

BIO – Alejandra Mahoney

As Director of Education for People's Self-Help Housing until her early retirement in 2021, Alejandra Mahoney oversaw development and administration of Peoples' Self-Help Housing's (PSHH) K-8 After-School and College Club programs offered at PSHH's 11 learning centers, interfacing with numerous local and grant funders on mutual priorities.

Born in Costa Rica, raised in Northern Santa Barbara County, Alejandra joined PSHH in 2006, bringing extensive experience from her career at Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, Fitzgerald Community School, and Santa Barbara County Office of Education. She has guided education initiatives across the Central Coast, serving as a board member for the FUND, an ambassador for Allan Hancock Community College, and Leadership Santa Maria Valley. Alejandra was also a co-organizer, Charter Board Member and Founding Board President of the Central Coast Future Leaders (CCFL). CCFL is a local nonprofit serving Latino youth and parents and emphasizes youth leadership and empowerment. The organization launched the annual Latino Legacy Awards program in the North County area. Alejandra is proud of having personally assisted dozens of first-generation Latino college students secure university placement in some of the nation's greatest institutions - Notre Dame, UCLA, USC, and others.

Alejandra is a former Board member, supporter of, and volunteer with EconAlliance. She was a key contributor to the EconAlliance North County Industry video and helped host the first EconAlliance STEM Industry Days at Peoples' Self-Help Housing. She worked in partnership with EconAlliance and United Way to initiate and implement the past multi-year "Working Neighborhoods" grant involving a dozen economic development and education stakeholders. Over her career, Alejandra has served on numerous other local and regional boards.

Before transitioning to a career in education, Alejandra had entered the family business – agriculture. As co-owner of TKP Farms, one of the first certified organic farms in the area, she became engaged not only in organic farming, but in organic farming development and public education. As a Board Member and then President of the California Certified Organic Farmers' San Luis Obispo Chapter, she worked on organic system plans, policy, certifications, and outreach to farmers, communities, and policymakers.