

Miriam Ortiz currently serves as Director of Education & Training at Just A Start, where she leads student-centered workforce development programs. Throughout her career, she has built strong managerial, strategic, and operational competencies in her work with underserved populations, primarily adult learners and opportunity youth.

Before joining Just A Start, Miriam was the Chief of Staff at Italian Home for Children and Associate Director and Youth and Families Program Manager at Centro Latino. Miriam earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bryn Mawr College as a Posse scholar and a Master of Public Policy from Tufts University as a Neighborhood fellow, both full-tuition awards.

Miriam's vision for liberation is working with people in her community with a strengths-based approach to remove individual and systemic barriers to educational, social, and economic mobility. Having moved to the US as a teenager, Miriam intimately understands the challenges of undocumented and mixed-status families. Her lived experience navigating difficult systems continues to inform the design of the transformational educational programs she leads.

With over 15 years of work in the nonprofit sector, Miriam's leadership has recently been recognized with the 2023 Inspire Award by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce and the 2021 Rising Star Award by the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations. Miriam is starting her second term as a Trustee of Roxbury Community College and is a proud resident of Hyde Park.

