



QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Marissa Cuellar is a multilingual mixed-methods researcher and experienced Project Manager who has supported complex research and evaluation efforts across federal, state, and philanthropic projects. As Deputy Project Director and Task Lead on multiple initiatives, she has overseen project planning, financials, and team coordination, while leading qualitative data collection and analysis efforts—including interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness, state and federal administrators, and program participants. Her work spans the full research cycle, from instrument design to synthesis and reporting. For the Employment Processes as Barriers (EPB) project, she helped develop a series of accessible and compelling briefs aimed at translating research findings into actionable insights for practitioners and policymakers. Her work reflects a commitment to elevating community voices and producing rigorous, readable, and policy-relevant research..

EDUCATION	RELEVANT SKILLS/EXPERTISE
M.P.A., Public Policy; University of Nebraska at Omaha, August 2022	• Qualitative data collection and analysis (NVivo) • Native English and Spanish speaker, Fluent in Portuguese
B.A., Chicana and Chicano Studies, Minor in Spanish; University of New Mexico, 2018	• Systematic Evidence Reviews • Literature Reviews • Grant Reviews • Project management

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Analyst. Abt Associates (December 2023 – Present). Telecommuter.

Qualitative Senior Analyst, Unemployment Insurance Research and Evaluation Portfolio (UIREP), Chief Evaluation Office, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) (June 2025 – Present).

The objectives of this portfolio project include identifying rigorous short-term projects and long-term evidence-building priorities in the unemployment insurance topic area. Ms. Cuellar is part of the qualitative data collection and analysis team for the *Pandemic Lessons Learned Study* under the UIREP contract. The study team is interviewing state and federal UI administrators.

Qualitative Interviewer, Street Outreach and Housing Navigation Services in Los Angeles County, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (July 2025 – Present). The objective of this study is to develop a typology of street outreach and housing navigation services in LA County. Ms. Cuellar developed the research design for this project including conducting background research on street outreach and housing navigation services, identifying potential interviewees, and developing the qualitative data collection and analysis plan.

Evaluation Co-Task Lead & Deputy Project Director, Evaluation of the Housing Support Program, California Department of Social Services (August 2024 – Present). Ms. Cuellar provides project management support and leads the qualitative interview and analysis task for the evaluation of the CDSS Housing Support Program. This project will examine participant experiences and outcomes in HSP across the 57 counties in CA that elect to receive funding for HSP, attempting to reduce inflows into homelessness. Ms. Cuellar conducts project management and leads the interview and qualitative analysis tasks.

Deputy Project Director & Site Liaison, Hilton Encampment Study, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation (January 2023 – Present). As a site liaison, Ms. Cuellar works with Los Angeles

Family Housing (LAFH) to carry out an implementation study of LAFH's response to tent encampments in SPA 2 and RV homeless encampments in the San Fernando Valley. She led the first round of site visits in Summer 2023 to speak with partners and interview persons experiencing homelessness. As Deputy Project Director, Ms. Cuellar manages project financials and conducts overall project management and led the development of the Year 1 Report on implementation of the encampment resolution initiatives.

Systematic Evidence Reviewer, Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR), U.S. Department of Labor (April 2022 - Present). Reviewing and assessing the quality of literature on labor-related interventions through systematic evidence reviews.

Community Specialist Task Lead, Evaluation of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative's Housing Affordability Grant Making Strategy (CZI). (May 2024 – December 2024). This project evaluates CZI's grant making strategy and impact on housing affordability in communities across California. Ms. Cuellar led the grantee interview task and qualitative data analysis.

Task 2 Team Member, Sectoral Strategies and Employer Engagement Practices (SSEEP), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). (January 2024 – March 2025). This project will build evidence on how sectoral strategies can engage employers, promote job quality, and diversify and support the workforce. This project will also inform the design of worker-centered approaches to ensure that workforce development programs are designed to meet workers' and employers' needs and are equitably available.

Task Lead & Deputy Project Director, Participant and Collaborator Interviews, Colorado Homelessness Landscape Assessment, Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) (September 2023 – March 2025). The project objective is to create a comprehensive analysis of the current state of homelessness across the state to provide key information that will guide policy, investment, and implementation efforts regarding homelessness. Ms. Cuellar is the Task Lead for Participant and Collaborator Interviews and will develop data collection instruments, conduct an interviewer training, and lead the qualitative analysis of the interview data.

