

Vanessa Sanchez
Community Advocacy Director

Vanessa Sanchez is an experienced youth and family advocacy professional dedicated to the progress and stability of underserved families and communities. Her lived experience and progressive management roles with Horizons for Youth, Youth Outreach Services, Cure Violence, and CeaseFire Illinois at UIC School of Public Health have fueled her keen empathy for poverty-affected populations and passion for elevating people's strengths, resilience and growth capacities.

In her role as Community Advocacy Director, Vanessa leads LiftUp Communities' social services ecosystem engagement to better resource low-wage workers, their families and friends, and create innovative solutions where service gaps have kept marginalized communities from flourishing.

A Chicago native, Vanessa was raised by parents with proud Mexican-American roots. She is a first-generation college graduate earning her Bachelors in Sociology from University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana.