

**Bethann Hester**  
**Project Manager, Development & Strategy**

Bethann brings 25+ years of executive experience in nonprofit and government sectors to support LiftUp Communities' strategic vision and launching new initiatives, including establishing fundraising systems. Her career work has focused primarily in community-inclusion, immigration reform, and poverty-reduction initiatives. Select engagements include Alliance to End Homelessness in Cook County, American Business Immigration Coalition, Chinese American Service League, Heartland Alliance International, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Governor's Office of New Americans Policy and Advocacy, Illinois Welcoming Centers, and The Resurrection Project.

An advocate for access to education through national service, Bethann is an alumna of Public Allies Chicago, an Illinois AmeriCorps program. She then held progressive staff management roles with the community-leadership organization and ultimately served as executive director. Prior to her work in community and national service, Bethann worked in the institutional advancement offices of DePaul University, Illinois Institute of Technology, National-Louis University, and The Art Institute of Chicago.

Bethann currently serves on the Advisory Selection Committee for Illinois Access to Justice (A2J), a statewide program providing education, outreach, and legal representation to historically marginalized communities impacted by mass deportation and incarceration. She grew up in the Washington, DC Metro area and has lived in Chicago since graduating from Northwestern University.