

Sara Padilla is the Project Manager for the Farmers Market Coalition, a national nonprofit dedicated to strengthening farmers markets across the United States so that they can serve as community assets while providing real income opportunities for farmers. In this role she oversees the Farmers Market Metrics program, which includes a research study funded by USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to examine the economic, human, social and ecological impacts of farmers markets, and development of a series of training modules on data collection and evaluation for use by markets.

Padilla has over 15 years' experience in project management, healthy food systems promotion and education, planning and evaluation, and human services delivery in the United States and internationally. Padilla has provided expertise in leading program and policy development for obesity prevention and chronic and infectious disease prevention programs, and oversaw the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative at the Community Food Security Coalition. In this capacity she coordinated the delivery of technical assistance focused on farmers markets, farm to school programs, food policy councils, and healthy retail to communities located across the nation. She also provides independent consultancy support to KHA, Inc., a public health consulting firm specializing in evaluation and programming support services.

Padilla served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic and has also worked in Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at the College of William and Mary. She also holds a Master's degree in Public Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She lives with her family in West Linn, Oregon.