



**Advanced Project Management for Continuous Excellence in Public Procurement
(alignment with AEP criteria 18)**

Presenter

Pamela Portocarrero is a Project Leader at Partners for Public Good (PPG), where she works directly with governments to transform procurement policy, process, and practice to better serve communities. She has experience supporting both state and city governments in strengthening their procurement systems and solving operational challenges through her previous work at the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab, where she also conducted a nationwide survey of school districts to improve school food procurement regulations and training. Her previous work includes fundraising and alumni engagement at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, improving college access and success for underserved youth in the states of Utah and Nevada, and working as a community organizer around issues of immigration, public education, and civic engagement.

Pamela holds a Master's in Public Administration from Old Dominion University and dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and International Studies from The University of Utah.

**Summary:**

Public procurement professionals are often responsible for leading complex solicitations and cross-functional initiatives under tight timelines and high expectations. Yet sustaining consistent, high-quality performance over time requires more than basic project management; it demands a disciplined, continuous pursuit of excellence. This highly interactive workshop is designed to help procurement teams build the advanced project management capabilities that enable them to go beyond managing day-to-day workloads to create the space and consistency for continuous improvement initiatives. Participants will practice how to lead people, manage processes, and apply tools in ways that unlock new methods for elevating team performance. The session begins with a focused framing of advanced project management in procurement, including sequencing change initiatives, defining roles, managing dependencies, and proactively mitigating risk. Participants will then work in small groups through a realistic scenario in which a procurement team is aiming to implement an action plan around introducing a new process innovation. Throughout the workshop, facilitators will pause for discussion and reflection, enabling participants to compare approaches, surface lessons learned, and refine strategies. The session concludes with a debrief focused on how to drive continuous improvement across procurement functions. Participants will leave with practical frameworks, tested strategies, and greater confidence in consistently delivering high-quality procurement outcomes.