



Educator Q&A

How can I use this resource?

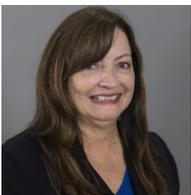
This resource can be used in teaching social work practice to BSW and MSW students to help them think about current social work practice settings and what changes could be made. It can be used in research methods classes for doctoral students to help them think about intervention research they may be interested in pursuing. The resource can also be used by social work educators who are investigators and want to consider developing or adapting EB interventions for underserved populations.

What led you to get involved in developing culturally tailored interventions?

My research program started with investigating the experiences of Latino families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the lifespan. From this research I generated findings that showed the challenges and needs of this population, and I found myself writing implications for practice that no one was likely to use. Therefore, I thought it was important to follow my own recommendations by developing interventions to address the needs of families who participated in my research.

What inspired you to engage in community-based research?

I didn't start my research career thinking about or studying methods of community-based participatory research (CBPR), but some of my colleagues in my doctoral program were committed to CBPR. When I started to develop interventions for Latino families, I had to engage in the community to be culturally responsive, so I learned on the job what worked and what didn't in relation to community engaged research. Therefore, my knowledge and commitment to this research methodology evolved as my research program developed.



[Dr. Sandy Magaña](#), PhD, MSW, holds the professorship in autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities in the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. Dr. Magaña has led research on the cultural context of families who care for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities for more than 20 years. Her current research includes investigating racial and ethnic disparities among children with autism and developmental disabilities and developing culturally relevant interventions to address these disparities.