**Gina Plata-Nino** has devoted much of her early professional life to addressing the many causes of hunger and ensuring that low-income individuals never have to place other needs above feeding themselves or their families.

As a staff attorney at Central West Justice Center in Worcester, Gina Plata-Nino manages the food security project, a partnership of the Worcester County Food Bank. She chairs various anti-hunger coalitions including the inaugural city of Worcester Mayor's Taskforce on Food Security. She works with state and federal agencies to eliminate systemic barriers to food access. She has presented at both state and national conferences on the importance of equity in food security. She utilizes her skills as a vehicle for motivating and supporting lasting changes that bring about social justice and build grassroots leadership in her community.