

Laura Fernandez Bio

Laura is a first-generation Latina from Mexico and a first-generation college graduate. She obtained her B.S. in Public Health at CSU Los Angeles in 2017. She currently works for the Non-profit organization APAIT. APAIT's mission is to positively impact the quality of life for vulnerable communities experiencing behavioral health challenges, housing insecurity, and at-risk for HIV/AIDS. More specifically, Laura works as a Housing Program Manager. She works with both housing opportunities for persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) and further manages a low-income property in the city of Compton that houses ten LGBTQIA-2S individuals suffering from housing insecurity.

Previously, Laura interned for APLA Health, a non-profit organization, assisting with intakes, enrollment, and improving and managing records. Through her work within the HOPWA program, Laura has identified numerous areas for improvement (communication between providers and state agencies, funding, proper training, etc.) in the assistance of individuals living with HIV/ AIDS and experiencing homelessness/ housing insecurity.

Due to her experience in the field, Laura decided to pursue her Master's in Public Health to continue to grow and expand the current programs in place for these communities and develop the skills to evaluate and assess these programs. Specifically, she would like to evaluate current social assistance agencies and their programs to improve the quality of care for persons living with HIV/AIDS and who identify as racial/ethnic minorities and are experiencing homelessness/ housing insecurity. Laura is bilingual and can speak and write both English and Spanish. She enjoys cooking and learning recipes from different cultural backgrounds. She recently has become an avid hiker and enjoys spending her weekends out in nature with her partner.