



Cooperative Development Foundation

CDF envisions a future where all people can address their needs, pursue their aspirations, build shared wealth, and thrive in community.

Explore opportunities to partner with us to cultivate the cooperative leaders of the future, strengthen the national co-op support system, and demonstrate the power of cooperative economies.



Principle 7: Concern for Community



cdf.coop | heroes.coop | info@cdf.coop | 202-383-5440 | [@coopfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/coopfoundation)

Our Strategic Framework



Cross-Sector Outreach & Leadership Development

We **engage** and **build** the capacity of new, diverse cooperators, including young people and people in adjacent movements, and offer cross-sector training and leadership development.



National Co-op Support System

We **strengthen** and **align** co-op support organizations – such as researchers, funders, and developers – to ensure cooperatives can access actionable knowledge, non-extractive capital, and high-quality education and technical assistance.



Place-Based Demonstration

Through local demonstrations, we **learn** what it takes to create robust and connected cooperative economies, and we **spread** the resulting models to other communities.

Save these dates

January 31	Cooperative Education Fund winter cycle applications are due for event sponsorship and scholarship requests only
February 2	Cooperative Leaders and Scholars fellowship applications are due Research grant applications for Unsung Cooperative Heroes are due
February 9	Cooperative Development Fund applications are due
February 16	Preferred vendor and professional development scholarships applications are due
April 18 – May 1	Co-op 5k virtual race
May 1	Cooperative Education Fund spring cycle applications are due
May 2	Co-op 5k Washington, DC race
September 11	Cooperative Hall of Fame nominations due for 2027
October 1	Cooperative Education Fund fall cycle applications are due
October 8	Cooperative Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony

Grants



Cooperative Education Fund

A Project of CDF

The **Cooperative Education Fund** supports cooperative research, sponsors cooperative education events and scholarships, and develops education materials and programs.

This Fund has three grant cycles with due dates on **January 31** (event sponsorship and scholarship requests only), **May 1**, and **October 1**.

Total amount: \$140,000

Grants up to \$10k with a maximum of \$3,500 for event sponsorship and scholarship requests.



Cooperative Development Fund

A Project of CDF

The **Cooperative Development Fund** supports cooperative development, research, and technical assistance.

In 2026, the Fund seeks to support organizations making broad impact through partnerships and replicable models in areas tied to immediate community needs: **affordable housing** (limited equity housing co-ops), **good jobs** (worker co-ops), **and healthy food** (food co-ops).

Applications are due on **February 9**.

Total amount: \$160,000

Grants range from \$20k – \$30k.



Unsung Cooperative Heroes

A Project of CDF

CDF's Cooperative Education Fund will offer **Unsung Heroes** grants to individuals interested in conducting research to identify and provide documentation for nominations of individuals from overlooked or marginalized groups whose work and achievements in advancing cooperatives have gone unrecognized.

Applications are due on **February 2**. If awarded, the research is due on **September 14**.

Total amount: \$7,500

Grants for up to \$2,500.

Scholarships



Cooperative
Leaders &
Scholars
A Project of **CDF**

The **Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS)** fellowship provides cross-sector leadership development and builds professional networks for new and emerging cooperative leaders and scholars. This 8-month fellowship provides opportunities to participate in multi-sector programming and events, and to engage with thought leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders. This community empowers and trains its fellows to build a more inclusive economy in North America, together.

Applications are due on **February 2**. Applicants will be notified of their status by February 16.

Total awards: 15 – 20

The fellowship will be available to a maximum of 20 people with up to five slots for organizations that would like to sponsor a qualifying fellow.

National Home Care Cooperative Conference Scholarships

CDF offers scholarships to home care cooperative workers to attend the annual National Home Care Cooperative Conference. Scholarships cover the costs of conference registration, travel, room and board, and lost wage stipends for qualifying home care cooperative members. After nine years of stewardship of the conference, CDF has passed the baton to Elevate and the ICA Group to continue this good work. The 10th annual conference will take place **October 19–21, 2026 in Tacoma, Washington**. Scholarship applications will be launched in the early spring. To ensure you or your cooperative receive scholarship announcements please email Brook Bernini, at: bbernini@icagroup.org to be added to the conference communications list.

Total amount: \$40,000

Contact Brook Bernini at bbernini@icagroup.com for more information on how to apply.

Co-op Development



Preferred Vendor Program

CDF **expands access** to specialized, community-informed technical assistance for **rural cooperatives and groups** exploring cooperative formation that can be directed in response to emerging momentum and opportunity throughout the year. CDF will identify, vet, and contract with trusted development practitioners who possess both technical expertise and long-standing ties to rural communities.

Total amount: \$80,000

Up to four awards to cooperative development centers working on projects that strengthen rural communities.

Professional Development Scholarships

CDF allocates resources to ensure that **cooperative developers** have the opportunity to attend national and regional cooperative education events to strengthen their ability to **meet the needs of rural co-ops and communities**.

Total amount: \$30,000

Scholarships available to cooperative developers serving rural communities. The number of awards is dependent on the activity with a maximum of \$2,500 per scholarship.

This work is supported by the Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Current CDF partners under RCDG are ineligible for these opportunities.

Events



This fun and family-friendly race supports CDF's cooperative development and education work while honoring cooperative hero, Chuck Snyder, whose **Do Well to Do Good** mantra continues to inspire. The Co-op 5K is one of the ways CDF celebrates, promotes, and strengthens the cooperative identity. Every year, people come together with the spirit of Cooperative Principles 6 and 7 - Cooperation Among Cooperatives and Concern for Community - to help CDF raise money for continued co-op capacity building across the country.

Registration will open in **January**.

Virtual: April 18 - May 1

Washington, DC: May 2



Cooperative
Hall of Fame

The **Cooperative Hall of Fame** honors distinguished individuals whose contributions to the cooperative business have been genuinely heroic. Join us in Washington, DC as we celebrate our newest co-op heroes - Margaret Bau, Fannie Lou Hamer, Crystal Long, Kevin Still, and Michael Toelle.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets **available now**.

It's not too early to think about the 2027 heroes. To learn more about the nomination process, visit heroes.coop.

Save the date: October 8 in Washington, DC

Other Events to Build Capacity

CDF will host other events in 2026 that bring together key cooperative support organizations.

Let us know if you would like to participate as we engage with cooperative grant makers, lenders, researchers, developers and educators.

Sign up: Indicate your interest in receiving more information.