

Michael Lopez

Data Strategist · Civic Tech & Social Impact

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Data leader who still builds. Six years growing the Child Poverty Action Lab's data function from one analyst to a seven-person team while personally building the Databricks platform, the eviction pipeline, and the spatial models underneath it. I take teams and systems from nothing to running.

■ EXPERIENCE

Child Poverty Action Lab DALLAS, TX · 2020 – PRESENT

- **Director, Data Operations** Jan 2026 – Present
 - Lead CPAL's data platform migration to Databricks (Unity Catalog, Workflows, Lakebase + Lakehouse on AWS, Git-tracked orchestration), systematizing 35–40 pipelines from file-based storage onto unified cloud infrastructure
 - Manage a 6-person external data engineering team via vendor partnership executing the internal data roadmap, alongside one full-time data engineer reporting directly to me
 - Built AI-enabled team workflows (Claude Code with custom skills and agents, prompt caching with the Anthropic API), including multi-agent code review with independent verification, accelerating how we develop pipelines, write documentation, review code, and communicate with stakeholders
 - Maintain the eviction data workstream across four North Texas counties (~48,000 Dallas filings in 2025), feeding 12+ partners daily including the Dallas Eviction Advocacy Center and the Princeton Eviction Lab
- **Director, Data** May 2023 – Dec 2025
 - Built CPAL's data function from the ground up; led hiring for the org's first data engineer and prior analyst roles
 - Led the data org through the CDO transition (Dec 2024 to Dec 2025): set department roadmap, hiring, vendor strategy, and budget, reporting directly to the CTO
 - Directed CPAL's citywide risk terrain modeling through 2024; division-level findings informed Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions deployment and drove blight-remediation site selection and neighborhood amenity construction
 - Modeled Dallas's rental supply gap for CPAL's annual Rental Housing Needs Assessment (2023–2024): a 33,660-unit shortfall at or below 50% AMI, projected to 83,500 by 2030
 - Oversaw a 30+ app R Shiny suite informing decisions across housing, public safety, maternal health, benefits delivery, and criminal justice
 - Evaluated and selected the enterprise tooling stack: Databricks (over Snowflake / dbt-Cloud after a capacity assessment), Claude Enterprise org-wide, vendor data feeds (MySidewalk, DataAxle)
- **Manager, Data** May 2022 – May 2023
 - Ran CPAL's citywide risk terrain modeling on Dallas PD incident data joined to Data Axle property and business records (SIMSI), producing division-level environmental risk surfaces to target place-based violence prevention
 - Led development of R Shiny applications, shifting the organization toward interactive data products
 - Mentored analytics interns; one was subsequently hired as a full-time analyst
- **Associate, Data** Jun 2020 – Apr 2022
 - Created the initial eviction data pipeline in R, laying the groundwork for the system now serving four North Texas counties
 - Built the Community Resource Explorer, indexing community-resource access within two miles of every Dallas school campus to find the least-resourced neighborhoods; helped define disbursement of a \$1.25B bond package
 - Developed dashboards and reports in R, QGIS, Tableau, and ArcGIS for internal teams and community partners

■ **EARLIER LEADERSHIP & POLICY EXPERIENCE**

Health and Social Policy Intern, Children at Risk

Jun 2019 – Aug 2019

Led policy research on early childhood development and developed policy briefs for senior leadership and state stakeholders.

Research Coordinator, University of Texas at Dallas

Aug 2016 – Dec 2018

Managed the Developmental Neurolinguistics Lab; recruited, trained, and supervised 10–15 research assistants each semester and 300+ participants.

■ **SKILLS**

Analysis & Languages

R (tidyverse, sf, Shiny) SQL Python TypeScript

Data Platform

Databricks (Lakehouse + Unity Catalog) PostgreSQL / Neon DuckDB Polars PostGIS
CKAN

Visualization & Geospatial

R Shiny Tableau Mapbox GL Spatial SQL QGIS ArcGIS

AI Workflows

Claude Code (custom skills & agents) Anthropic API Google Cloud Vision (OCR)

Methods

Risk Terrain Modeling Index Construction & PCA Spatial Analysis
Needs Assessment & Supply Modeling

Domains

Housing & Eviction Public Safety Criminal Justice Maternal Health Benefits Delivery
Community Development

■ **EDUCATION**

Master of Public Policy, University of Texas at Dallas

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology & Anthropology, Florida International University

■ **SELECTED PROJECTS**

- **Dallas County Eviction Data.** Daily eviction-filing feed reaching 12+ legal-aid and outreach partners; ~48,000 Dallas filings a year turned into tenant outreach.
- **North Texas Evictions** northtexasevictions.org. Public-facing eviction data transparency dashboard for North Texas.
- **Parcel Block Walking Tool.** Field-outreach tool flagging homes likely missing a homestead exemption; ~20 active field-team users across outreach partners.
- **DigiLab** digilab.cards. Community-sourced tournament data platform for the global Digimon TCG scene; 5,000+ tournaments logged in six months, built and run solo through agentic workflows.

■ **SELECTED MEDIA**

- **The Lab Report:** Data visualizations for Dallas homeless-enforcement and patrol-staffing analyses (2026)
- **D Magazine:** “The Lawyer Who Landlords Don’t Want to See in Court” (2024)
- **KERA News:** “Eviction less likely for Dallas County tenants who get a lawyer” (2024)