

DIEGO JAVIER PIÑA LOPEZ, LMSW, MPA

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP | HUMAN SERVICES | OPERATIONS | PARTNERSHIPS

diegojplopez.com | diegojplopez@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Humanitarian, nonprofit, and public-service leader with more than a decade of experience connecting people, operations, partnerships, data, and organizational systems. At Casa Alitas, I progressed through program and director-level roles and became Executive Director in 2023, leading a \$12M multi-site humanitarian reception system serving up to 1,800 asylum seekers nightly with 62 staff and more than 600 volunteers.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cherokee Federal - Researcher & Content Expert | 2023-2025

Produced operational reports and dashboards for government and humanitarian decision-makers; assessed medical and social-service capacity; consulted with shelters and service providers; and managed a 10-person case-management team supporting refugee employment partnerships across Arizona.

Catholic Community Services / Casa Alitas | 2019-2024

Progressed from Program Coordinator to Director and then Executive Director (2023). At the executive level, directed a \$12M multi-site humanitarian reception system serving up to 1,800 people nightly; led 62 staff and 600+ volunteers; coordinated government, nonprofit, faith, funder, and community partners; built operating data systems; and served as a public spokesperson.

Catholic Charities USA - Consultant | 2022-2024

Designed and supported referral and data systems connecting border asylum-service programs with interior case-management partners, improving shared workflows, reporting, metrics, and coordination.

Save the Children - Senior Border Specialist | 2021-2022

Managed border-response programs and partnerships, contributed to planning and allocation within a \$7M response portfolio, and supported partner monitoring and implementation.

LEADERSHIP STRENGTHS

- Executive and program leadership; crisis operations; staff and volunteer leadership.
- Cross-sector partnerships, public grants, fundraising context, governance, and public communication.
- Data-informed decision-making, trauma-informed systems, and operational improvement.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

- Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) - Arizona.
- Master of Social Work - Arizona State University.
- Master of Public Administration - Arizona State University.
- Bachelor of Arts degrees - University of Arizona.