



DENNIS E. GONZÁLEZ
Acting Regional Director & Executive Officer
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
Region 2
New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands



In July of 2004, Dennis E. González was appointed the Executive Officer (Deputy Regional Director) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Region 2 (encompassing New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Tribes).

On March 9, 2020, Dennis was appointed Acting Regional Director (ARD) and for the initial three months of the Covid-19 pandemic spearheaded the HHS and White House Task Force regional response to the public health emergency. Prior to 2020, Dennis served two extended terms as Acting Regional Director, following presidential transitions. From January 2009 to May 2010, Dennis did his first extended tour as ARD. During that period, he was responsible (among other projects) for HHS' regional response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Dennis also served as ARD from January 2017 to June 2018 – during this second extended tour as ARD, he led (among other initiatives) the HHS campaign to combat the Opioid Epidemic.

During the summer of 2016, Dennis served on the leadership team of the Puerto Rico Zika Unified Coordination Group (UCG) and directed all the intergovernmental activities of the UCG as it responded to the Zika health crisis on the island. In addition, following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Maria in September 2017, he was the lead regional hurricane response and recovery liaison to the Puerto Rico Governor's Office, the Puerto Rico Legislature and local elected officials (especially mayors) throughout the island.

Prior to joining HHS, Dennis held a number of senior level positions at the state and county levels in New Jersey. He served as Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs and later joined the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General as Executive Director in the Division of Consumer Affairs of all the New Jersey mental/behavior health therapy and counseling boards, where he supervised the creation of the NJ Alcohol and Drug Counselors Committee. In addition, Dennis served as a member of the New Jersey State Health Planning Board, Director of the Passaic County (NJ) Office of Community & Economic Development, and for three years served in the private sector as Vice President of Community and Governmental Affairs at Barnert Hospital – a community hospital in Paterson, New Jersey.

Since 2018, Dennis has served as the Chairman of the New York City Federal Executive Board (which encompasses the leadership of over 50 federal agencies in NYC), and recently served as regional chair of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Dennis also has a long history of community advocacy, including serving on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Housing Authority Commissioner in two cities: Paterson, NJ and Union City, NJ; the Environmental Health Commission of Clifton, NJ; the National Puerto Rican Coalition and as local chair of the Boy Scouts of America; among many other non-for-profits.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, Dennis was raised and educated in Puerto Rico. He began his public service career over thirty years (30) ago as an aide to the governor of Puerto Rico. Since then, he has served in the administrations of three New Jersey governors and under the leadership of seven secretaries of Health and Human Services.

On January 20, 2021, Dennis began his third tour as Acting Regional Director of HHS following a presidential transition, and has since been spearheading the Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign among the five designated jurisdictions in Region 2.