Deputy Project Director & Co-Task Lead, Employment Processes as Barriers to Employment in the Lower-Wage Labor Market, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (April 2022 – September 2024). The project objective is to develop an understanding of how cognitive, structural, and algorithmic biases create employment barriers for workers of color and other marginalized individuals in the low-wage labor market. Ms. Cuellar works across tasks drafting data collection instruments, preparing the OMB package, and contributing to the site visit selection process and literature review. As DPD, Ms. Cuellar conducts overall project management, and is a contributing author for the project's comprehensive literature review and final report including design options for future research on racial bias in the lower-wage labor market.

Evaluation Technical Assistance Team Member & Learning Cohort Liaison, Evaluation of the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) Program, U.S. Department of Labor (April 2022 – September 2023). Ms. Cuellar provided evaluation technical assistance to help state workforce agencies build evidence of effective practices. She also contributed to the development of technical assistance products and peer learning sessions and served as a Learning Cohort Liaison for Hawaii, Pennsylvania, and Arizona.

Qualitative Interviewer, Project Roomkey Evaluation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation & California Health Care Foundation (August 2022 – August 2023). For the State of California's



Project Roomkey, Ms. Cuellar assisted with interviewing service providers and persons experiencing homelessness at Project Roomkey sites in Los Angeles and writing the Los Angeles Case Study.

Recruitment & Site Liaison, Moving to Work 2 (MTW2), U.S. Housing and Urban Development (February 2023 – September 2023). Ms. Cuellar conducted outreach and recruitment in English and Spanish to individuals living in Kern County, CA and Akron County, OH to create a Resident Expert Panel that will contribute to the development of the research design.

Qualitative Interviewer, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, (MGI) (October 2022 – March 2023). As a qualitative interviewer, Ms. Cuellar visited Birmingham, AL, and Louisville, KY, to interview participants in pilot programs for Guaranteed Income. Ms. Cuellar led and conducted 21 interviews for qualitative data collection in Birmingham and Louisville.

Assessor, Helping Early Readers Obtain Excellence in Special Education (HEROES), U.S. Department of Education/The Ohio State University (August 2022 – May 2024). Virtually administers SORT and GORT reading assessments each Spring and Fall to children aged 6-9 as part of the HEROES project.

Liaison, The Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (June 2022 – December 2022). For Part 1 of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report Ms. Cuellar works as a Liaison and communicates with Continuums of Care in two regions to facilitate the Data Quality Review and resolve pending issues with data entered into HUD's HDX system and was a contributing author to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

Reviewer, Prevention Services Clearinghouse (PSC), Administration for Children and Families (April 2022 – April 2023). Providing support through the site prioritization process to determine programs and services that are eligible for review by the clearinghouse.

Reviewer, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health (April 2022 – September 2022). Coded over 1,000 abstracts for NIH funded studies to determine whether studies were eligible to be categorized under three specific topic areas: health disparities, maternal health, and original research.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

Analyst. Abt Associates (April 2022–December 2023). Telecommuter.

Graduate Research Assistant, Office of Latino and Latin American Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha (2021–2022). Omaha, NE. Assisted with survey data collection, analysis, conducted the literature review search, and was the co-author for a report produced in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and community partners to determine the impact of COVID-19 on Latino-Owned businesses in South Omaha.

Program Coordinator – Chicano Programs, New Mexico State University (2018–2019). Las Cruces, New Mexico. As Program Coordinator, Ms. Cuellar provided student support for first-generation college students through advising. She assisted students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and identified work-study programs and local scholarships for eligible students.

After School Program Director, William W. & Josephine Dorn Community Charter School (2015 - 2016). Albuquerque, New Mexico. As Program Director, Ms. Cuellar developed k-5 curriculum in English and Spanish, and managed two grants awards from the New Mexico Public Education Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS

