

Ara Mendoza is the Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinator for the Homeless and Special Needs Housing Team of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Ara is a Licensed Social Worker who has been with DHCD since October 2019. She currently works with 12 local planning groups who provide housing services to 73 counties and cities that extend 500 miles across the Commonwealth.

Prior to her work at DHCD, Ara worked in New York City for the non-profit Breaking Ground in their Street-To-Home homeless outreach program. She started in 2013 as a housing case manager in the Manhattan site working directly with individuals who were experiencing homelessness and became a housing specialist for the program. Ara was promoted several times at Breaking Ground and ended her tenure there as the Program Coordinator for the Street Medicine Team which operated throughout the Brooklyn and Queens boroughs. Her responsibilities included providing individuals who were experiencing homelessness with medical care throughout the two boroughs, conducting outreach, and creating best practice procedures in collaboration with clinical and medical staff.