

Oscar Jiménez-Solomon is a researcher and advocate whose work is informed by his personal experience with financial hardship, distress, peer support, and recovery. He has served as Research Scientist at the Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University Medical Center since 2013. Currently, Oscar is Principal Investigator of a study to develop and pilot *From Hardship to Hope*, a peer-led financial wellness intervention to reduce financial hardship and suicide risk. Oscar's research focuses on developing new strategies to improve the financial and emotional wellness of individuals and communities and tackle the mechanisms through which poverty and financial hardship increase psychiatric distress and risk for suicide and worsen racial/ethnic inequities.

Oscar holds a Master's in public health from Columbia University and a bachelor of sociology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Social Policy at Columbia University. Mr. Jiménez-Solomon is a member of the New York State Suicide Prevention Council, Academy of Peer Services Advisory Board, and Board of Directors of the National Disability Institute (NDI). He is also Instructor at the Rutgers University Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Before his current role at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, Oscar served as Director of Community and Economic Development at the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS), where he led We Can Work and We Can Save, two grassroots campaigns aimed at promoting employment and economic self-sufficiency for people with psychiatric conditions. He has authored or co-authored peer-reviewed articles, training manuals, and online training modules on economic empowerment, cultural competence, and language access. He has also authored book chapters, reports, empowerment videos and training manuals in mental and public health in the United States and Latin America.