



U.S. Small Business
Administration

BIOGRAPHY

Josué Emanuel Rivera

Josué E. Rivera was sworn in as the District Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Puerto Rico-U.S. Virgin Islands District Office in mid-January 2021. Under his leadership SBA has been able to increase by 65% the loan activity and deployed over \$7 billion SBA's Pandemic Economic Recovery programs.

He previously served the nation as U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico during April 2018-January 2021. During that time, he organized the first Puerto Rico Rural Lending Investment Summit, achieved Puerto Rico's selection as a state pilot program for the Single-Family Housing Repair program, and convoked industry-leading roundtables in telecommunications and public health, respectively, with federal and state partners.

During his first year in office, Josué received a Gears of Government Award from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget in 2018 for the recovery efforts. Due to his negotiations skills the agency completed the largest public utility restructuring in Rural Development's portfolio, over \$400 million transaction involving the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA).

Previously, Rivera served as a Policy Advisor with the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA), an agency that represents the Governor of Puerto Rico in Washington, DC. His advocacy portfolio included issues such as finance, small business, agriculture, telecommunications, interstate commerce, air cargo deregulation, employee retention credit, HUBZone's and federal tax reform.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, he worked directly with FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) and the National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC) to expedite recovery efforts. He also led advocacy sessions and delegations to Capitol Hill whose work ultimately resulted in the historic appropriation of disaster supplemental funds for Puerto Rico. The Association of University of the Puerto Rico Alumni and Friends Abroad (UPRAA) recognized Mr. Rivera with the Distinguished Alumni Award for his Hurricane María recovery efforts.

Josué practiced auditing in an associate level role at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP and in renowned local firm, Falcón Sánchez & Associates. Raised in Bayamon, Mr. Rivera enjoyed a

productive career while a student at the University of Puerto Rico at Bayamon where he majored in accounting and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration.

Mr. Rivera has been awarded by multiple renowned institutions for his execution, receiving the 2020 President Theodore Roosevelt Award – Director Category by the Government Executive Magazine, the 2021 Women Economic Forum – Women of the Decade Award for Community Service, the 2021 Zenit Award by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce, and the 2020 USDA Under Secretary Award for Excellence. In 2022, Rivera was selected as Ideas Fellow of the Aspen Institute, in Aspen, Colorado. In August 2023, graduated from the Excellence in Government Fellow of The Partnership for Public Service, sponsored by SBA. In 2023, the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce awarded SBA the “Institution of the Year” under the leadership of Josue. Mr. Rivera represent SBA to the White House Task Force for Puerto Rico Economic Growth. Mr. Rivera married his college sweetheart Stephanie and lived in Bayamon, PR.