

Tai Cooper

Chief Community Development Officer
New Jersey Economic Development Authority

As Chief Community Development Officer at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Tai Cooper is responsible for leading the NJEDA's communications and engagement strategy, which includes guiding the NJEDA's messaging and strengthening ties with policy-makers at the federal, state, and local level. Ms. Cooper joined the NJEDA in February 2019. Previously, she was the Deputy Chief Policy Advisor to Governor Phil Murphy and led New Jersey's federal Opportunity Zone initiative. She previously served as Chief Policy Advisor to Mayor Ras J. Baraka, and also had key roles in both his campaign and transition teams. She began her political career as a Senior Aide to U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg. A Newark resident, Ms. Cooper earned a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University.