

DIEGO JAVIER PIÑA LOPEZ, LMSW, MPA

PUBLIC CURRICULUM VITAE | TUCSON, ARIZONA

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PROFESSIONAL FOCUS

Humanitarian and nonprofit leadership, public administration, transformation, implementation, public health, clinical social work, research, governance, partnerships, and technology-enabled coordination.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cherokee Federal - Researcher & Content Expert | 2023-2025

Produced operational reports and dashboards; assessed shelter, medical, and community capacity; consulted with service providers on referral and settlement systems; and managed a 10-person case-management team supporting refugee employment partnerships in Arizona.

Catholic Community Services / Casa Alitas | 2019-2024

Progressed from Program Coordinator to Director and then Executive Director (2023). At the executive level, led a \$12M multi-site humanitarian reception system serving up to 1,800 asylum seekers nightly with 62 staff and more than 600 volunteers.

Catholic Charities USA - Consultant | 2022-2024

Supported multi-agency referral, data, and reporting systems connecting border asylum-service programs with interior case-management partners.

Save the Children - Senior Border Specialist | 2021-2022

Managed border-response programs and partnerships and contributed to planning and allocation within a \$7M response portfolio.

EDUCATION, PRACTICE & GOVERNANCE

- LMSW - Arizona; current clinical social work practice in Tucson.
- MSW (2019) and MPA (2018) - Arizona State University.
- BA, Theater Education and BA, Religious Studies (2013) - University of Arizona.
- Doctoral study in public health - University of Arizona.
- Board of Directors - Center for Victims of Torture; Board Secretary - Kaleidoscope Humanitarian Aid.

RESEARCH & RECOGNITION

- Co-author, 2021 peer-reviewed article on migration, COVID-19, and Indigenous communities.
- Co-author, 2025 AAG presentation on asylum politics and local humanitarianisms along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- 2019 NASW Arizona Region Emerging Leader of the Year.
- Accepted CVT's 2024 Eclipse Award on behalf of Casa Alitas; the award was to the organization.