating to social and economic opportunity, including areas of housing, community and economic development
- Develop, manage, and evaluate a portfolio of grants including consideration of need, costs, capacity of
 organization, outcomes and impact consistent with the Foundation's strategic priorities
- Guide nonprofit organizations through the grant application process, from concept development through submission of proposals, and assessing results
- Support grants recipients to increase their visibility, connecting to partners / resources to achieve their goals.
- Represent the Foundation at community-based and issue specific meetings and events
- Maintain relationships with the nonprofit community, as well as with other community, civic, government and philanthropic partners

City of Milwaukee Office of the Mayor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Housing Policy Director

May 2016 to Dec 2018

- Work with City departments and Council members in setting the Strong Neighborhoods Plan priorities and budget allocations centered on housing/residential redevelopment and neighborhood blight prevention
- Devise new strategies, initiatives and partnerships to encourage positive housing market recovery
- Monitor department performance and assist in troubleshooting programs and legislation
- Develop presentations and other communications on Strong Neighborhoods Plan progress
- Develop new relationships/partnerships to move City initiatives and Mayoral priorities forward
- Maintain and expand City relationships with lending and servicing community
- Point person for housing, foreclosure and residential development items; servicing and zombie issues
- Assist on public and Council messages for housing issues, constituent work and community meetings
- Staff Mayor for events and meetings, support press messaging on programs and initiatives

Select Milwaukee, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin Associate Director

Nov 1999 to Mar 2016

- Managed and directed Select Milwaukee Operations, growing and developing its Homeownership Promotion services to include Homeownership Preservation and Rehab Technical Assistance serving over 2,000 individuals and families annually
- Achieved top-rated charter from NeighborWorks America, established NeighborWorks America Green and HomeOwnership Center Designations, and frequently invited to participate in special initiatives bringing over \$6,000,000 in resources to benefit the Milwaukee community
- Secured annual down payment and renovation assistance program funding, including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago Affordable Housing Program (AHP), State of Wisconsin's Housing Cost Reduction Initiative, the City of Milwaukee HOME Homebuyer Assistance Program, 189% growth over 10 years to ~\$1,000,000 annually
- Established record of performance and compliance of homeownership services and assistance programs for use with the Department of Housing & Urban Development and partner financial institution mortgage products
- Successfully led team of 7 in deploying high-volume \$3,200,000 national down payment assistance program, *Let's Invest For Tomorrow (LIFT)* within six months of launch, 230% growth over prior year
- Strategically aligned provision of homeownership and financial capabilities services, and nationally recognized employer assisted homeownership programs to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of underserved communities, neighborhood, and employer housing strategic plans.
- Successfully piloted a collaborative neighborhood homeownership initiative with the Zilber Family Foundation, securing an additional two-year commitment in funding for continued provision of services
- Collaboratively advocated and worked with industry peers and financial institutions to develop and pilot affordable mortgage lending and banking products to address lending barriers in underserved communities
- Maintained and fostered relationships with local employers, funders, financial institutions, government entities, realtors and other partners/stakeholders engaged in affordable homeownership financing efforts
- Retained by NeighborWorks America Training Institute to develop and teach curriculum on Implementing
 Employer Assisted Homeownership Programs pilot course; provide Technical Assistance to member
 NeighborWorks Organizations to develop capacity for employer programs and homeownership services
- Peer nominated to serve on the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's Community Investment Advisory Council

Neighborhood Housing Services of Milwaukee (NHS), Milwaukee, WI Homeownership Programs Coordinator

1993 to 1999 1999 to Oct 1999

- Coordinated development and implementation of downpayment assistance programs
- Coordinated implementation of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporations HomeOwnership Center Model homebuyer counseling and education service delivery and customer tracking systems
- Collaborated with community agencies and key professionals to sustain affordable homeownership initiatives
- Assisted Executive Director with program development and employee training and recruitment

Housing Counselor/Loan Officer

Dec 1994 to Dec 1998

- Assisted over 550 families in the purchase of their first home, providing bilingual comprehensive homeownership advice and guidance to over 1,000 potential homeowners; leveraged over \$24.5 million in first mortgage financing. Represented the organization at professional collaborative outreach events.
- Developed and maintained relationships with community lenders and key professionals

Administrative Assistant/Community Organizer

Aug 1993 to Oct 1994

• Staffed information clearinghouse of resources for NHS neighborhood residents, coordinating resident led neighborhood meetings and other community building events

• Coordinated use of minor home repair incentive programs

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

1992

Bachelor of Science - Business Administration/Marketing; Spanish Minor

NeighborWorks America Training Institutes

1995 to 2015

- Nonprofit Management/Leadership and Community Development Certification
- **Center for Homeownership Education & Counseling** Full Cycle Lending Certification *Mortgage Lending, Homebuyer Education & Counseling, Post Purchase Education*

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

CommonBond Communities Wisconsin Board of Managers Member	2018 to Present
Community Insurance Information Center Board Member	2018 to Present
Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago Community Investment Advisory Council Member	2012 to Present
FDIC Milwaukee Alliance for Economic Inclusion Member	2011 to Present
Maryland Avenue Montessori School Engagement Council Chair	2013 to Present
Metro Milwaukee Mediation Services Board Member	2016 to Present
Take Root Milwaukee Resource & Oversight Member, Education & Lending Committee Co-Chair	2010 to Present
Department of Housing and Urban Development Nonprofit Working Group Roundtable Member	2014 to 2015
National Community Reinvestment Coalition, CRA & Housing Working Group Member	2010 to 2016
National Housing Resource Center Leaders in Housing Counseling Member	2013 to 2016
NeighborWorks America Peer Consultant, Training Institute Instructor	2012 to 2015
National Association of Realtors Workforce Housing Forum Presenter	2011 to 2015
Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative Prevention Committee Member	2009 to 2011
WHEDA Neighborhood Advantage Advisory Committee Member	2009 to 2010
Fannie Mae Community Technology Council Member	2004 to 2006
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Financial Literacy Task Force Member	2000 to 2003