Prosperity Now Conference Reflections
By Anneth L. Izquierdo, 2018

Hello, my name is Anneth Izquierdo. I am currently working as an AmeriCorps Public Ally at Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC), a non-profit organization located in the beautiful city of Miami, Florida. OLCDC’s mission is to transform under-resourced communities into vibrant, desirable, engaged neighborhoods by improving access to health, education, employment, art, safety and affordable housing. I have been the Health and Enterprises Coordinator for ten months. My role at OLCDC is to assist in bridging the health and social equity/access gap within the city of Opa-locka based on the goals of the organization or program by building capacity.

The Prosperity Now conference fully integrated disability access by partnering with the World Institute on Disability and having the World Institute on Disability’s staff present to cater to the needs of myself and the other Disability Ambassadors, including assisting me in reaching my destinations each day with a sighted guide. These sighted guides provided at all times were my favorite accommodation. I also appreciated the guides describing everything to me to make the conference accessible and to help me attend and be part of the summit fully. Having sighted guides’ assistance was great; I was able to navigate throughout the entire conference without ever feeling fear. Disability accommodations and scholarships make conferences and economic opportunity more inclusive to us as people with disabilities. I’m truly grateful to have been granted the opportunity to experience the summit.
The Conference Accessibility Initiative by JPMorgan Chase and WID makes a difference for people with disabilities by giving us the opportunity to be present, exposing us to the experience, acknowledging our needs and listening to the community’s perspective. I feel the Conference Accessibility Initiative was a huge benefit personally and professionally by giving me the experience I would not have had otherwise due to financial inaccessibility. Disability is important when it comes to financial empowerment due to the large number of disabled individuals who are unemployed or at the poverty level. The Prosperity Now conference allowed people with disabilities to learn and give our input on discussions. Overall, each session had so much to learn and take back with us.

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Anneth Izquierdo is an AmeriCorps Public Ally at Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC), a non-profit organization located in Miami, Florida. As the Health and Enterprises Coordinator, she assists in bridging the health and social equity and access gap within the city of Opa-locka through capacity building. She has facilitated trainings on disability and inclusive spaces. As a disabled, Latina female, she understands the importance of advocacy for underserved groups, and she hopes to continuously grow her knowledge about financial independence methods and resources so she can support other individuals with disabilities.

Anneth at Capitol Hill