

Gabriela Martinez Chio's Biography

Gabriela Martinez Chio, is currently the DC Opioid Response Community Mobilizer with the DC Prevention Center (DCPC) Wards 1&2 in Washington, DC, as well as an undergraduate student working to obtain her social work degree. In her current role, she conducts trainings about opioids, stimulants and Narcan. She oversees and provides technical assistance to two sub-grantees that are implementing prevention strategies to reduce opioid and stimulant misuse in their communities.

Gaby's professional career in prevention began with the DCPC in 2015 when she became the Program Assistant. In 2016, she joined the team full-time as the Community Mobilizer Assistant. Since then, Gaby has worked closely with at least 15 Community Prevention Networks (CPNs) that include non-profit, faith-based and government agencies. DCPC staff assist CPNs with trainings related to current drug trends and implementing strategies to help prevent and reduce substance use/abuse.

Two of Gaby's biggest accomplishments are that she has led the Youth Prevention Leadership Corps and the Spanish-Speaking Parents/Caregivers Network over the last five years. With Gaby's leadership, members of both networks have led many community prevention activities, been interviewed by media, conducted community outreach, met elected officials and created positive changes in their communities. Gaby is very passionate about prevention and creating relationships with others to help reduce drug use in communities.

Lessons Learned:

The Latinx Emerging Leaders Fellowship has provided many lessons that have helped her grow her confidence, as well as strengthen her leadership skills. Gaby also valued this experience for the opportunity to not only meet and connect with other fellows across the county, but also met and learned from many inspiring Latinx individuals that have made an impact throughout the United States. This fellowship has broadened her horizons and allowed her to set larger professional goals for herself.