



Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez

CUNY Trustee

Commissioner, Department for the Aging

New York City Mayor Eric Adams appointed Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez as Commissioner to the Department for the Aging in March 2022. As Commissioner, Cortés-Vázquez has worked to create equity and increase diversity around the older adult centers across the city, she also implemented the first of its kind Aging Cabinet for Older New Yorkers to unify city agencies to work together and tackle the problems affecting older adults. She continues to work to advance the NYC Aging mission to eliminate ageism, ensure the dignity and quality of life of older adults and support caregivers as she did with the previous administration under former Mayor Bill de Blasio. Before being appointed to Commissioner, Lorraine served as Senior Advisor to de Blasio in the Mayor’s Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Prior to serving in the Mayor’s Office, Cortés-Vázquez was Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations and Government Affairs at EmblemHealth, where she was responsible for EmblemHealth’s relationships with key government, community and industry stakeholders, better positioning EmblemHealth for new growth opportunities. Cortés-Vázquez was also the Executive Vice President for Multicultural Markets and Engagement at the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) where she developed a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan. At AARP, she ensured that the interests of multicultural age 50-plus audiences were integrated into everything AARP does, with the goal of increasing multicultural presence among AARP membership and increasing AARP’s involvement in those communities.

Before joining AARP, Cortés-Vázquez was New York State's 65th Secretary of State, and the first Hispanic appointee to serve in that role. She also served as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs at Cablevision Systems Corporation, a leading media, entertainment, and telecommunications company. She brought to this position a distinguished career in the nonprofit, government and corporate sectors that extends more than 30 years. Her work in the nonprofit sector has gained her national recognition and numerous awards.

From 1998 to 2004, Cortés-Vázquez served as President of the Hispanic Federation, a nonprofit network of Latino health and human service agencies with a footprint throughout the East Coast. She has extensive experience creating community partnerships to leverage civic participation and increasing the visibility of educational initiatives. In the early 1990s, she served as Executive Director of ASPIRA of New York, the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit Latino youth leadership development and education advocacy agency.

Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez obtained her undergraduate degree from Hunter College and earned a master’s degree from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. She is a Toll Fellow and has earned certificates from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and Columbia University’s School Professional Studies.

She is dedicated to her family, particularly her nieces, nephews, and grandsons.