

**WEBINAR: Cooperatives as a Practice of Community Leadership**  
**August 25, 2022**  
**10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern**

**Panelist Biographies**

**Stepahnie Waters**

*Young Child Wellness Council / Black Warrior  
Community Action Team*

Stephanie Waters has a degree in Psychology, teaching certification in Early Childhood Special Education, and Infant Mental Health Endorsement®. She has worked with infants, toddlers, and their families for over 30 years in a variety of home- and center-based early childhood programs across several states. Stephanie joined Child Development Resources at The University of Alabama in 2019, recently accepting the position of Director of the Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network. She is active in several community organizations promoting equity, inclusivity, and child- and family well-being.



**Darnell Adams (she/her)**

*Firebrand Cooperative*

Darnell Adams is a dynamic leadership coach and business consultant, who has over two decades of experience with non-profit, for profit and cooperative businesses. She has been recognized by Boston Magazine as a “Thought Leader” and part of “Boston’s new power class: the visionaries, idealists and thinkers among us whose insights are transforming the way we live, work, learn, play.” Darnell is a developer and facilitator of strategic plans, special projects and workshops, and provides expertise and training on an array of topics including transformational leadership and understanding implicit bias and power. Darnell holds a Master of Education from



Harvard University, and has presented to large and small groups within industry, city and state government, universities, and media outlets.

Darnell has written several articles about co-op leadership, power, and healing:

- [\*For Food Co-ops, the Future is Now\*](#) (June 2020, [NonProfitQuarterly.org](#))
- [\*What if we owned it?\*](#) (Spring 2022, *NPQ Magazine*)

**Ronda Alexander (Moderator)**

*Director of National Partnerships*

*Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center*

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroitter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.

