

Giovanna M. Romero

Giovanna M. Romero joined the Children's Defense Fund – New York as the Director of Programs and Youth Leadership in September 2016. Ms. Romero was most recently the Director of Community Schools at the United Way of New York City (UWNYC) where she managed its Community School initiative providing coordination of fiscal management processes, program oversight, and grantee contract compliance monitoring. She also served as liaison with the NYC Department of Education, coordinated and supported technical assistance efforts for grantees, supervised the EducateNYC team, and streamlined operational processes to improve the team's efficiency. Before being promoted to that position, Ms. Romero served in other capacities at UWNYC, including as a Portfolio Manager and Program Manager. Prior to joining UWNYC, Ms. Romero served as Director of Operations for a startup nonprofit, Corazon Puro, where she was responsible for developing and implementing the organization's operational strategies and creating financial management structures. She also contributed to strategic planning, program design and implementation. She was a founding board member of this organization, providing direction around youth services, programming, and she led the development of international chapters. Through her volunteer work with Corazon Puro she organized mission trips in the US and abroad, facilitated trainings for young adult leaders, and coordinated volunteers for special projects. Ms. Romero also held a year-long internship in the New York City Council supporting Councilmember Robert Jackson's office, was a Program Coordinator of Campus Activities at Suffolk County Community College, and brings 5 years of small business management and direct sales experience. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Baruch College in Public Administration and a certification in Nonprofit Management from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. She is currently working on her Masters of Public Administration from Columbia University – School of International and Public Affairs with an expected graduation date of December 2017.