

# WORKING CAPITAL

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The Newsletter of the Chicago Program  
of Local Initiatives Support Corporation

## OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SUSANA L. VASQUEZ

Many of you know Susana L. Vasquez as the director of one of LISC/Chicago's most ambitious efforts – the New Communities Program, an initiative working to comprehensively redevelop 16 Chicago neighborhoods. She now takes her commitment to community revitalization one step further, as LISC/Chicago's new executive director.



After earning a degree in U.S./Latin American History from the University of Illinois, Susana cut her community development teeth as an organizer on the Affordable Housing Campaign (led by the Chicago Rehab Network), as a tenant organizer at the Metropolitan Tenants Organization, and as a community organizer at the Resurrection Project, where she became the deputy director. She left to earn a master's degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and returned to Chicago to work for LISC/Chicago in 2003, where she oversaw the expansion of NCP from a three-neighborhood pilot program to the 16 neighborhoods it encompasses today.

In her 17 years of community development work on behalf of Chicago communities, Susana has earned a reputation as a savvy organizer, a polished diplomat, a decisive executive and a skilled personnel manager. These essential qualities make her a natural fit as executive director, where she brings to the table the ability to navigate the complicated world of Chicago neighborhoods, local politics, multiple funding sources and many partnerships required to make underserved neighborhoods better and stronger.

"Susana's definitely suited for the demands of this job," said Lori Healey, the chair of LISC/Chicago's board of advisors. "She knows the city, she knows the neighborhoods, and she knows the community organizations. The leadership she displayed as NCP director will be of enormous value as she takes the helm of LISC's most productive and creative office."

Vasquez succeeds Andrew Mooney, who ran the office for 15 years before leaving to become Chicago's Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development.