

Guidelines for MADISON COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT COALITION Grant Program

May 21, 2017

The Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC) is a collaborative of community-based organizations, labor unions and cooperative developers. MCDC works to support the growth and creation of worker cooperatives, specifically addressing the factors affecting local communities of color, low wealth and traditionally excluded workforces. The goal is to create a sustainable system that will combat poverty, empower workers and increase equity in order to strengthen Madison's long-term economic health.

The goal of the mini-grant program is to address our goal by building the capacity of community-based organizations to help create and support cooperatives. We're looking for creative initiatives that will support these objectives. These are some of the types of initiatives that could receive funding:

- Support for community organizing to identify potential cooperative groups
- Workshop and education program development
- Support for integrating the cooperative model into existing business or entrepreneurship training programs.
- Support for staff training and capacity building to help organize cooperatives
- Support for providing assistance to cooperative start-up groups.

Amount available: up to \$10,000 (Please note that we may not be able to offer this grant twice to the same organization)

Application timeline: This is a rolling horizon grant. We will review applications as they are submitted and may have follow-up questions. We will notify applicants of their status in a timely manner. Our goal is to communicate within 6 weeks or less of receiving the application.

Eligibility criteria:

Applicant must be a Madison-based organization, involved in direct service, advocacy and/or community organizing. The applicant does not need to have experience organizing cooperatives, but must have signed a partnership agreement with the Madison Cooperative Development Coalition.

The organization must meet at least one of these criteria:

- Organized as a 501(c)3, a 501(c)4 or a cooperative
- Sponsored by a 501(c)3
- An initiative undertaken by at least 3 unrelated individuals**

Grant requirements:

- Organizational information: name, address, contact person

- Describe the mission and vision of the organization.
- Describe experience and expertise that is relevant to this program.
- Explicitly describe how this grant will increase the capacity of the organization to develop cooperatives.
- Describe how these grant funds will be used, and where they will be used.
- Estimate the impact of the grant, with at least 3 expected outcomes that relate to building organizational capacity to help create and support cooperatives.
- Include a budget for spending the funds and a timeline for completing the work.
- Project start and end date
- Agree to reporting and evaluation requirements
- ** 2 letters of support (required from initiatives undertaken by at least 3 unrelated individuals)

If you would like to apply, please send a document with the above requirements to MCDC coalition member, Anne Reynolds, UW Center for Cooperatives, 608-263-4775 or anne.reynolds@wisc.edu. Also feel free to contact Anne if you have any questions.

Process to distribute grant funds

- Send an email to the coalition partners with mini-grant RFP and partnership agreement attached.
- Date due: accepting applications ongoing (rolling horizon)
- Form a committee to review applications and make recommendations to the Steering Committee
- Create scoring system using grant criteria and review applications
- Make initial decisions; goal to have 1-2 grants initially funded