

Alicia Smith
Director, Junction Coalition

Alicia Smith is the cofounder and Director of Junction Coalition, a community organization that started as an opportunity to help the community help themselves through partnering with others to address social, economic, and environmental issues and improve the community's quality of life. During the 2014 Algae Bloom (Outbreak), Junction Coalition was pushed into environmental action. Families were in need of support, information, and education not just for the few days of the crisis but a continuum of support and interaction for safe, clean, and affordable drinking water.



Alicia Smith

Prior to this role, she served as the Executive Director of Youth Commission and Manager of Youth and Manager of Recreation for the City of Toledo. Alicia has served the central city community for over 15 years in a variety of organizations such as the Wayman Palmer YMCA, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) and Grant Fundamentals working with inner-city youth teaching the skills of healing community trauma through improving listening and critical thinking skills. Alicia is focused on skill development and training for community to ensure the success of community workforce and wealth building.

She started her professional career in Detroit as a kindergarten teacher, later serving as a school principal and currently serves on the board of several local, regional and federal organizations such as Healing Our Waters Coalition, Toledo Sister Cities, Lourdes Parent Institute, EPA National Children Protection Advisory Council and The Ohio Equity Table.

Alicia's doctoral studies at the University of Toledo focus on the educational development of youth of color within low socioeconomic and disenfranchised communities. She acquired a Bachelor of Arts in education and counseling, as well as a Master of Arts in criminal justice and juvenile law from the University of Toledo.

Alicia was awarded the [Environmental Justice & Equity Expert Award](#) by the Urban Waters Learning Network in 2020.

Alicia and her family reside in Toledo, Ohio, and she is a proud native of Detroit, Michigan. Alicia's passion flows from her belief that all citizens need information to thrive. As such, she works to build the capacity of each family. She believes that Justice work is not limited to the environment but touches on issues of social and economic justice with the goal of promoting peace, public health, and a better quality of life for all citizens.