**Kristen Hernández Ortega, MPH**

**Southwest Regional Co-Rep**

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Kristen is an independent public health consultant and native southwest borderland resident. She received her Bachelor of Health Promotion and Master of Public Health with a Hispanic and Border Health concentration from the University of Texas at El Paso. Her passion for health policy advocacy began when working on a researching team gathering public housing resident perspectives on smoke-free multi-unit housing. This is where she was able to put research into practice working with others to improve the environments where we live. Her experience coordinating public health programming in diverse communities has focused on advancing health equity by improving the environments in which we live, learn, work, and play so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to reach their full health potential. She loves being a community health practitioner in the region, being able to stay involved in preparing and learning from the future public health workforce.