



AVISO NEWSLETTER

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BOARD UPDATES

Thank you to all members who participated in the election of our board members. We are pleased to announce that all candidates were re-elected to continue serving on the IAHSE board.

In our most recent board meeting, new executive committee members were appointed. Diane Casas has been named President, Edwin Sanchez Molina will serve as Vice President, and Gianni Serrano has been appointed Secretary.

We extend our gratitude to the new executive committee for their commitment to advancing IAHSE's mission. Together, we will continue advocating for increased representation of Hispanic (Latino/a/e/x) individuals in state government.

FY 24 BILINGUAL NEEDS & PAY REPORT

The annual Bilingual Needs/Bilingual Pay was filed in January with the general assembly. CMS conducted their annual Employment Plans/ BNBP Survey was conducted from August 12, 2024, through September 13, 2024, and received responses from 50 agencies. Participants based responses on FY24 data – July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Fifty out of 65 state agencies responded to the survey. The workforce grew by nearly 7% from the end of FY23 to the end of FY24, reaching a population of more than 51,000 employees. The workforce excludes employees from other constitutional offices.

Nineteen agencies combined to post 465 bilingual positions in FY24 with 84% (391 positions) of the posted bilingual positions required Spanish language skills. There 2,028 Code-covered employees in the State receiving bilingual pay, 78.8% (1,598) of them were employed to use their Spanish language skills in serving the people of Illinois. Another nearly 16% (316) of bilingual employees are employed to serve those who use American Sign Language. The remaining 114 employees are split between Polish (41) and various other languages (73). [Click here to see the FY24 BNBP Report.](#)

HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT PLAN ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Employment Plan Advisory Council met on December 5, 2024. The Illinois Department of Central Management Services provided an update on the "Success Factors" hiring process. From January to November 2024, CMS received over 126,000 applications, including 13,697 from Latinx individuals (11%). On average, it took 104 days from job posting to onboarding.

CONOCE A TU IAHSE COMPAÑER@

We will be featuring IAHSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. This month's edition, we will be featuring our member. **If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov.**

Name: Lubia Núñez-Montelongo (changing last name to Suterwala in May after my wedding!)

Current State Agency & Title: IDPH, Manager of Community Public Health Outreach

What city are you based in? Chicago

How long have you worked for the State of Illinois? 2+ years

What interested you in working for the State of Illinois & the current agency you are working for?

It was always my goal to work for a government public health agency, and I had always heard from friends and colleagues that working at a state agency was rewarding because of the sense of service to the people of Illinois. Applying to DPH and working with my colleagues in public health was such a natural progression to my career, and it's been the best decision I've ever made. I get to work across communities and agencies in a collaborative way to address public health issues and situations that will lead to improved health outcomes for people in all parts of the state.



What are your hobbies? I spend my free time reading, watching real estate shows on Netflix, exploring Mexican and Indian recipes and meals with my family, getting better at working out (yoga, lifting, running, cycling), and spending time with my fiance and our two kitties.

Fun fact about you? I love things that challenge my brain in fun ways: I'm currently learning Brazilian Portuguese and picking up where I left off on the piano and classical music.

Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal? In December 2024, I was invited to join the Board of Directors for the non-profit Devices 4 the Disabled, an organization based in Chicago that collects functioning devices like wheelchairs and walkers and distributes them for free to families in need. This cause is important to me because my aunt is also on the board and she has done so much good work through this organization to people in Durango, Mexico, where our family is from. Joining this organization and this work feels personal, and I'm so excited to be a part of helping people and of the growth and success of the organization.

Anything else you wish to share with your IAHSE colleagues? It's an honor to work with such amazing colleagues at state agencies across SOI. I've learned so much from my fellow IAHSE board members, and I am at the service of the association to make sure Latinxs are represented honorably and equitably.

If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov.

