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Mercedes Elizalde joins Central City Concern as Public Policy Director

Mercedes Elizalde will join Central City Concern (CCC) as public policy director on Tuesday, Aug. 7. CCC, a nonprofit organization founded in 1979, provides housing, health care and employment in Portland for people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

As public policy director, Mercedes will collaborate with government agencies and community organizations to advance policy initiatives in support of CCC's mission. She will be responsible for policy analysis, advocacy, public education, and coalition-building efforts to find support and solutions for CCC clients and programs.



“Mercedes brings a wealth of experience in the field, as well as a passion for social justice and equal opportunity. She will be a great asset to our team and the community,” says Sean Hubert, CCC’s chief housing and strategy officer. “We’re thrilled she’s joining CCC.”

Mercedes most recently served as policy and engagement strategist for Seattle Councilmember Debora Juarez. Prior to that role, she worked for the Low Income Housing Institute as the volunteer and advocacy programs coordinator. She has held positions working with youth and people with developmental disabilities, and served on several nonprofit and governmental boards and committees that support and champion equity and social justice. Mercedes holds a master’s in nonprofit leadership from Seattle University and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology (minor in women and gender studies).

CCC serves about 14,000 people a year through 13 Federally Qualified Health Center sites, 1,753 housing units and an Employment Access Center for jobseekers.

For more information about CCC, please visit centralcityconcern.org.