

Evelyn Diaz

Evelyn Diaz was appointed deputy chief of staff in June 2007. In this role, she acts as a liaison between the Mayor's Office and the city's human capital departments (aging, children and youth, domestic violence, human services, human relations, workforce development, people with disabilities, public health, public libraries) and its sister agencies (public schools, city colleges, and the housing authority), as well as the city's various initiatives related to poverty, jobs, and economic security.

Most recently, Ms. Diaz completed an eight-year tenure as associate director of the Chicago Jobs Council, a nonprofit advocacy group, where she was responsible for overseeing the financial, administrative, policy, and program operations of the organization, as well as coordinating *Opportunity Chicago*, a \$23 million citywide workforce development initiative involving the Chicago Housing Authority and numerous government and education agencies in a collaborative effort to assist thousands of public housing residents get prepared for, enter, and succeed in employment.

Through her participation on numerous committees and task forces, Ms. Diaz has advocated for sector-based workforce development approaches and, more specifically, for a comprehensive, demand-driven strategy for addressing the region's healthcare workforce shortage.

Ms. Diaz has also worked at the community level as an assistant to Alderman Helen Shiller in Chicago's 46th Ward, where she coordinated economic development initiatives and managed the alderman's homeless, childcare, and domestic violence projects. She brings four years of individual and group counseling and program management experience in community-based services for disadvantaged women.

Ms. Diaz earned a master's degree in 1998 from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and a bachelor's degree in 1992 from the University of Notre Dame. She currently serves on the governing boards of the Jane Addams Resource Corporation, Harborquest, and ParentsWork.