What is a cooperative?

Cooperatives (also known as co-ops) are member-owned organizations democratically controlled by individuals or groups who come together for a business or community-oriented purpose. They exist in every industry and range in size from a few owners to thousands.

Only members vote and govern the cooperative. Members can include producers, consumers, organizations, employees or multiple small businesses. Every member/owner gets one equal vote, regardless of how much money the member invests in the business.

A cooperative is different from other business structures because ownership is achieved through participation in the organization, not by purchasing shares on the open market or through a private investment. Typically, co-ops distribute their profits back to owners based on their participation in the business.

Whether formal or informal, they support communities and increase opportunities.
Cooperatives work for:

- Employees who want to own a business.
- Retiring business owners who want to convert to an employee-owned business.
- A group of consumers who want access to food or other products.
- Individuals or businesses who have a concept better pursued as a collective.

We're here to help.

- Explore business ideas.
- Consult on cooperative structures.
- Facilitate cooperative business development.

About Us

The Cooperative Catalyst of New Mexico empowers communities and individuals to create more economic opportunities by catalyzing and fostering local cooperatives.

We serve as a resource for individuals, groups, companies, and other organizations interested in forming, converting to, or growing cooperatives.

We follow a proven process to help cooperatives form, grow, and succeed. We provide training, education, and mentorship and connect current or potential cooperatives to other resource providers, including financing.

Are you ready to be a part of a cooperative? Get started today!

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