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UW CENTER FOR COOPERATIVES ([HTTPS://UWCC.WISC.EDU/](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/))

Fostering critical thinking and understanding about cooperatives.

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START A CO-OP

The cooperative model can be an effective way for people to meet a common set of economic or social needs. Often a cooperative is organized in response to some adversity – individual farmers face falling dairy prices, for example, or a community loses its grocery store. Instead of operating to maximize investment returns, a cooperative operates to maximize member benefit by meeting member needs in a financially sustainable way.

Cooperatives can diversify and strengthen their local economic communities because of their local ownership, control, and operations. Profits tend to remain in the local economy because they are returned to members, or reinvested in the locally based cooperative business. When members patronize their local cooperative, they are supporting employment and business activity in their communities.

Members' active participation in a cooperative can also benefit a community's civic life. The empowering experience of self-determination through cooperation provides a perspective and set of skills that can be applied to other community activities.

NEED HELP?

We have good news! If you are interested in starting a co-op there are a lot of resources that can help.

In Wisconsin

UWCC provides co-op development assistance to businesses in Wisconsin, and is here to answer all your questions about getting started. [Contact us](#) (<mailto:info@uwcc.wisc.edu>) for assistance.

If you are interested in starting a worker cooperative in the greater Madison area, contact the [Madison Cooperative Development Coalition](#) (<http://www.mcdcmadison.org/>).

Outside of Wisconsin

Not located in Wisconsin? There are many [Co-op Development](#)

Check out our Cooperatives 101 Webinar below for a good overview of the cooperative model.



Centers

(<https://uwcc.wiscweb.wisc.edu/co-op-resources/co-op-development-resources/>), across the country that provide co-op development assistance.

LEARN MORE

STEPS TO STARTUP »

([HTTPS://UWCC.WISC.EDU/START-A-CO-OP/STEPS-TO-STARTUP/](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/start-a-co-op/steps-to-startup/))

SUCCESS FACTORS »

([HTTPS://UWCC.WISC.EDU/START-A-CO-OP/SUCCESS-FACTORS/](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/start-a-co-op/success-factors/))

STARTUP RESOURCES »

([HTTPS://UWCC.WISC.EDU/START-A-CO-OP/STARTUP-RESOURCES/](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/start-a-co-op/startup-resources/))

CO-OPS 101 WEBINAR »

([HTTPS://RESOURCES.UWCC.WISC.EDU/START/COOPS_101_WEBINAR.MP4](https://resources.uwcc.wisc.edu/start/coops_101_webinar.mp4))

CO-OP LINKS »

([HTTPS://UWCC.WISC.EDU/CO-OP-LINKS/](https://uwcc.wisc.edu/co-op-links/))



(<http://www.wisc.edu>)

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Map

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 (<https://www.instagram.com/new.coop.love/>)

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