Luis E. Basurto
Ph.D. Student in Public Policy
Cornell University

Dear Professors Leder-Luis and Tello Trillo,

I am writing to apply to be a part of the Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research hosted by the National Bureau of Economic Research. I am a Ph.D. student in Public Policy at Cornell University, where I plan to apply for admission to candidacy in Fall 2026. My current research interests center on child and family policies that can shape the lives of young children, particularly those in low-income and immigrant families. More broadly, I am interested in how economic and health-related shocks experienced by families affect individual health and well-being. This includes questions about how public benefit programs affect household stability, how program access shapes health outcomes, and how resources and risks are shared across generations within families.

I am especially interested in this mentoring program because I would benefit from sustained engagement with scholars working at the intersection of health economics, demography, and aging. My current work is rooted in public economics and the social safety net, but I am increasingly interested in developing a research agenda that more directly connects public program access to central questions in health economics and demography. The program would help me think more systematically about the mechanisms linking public program access to health and demographic outcomes, including food security, insurance coverage, health care utilization, caregiving arrangements, and household responses to health shocks.

The program would also help me connect my interest in children and low-income families to broader demographic questions about aging, multigenerational households, and intergenerational health. Low-income and immigrant families often rely on extended family networks, and policies affecting one family member may have consequences for children, parents, and older relatives. For example, older immigrants' access to health insurance may affect household resources in multigenerational families; or caregiving responsibilities for older relatives may shape parents' labor supply and children's well-being. I would value the opportunity to receive feedback on how to conceptualize these spillovers, and how to develop them into feasible empirical projects.

I would also benefit from the project development component of the program, particularly as I work to refine early-stage ideas into feasible projects. Several of my current ideas are centered on child and family health, including one that examines whether sibling overlap in school affects children's use of health services, and another that considers how the birth of the first U.S.-citizen child in an immigrant family may change the family's connection to public programs and health care institutions. I would greatly value the opportunity to receive feedback from mentors and peers on how to strengthen these ideas, refine the empirical approaches, and better situate them within the existing literature.

Finally, I strongly believe in the value of mentorship and professional community. Prior to starting my Ph.D., I benefited immensely from the relationships I built through prior mentorship programs like Research in Color. As I approach candidacy and begin thinking more concretely about the next stages of my career, I would also value guidance on navigating professional development and the job market.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Luis E. Basurto

Luis E. Basurto

Martha van Rennsselaer Hall 2308 ● Ithaca, NY 14850 ● (956) 270-8453 ● leb258@cornell.edu

EDUCATION

2023 - Present Ph.D. in Public Policy, Cornell University
Advisor: Maria D. Fitzpatrick

2021 M.S. in Mathematics and Statistics, Georgetown University

2016 B.B.A. in Economics and Finance (Magna Cum Laude), The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025 - Present Research Assistant, Professor Maria D. Fitzpatrick, Cornell University

2021 - 2023 Research Associate, Professor Lisa A. Gennetian, Duke University

2016 - 2021 Research Analyst, Urban Institute, Health Policy Center

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2025 Teaching Assistant, PUBPOL 2000 Intermediate Microeconomics (Brandon Tripp)

Fall 2024 Teaching Assistant, PUBPOL 5210 Intermediate Microeconomics for Public Affairs (Fikri Pitsuwan)

SELECTED RESEARCH

FE Blavin, LB Smith, L Dubay, LE Basurto. *"Assessing Patterns in Cancer Screening Use by Race and Ethnicity during the Coronavirus Pandemic using Electronic Health Record Data."* Cancer Medicine. 12(15), 2023.

D Thomson, Y Chen, LA Gennetian, LE Basurto. *"Earned Income Tax Credit Receipt by Hispanic Families with Children: State Outreach and Demographic Factors.*" Health Affairs. 41(12), 2022.

LE Basurto, LA Gennetian. *"Practitioners in North Carolina's TANF and Related Income Assistance Programs Offer Perspectives on Engaging Latino Families."* Bethesda, MD: National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families, 2022.

C Alvarez Caraveo, LE Basurto, D Gonzalez, CW Pan. *"Barriers to Medicaid and CHIP Coverage for Eligible but Uninsured Latinx Children."* Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2021.

L Clemans-Cope, E Winiski, M Epstein, LE Basurto. *"Medicaid Prescriptions for Extended-Release Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder."* Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2020.

L Clemans-Cope, EH Allen, LE Basurto, D Lawrence, GM Kenney. *"Leveraging Medicaid to Address Opioid and Substance Use Disorder in Maine."* Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2019.

C Ramos, L Clemans-Cope, H Samuel-Jakubos, LE Basurto. *"Evidence-Based Interventions for Adolescent Opioid Use Disorder?"* Washington, DC: Urban Institute, 2018.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

LE Basurto. *"The Role of Technology in the Safety Net: The Adoption of Online SNAP Applications."* Presented at: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; November 2025.

LE Basurto, LA Gennetian. *"Unconditional Cash Aid and Investments Among Families with Young Children."* Presented at: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; November 2023.

LE Basurto, LA Gennetian. *"Income-Benefit Workers Practices and Experiences and Uptake among Hispanics."* Presented at: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; November 2022.

LE Basurto, LA Gennetian. *"A New Look at Administrative Burden from the Perspectives of Income-Benefit Workers Serving Latinx Families."* Presented at: Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS); June 2022.

LE Basurto, S Tello-Trillo. *"The Effects of Sports on Suicides: Evidence from Title IX."* Presented at: Research in Color Foundation Annual Conference; June 2020.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (2025)
- Research in Color Foundation Fellowship (2024)
- Bill Archer Fellowship (2016)

COURSEWORK

Core: Microeconomic Theory I, II, & III; Macroeconomics I & II; Econometrics I & II; Intermediate Mathematical Economics

Field: Labor Economics I & II; Empirical Strategies for Policy Analysis I & II; Public Finance and Behavioral Economics

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Diversity in Cornell Economics, Cornell University

- Member (Fall 2023 – Present)

Graduate Students in Public Policy

- Co-President (2024 – 2025)

Research in Color Foundation

- First-Year Fellow (2023)
- Conference Organizing Committee (2022)
- Mentee (2019 - 2020)

SKILLS

Programming: Stata, R, SAS, Python, Latex, MATLAB, ArcGIS
Interests: Rock climbing, scuba diving, salsa dancing, and photography
Language: Fluent in Spanish