

More than a Space

Meet the Staff

Sarah Hernandez - Research & Management Assistant

As one half of the Research Team, Sarah oversees operations at the Center for Civic Empowerment. With a MBA, and as a proud El Pasoan, she brings a passion for research and public service to her work with the City.

Karla Servin- Research Assistant

As the other half of the Research team, Karla works alongside Sarah Hernandez to oversee operations at the Center for Civic Empowerment. Karla holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and media studies from New Mexico State University.

Center for Civic Empowerment Launches Newsletter

We are proud to introduce More than a Space, a quarterly newsletter about happenings at the Center for Civic Empowerment (CCE) and initiatives led by the Department of Community and Human Development's (DCHD) Research Team. This publication is part of a broader movement to shift the CCE's position as solely a meeting space for community partners. Our objective is to create a community hub that provides year-round services for residents. As we look ahead to the new FY2027, we remain focused on delivering exceptional customer service, excelling department objectives, and empowering our frontera community to thrive. Thank you for being part of this exciting journey.

City of El Paso Chosen for National Economic Resilience Program

The Department of Community and Human development was chosen by the National League of Cities (NLC) to participate in its inaugural Building

Economic Resilience in Communities (BERC) program. This national initiative is designed to help El Paso strengthen its economic stability, expand access to local resources, and strengthen the communities economic resilience.

El Paso was one of four cities selected to receive \$25,000 in grant funding as well as technical assistance, coaching, and peer learning opportunities. As part of the program, the department is hosting a three-part workshop series at the CCE. The series will bring together community members and local partners to provide the tools to become a more resilient El Paso.

Building Economic Resilience en la Frontera Workshop Series

We are thrilled to share the success of the inaugural Building Economic Resilience en la Frontera workshop! During this event, Abraham Gutierrez, Assistant Director of Community and Human Development, discussed challenges shaping El Paso's economy. The discussion highlighted the impacts of affordable housing in the community as well as identified areas of interest for the second workshop.

In total, the event gathered 75 community members both virtually and in-person. Post-workshop survey results indicated 79% of guests had never visited the CCE prior to the event. Additionally, a majority of participants stated they reside in the 79901 area code. These statistics demonstrate a huge success for the first workshop as we focused on bringing in new guests to the center and supporting the community surrounding the 79901 zip code.

Upcoming BERC Workshop

The next Economic Resilience en la Frontera workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2026. This workshop will focus on resources that will fortify our community in four key areas: Workforce, Household Expenses, Strengthening Microbusinesses, and Housing Stability. It will feature a

financial education presentation by GECU and a resource fair, along with door prizes and giveaways. We hope to see you all here!

National League of Cities Site Visit

NLC Program Manager of Economic Opportunity and Financial Empowerment, Justin Chu, will be visiting the City of El Paso as part of the BERC Program grant requirements. This site visit will take place on October 13 and 14, 2026. In addition to providing us technical support and training, he will be meeting with City leadership and Council members to emphasize the importance of both the BERC grant and current CCE initiatives.