



OpenSource Leadership Strategies, Inc.
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Marisol Jiménez McGee is originally from Chicago where she navigated the margins of her Irish and Mexican heritage in the city's largest Puerto Rican neighborhood of Humboldt Park. Unable to integrate the strong racial divisions and inequities that demarcated the city, she took off on a trajectory of social justice and anti-oppression that was as much about personal transformation as it was solidarity in the struggle. Marisol believes that transformative practice comes through constant self-examination, compassionate conflict, and visionary action by both individuals and communities.

Marisol brings expertise in participatory evaluation, community-based change efforts, adult learning, and advocacy. She served as the Advocacy Director for El Pueblo, a Latino statewide advocacy and public policy organization that worked on public policy issues at the local, state, and national levels. She was a steering committee member of the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform National Strategy Council (2007); and led statewide efforts to organize mass demonstrations for immigrant justice in 2006 and 2007. It was these same efforts that continually challenged her to refine the organization's approaches to community-based change efforts, and strengthen her own critical analysis of the dynamics of privilege and oppression as they appeared within social change movements.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Loyola University Chicago and her Master's in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work. She occasionally teaches classes at NC State University in community practice, organizational development, and critical race analysis with graduate-level social work students. She has also served as the commencement speaker for the NC State University (2006) and UNC-Chapel Hill (2010) School of Social Work graduation ceremonies. Marisol is currently working towards getting her research published in academic journals.

Prior to earning her graduate degree, Marisol worked with a small university-based evaluation firm, Evaluation, Assessment & Policy Connections (EvAP) as a program evaluator. She worked with county-based Smart Start early childhood programs to design, implement, and report their year-to-year outcome statements. She also presented evaluation research for educational/social programs at state and national conferences, including, the American Evaluation Association's (AEA) Annual Conference. Marisol first entered into partnership with OpenSource Leadership Strategies as a third-party program evaluator for the NC Peoples' Coalition for Giving.

Marisol is a strong critical thinker and able to express complex, and even controversial, issues and ideas in clear and concise ways. This combination of articulate and analytical has positioned her as a strong public speaker on many issues, but most notably on issues of social justice. Through her presentations, trainings, and workshop facilitation, she brings forth a true union of heart and mind to her work with communities and organizations across the state.

Marisol lives in a house full of noise, laughter, and love with her partner, Kenny, their 2-year old son, Roan, and a menagerie of pets in Chatham County.