- Dunton, L., Fiore, N., **Cuellar, M.**, Greenwood, Z., and Unruh, E. (2024). *Colorado Homelessness Landscape Analysis, Final Report*. Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing, Office of Homeless Initiatives.
- Cuellar, M.**, Dunton, L., Fiore, N., Phillips, V., and Yoshioka-Maxwell, A. (2024). *Report on Year 1 Implementation – A Look at Encampment Interventions in Three Los Angeles Communities*. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.
https://www.abtglobal.com/sites/default/files/files/insights/reports/2024/Encampments%20Phase%20II_Year%201%20Report_Final_10.29.24%5B87%5D.pdf
- Lambert, S., Warner-Evans, M., and **Cuellar, M.** (2024). *Corporate Leadership: Identifying and Reducing Racial Bias in Hourly Jobs at Your Company*. OPRE Report #2024-320. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Lambert, S., Warner-Evans, M., and **Cuellar, M.** (2024). *Onsite Managers: Identifying and Reducing Racial Bias in Your Daily Work*. OPRE Report #2024-321. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Lambert, S., Warner-Evans, M., and **Cuellar, M.** (2024). *Human Resources Professionals: Identifying and Reducing Racial Bias in Hourly Jobs at Your Company*. OPRE Report #2024-322. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Warner-Evans, M., Lambert, S., and **Cuellar, M.** (2024). *Workforce Development Practitioners: Identifying and Reducing Racial Bias to Improve Employment Outcomes for Participants*. OPRE Report #2024-323. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Schwartz, D., Vincent, S., **Cuellar, M.**, Crutchfield, A., Anderson, A., and Clarkwest, A. (2024). *Conceptualizing Structural Barriers in Employment Processes: Implications for Evaluations of Employment and Training Programs*. OPRE Report #2024-296. Washington DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Clarkwest, A., Lambert, S., **Cuellar, M.**, Abrams, B., Anderson, A., Crutchfield, A., Harris, H., Roy, R., Vincent, S., Schwartz, D., Elmudesi, E., Warner-Evans, M., Garret, V., and Higgins, D. (2024). *Options for Future Research on Mitigating Racial Biases in the Lower-Wage Labor Market: Final Report*. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Internal Report]
- Dunton, L., Fiore, N., **Cuellar, M.**, Yoshioka-Maxwell, A., and Phillips, V. (2024). *Report on Early Implementation – Understanding Homelessness Encampments: A Look at Encampment Interventions in Three Los Angeles Communities*. The Conrad N. Hilton



Foundation. <https://www.hiltonfoundation.org/learning/understanding-homeless-encampments-a-look-at-encampment-interventions-in-three-los-angeles-communities>

Lambert, S., Kaz, D., Clarkwest, A., **Cuellar, M.**, Gardiner, K., Martinson, K., Dohrn, B., Gamboa, M., Harris, H., Sarna, M., Gondek, N., Hur, J., Warner-Evans, M., & Pedersen, S. (2024). *Employment Processes as Barriers to Employment in the Lower-Wage Labor Market: Literature Review*. OPRE Report #2024-006. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/employment-processes-barriers-employment-lower-wage-labor-market-literature-review>

De Sousa, T., Andrichik, A., **Cuellar, M.**, Marson, J., Prestera, E., Rush, K. (2022). *The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, Part I: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness*. Prepared for The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by Abt Associates.

Dona-Reveco, C. & **Cuellar, M.** (2022). *Vulnerable, yet Resilient: The Impact of COVID-19 on Latino-Owned Business in South Omaha*. OLLAS Report #17. Omaha: University of Nebraska at Omaha. <https://doi.org/10.32873/uno.dc.ollas.915>

Cuellar, M. (2022). *Underserved and Underestimated: The Potential of Latinas to Reduce Poverty*. Office of Latino/Latin American Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha. <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/ollas/research/ollas-blog-april-2022.php>

PRESENTATIONS

Cuellar, M. (2023, October 8-11). Racial Bias in Low-Wage Work: Understanding Sources of Bias and Potential Mitigation Strategies [Conference presentation]. National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics 2023 Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

Cuellar, M. (2023, September 26). Encampment Resolution Strategies [Webinar presentation]. University of Southern California, Homelessness Policy Research Institute, Virtual Symposium. <https://hpri.usc.edu/event/hpri-symposium-encampment-resolution-strategies/>

Somos Abt, Latino and Hispanic Employee Networking Group, Abt Associates. (2023). Irregular Migration to the U.S. from Central America: Understanding the Drivers and Outlining the Responses. [Webinar presentation]. <https://www.abtassociates.com/insights/events/irregular-migration-to-the-us-from-central-america-understanding-the-drivers-and>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Homelessness Research Network, National Alliance to End Homelessness Research Institute, *Member (2024 – Present)*

- Member of NAEH's Research Institute Homeless Research Network. Participating in monthly meetings on topics related to researching homelessness and connecting with others in the field.

Somos Abt, Abt Associates, *Overall Chair (October 2022 – Present)*

- Serving as the Overall Chair for Somos Abt, co-leading the Employee Networking Group's programming, engagement with Latino/a and Hispanic staff, and with company leadership.



University of Nebraska at Omaha, School of Public Administration – Graduate School
Committee, *Elected Student Representative (2020-2021)*

- Served on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee as a Student Representative assisting with brainstorming for a school-wide Equity Survey.