



Monika Vega

Deputy Director,
Outreach and Engagement

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Monika Vega is the Deputy Director for Outreach and Engagement at Harbage Consulting, where she supports her California-based team and leads project management activities. She is responsible for direction setting and oversight on stakeholder engagement and strategic communications to professionals and providers serving the dual eligible and Medi-Cal populations.

She previously spent four years as a Senior Outreach Coordinator at the firm. In this capacity Monika established partnerships with key stakeholders of California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) across multiple counties where policy implementation is underway. Monika was a panel speaker on health care services at the 2019 State-wide Disabilities Conference hosted by Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California. In December 2018, Monika received a Community Champion Award from Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living for her deep commitment to equity and inclusion, and her tireless advocacy and unwavering support of the disability community in Los Angeles County.

Monika was also a presenter during the 2015 CMS National Training Workshops event in Anaheim, California, where health care and social services program administrators and advocates from across the nation attended. She has delivered program information to hundreds of professionals in medical groups, associations, hospitals, and state, county and social services agencies on the latest information in innovative programs for participation opportunities and information-sharing. While Monika conducts CCI health policy communications and outreach, she is most enthusiastic about how the program information will ultimately help people in need coordinate their health care benefits and services.

Monika has a background in social services management, public health programs and policy, political organizing, and community empowerment. She previously assisted with organizing large-scale campaigns for health care workers with the largest local union on the East Coast, 1199 SEIU. In this capacity, Monika worked with the state attorney general of Maine, union field workers, and staff from hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other medical providers to conduct campaign strategic planning.

During the 2008 economic recession, Monika connected hundreds of unemployed and uninsured households in Harlem, New York, to safety net programs including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, along with an array of other programs and services, to increase economic stability for consumers. Her interest in political engagement and building community capacity has also led to her experience in San Gabriel Valley politics, both in a Congressional district office as an intern and as lead trainer in a state assembly campaign race. She also served as a political organizer for the 2012 presidential campaign.

Monika serves as an area director for her district at Toastmasters International where she advises and trains club executive boards to inspire high performance in leadership, communications and public speaking to its membership. Additionally, she was previously a board member and community educator with Multiracial Americans of Southern California, in celebration of her multiracial and multicultural heritage: She is Filipina, Turkish, Spanish and Mexican American, raised with Japanese traditions.

Monika received a master's in social work from Columbia University in New York, specializing in the area of policy practice in the field of health, mental health, and disabilities and a minor in business administration from Columbia Business School.

At the intersection of health care policy, politics and communications.