

Breanna Hawkins

Breanna is a Program Officer at First 5 LA, an independent public agency with a goal to support the safe and healthy development of young children. She was previously a Health Equity Strategist for the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, a network of eight local health departments. Breanna served as Policy Director for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC), where she led strategic policy campaigns, leadership development programs and research initiatives for a diverse network of over 400 organizations and individuals. Prior to LAFPC, Breanna worked as an evaluator for a Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) pilot project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and obtained extensive grassroots advocacy experience as Senior Policy Analyst with Community Health Councils. Breanna also has international experience leading public health and community development interventions in Panama, Southern India and West Africa. Breanna graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California (USC), where she earned an undergraduate degree in Public Policy and Management and obtained a Master's of Urban Planning. She is currently working on a PhD in Urban Planning. In 2011, Breanna was awarded the Emery E. Olson award for outstanding achievements in civic leadership from USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy. In 2018, Breanna was recognized by the UC Berkeley Food Institute as one of 20 Emerging Food System Leaders in California.