

Mariela Estrada
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Brief biography

Mariela Estrada currently serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (OIG). In this capacity she promotes the work of OIG by conducting outreach and educational workshops to communities across the city. She also engages with Chicagoans to hear their about the pressing issues that impact their community and to gather recommendations for future audits, investigations, and evaluations. In only eight months, Estrada has met with most of the city's aldermanic ward offices and dozens of community organizations, in addition to hosting four community conversations surrounding the first ten projects from the newly formed Public Safety Section. The Public Safety Section of OIG has oversight over the Chicago Police Department and all its respective oversight agencies. In an effort to root out corruption and create greater transparency and efficiency in City government, Estrada has also built a base with over 4,500 Chicagoans that includes community residents, elected officials and CPD members. Estrada has a commitment to the community and believes that the only way true reform can happen is by empowering the voices of those most affected by flawed systems.

Prior to this she worked with a community based organization where she managed health initiatives in the community. In addition she lead parent workshops, school gardens, fundraisers and did leadership development of parents at seven neighborhood schools on the Southwest side of Chicago. She has a B.A in Sociology from University of Illinois at Chicago and a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies. Estrada is also a trained interpreter through the DuPage Language Access Center and was selected to be a part of the Latino Policy Forum's 2014 Leadership Academy. She served for two terms as a Parent Local School Council member at Nightingale Elementary School. And has been a part of several coalitions across the City of Chicago including a coalition to increase minimum wage in the city, coalition to increase the funding for early childhood education and voter engagement coalitions.