

*Webinar: Healing through Community Building and
Birth Equity Advocacy*
May 11, 2023
10-11am Pacific / 1 -2pm Eastern

Featured Speaker Biography

Hallie Nelson

Director, Jefferson County Food Policy Council

Hallie Nelson is a food system practitioner who works collaboratively across sectors to create community -led and equitable solutions. She grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and studied biosystems engineering, sustainability, community and civic engagement, and Spanish at Auburn University.

Hallie now leads the Jefferson County Food Policy Council, which is dedicated to creating a food-secure community with healthy food access for all residents; a vibrant and equitable farming infrastructure; a healthy ecosystem ; and a thriving local food economy. Hallie works alongside local governments, nonprofit organizations, food and farm businesses, residents, and policymakers to foster conversation, coordination, and capacity building with a focus on equity. Prior to joining the Food Policy Council, Hallie worked for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to analyze and develop national eligibility policy for special populations, including college students, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay where she worked alongside community members to develop an agricultural extension youth group. In her free time, Hallie enjoys gardening, knitting, sewing, and weekend road trips to explore nearby parks and food.





Kim Ross (She/her)
Mount Terra, LLC

Kim Ross is an Appalachian native residing in Bluefield, West Virginia. As a passionate resident, she has devoted over a decade to the redevelopment of her rural community. Kim understands the importance and impact food systems have on a healthy community. Since the decline of Bluefield's economy, many food retailers have passed on the opportunity to meet the local demand. This has inspired Kim to rally the community together, and meet their own needs. We are currently working on a small grocer model that connects local consumers with

local/regional food suppliers, while educating the community on the benefits of healthy food options. By focusing on educating the locals on fresh produce and its benefits, this could have a huge impact on combating the health disparities that plague rural Appalachia, African American, and impoverished areas.

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)
Director of National Partnerships
Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center



Ronda Alexander is a native Detroit native 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.