Interested in starting a cooperative business?
MCDC is here to help!

MCDCmadison.org

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.

We connect you with the resources you need to start a new worker cooperative.

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“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

African Proverb

About MCDC

The Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC) is the City of Madison’s initiative to form worker cooperatives that address income inequality and racial disparities by creating living-wage and union jobs. We are a collaborative of community-based organizations, labor unions, and cooperative developers.

What is a worker cooperative?

A worker co-op is a business that is owned and controlled by its workers. A co-op is operated to benefit its members, not to maximize profit for outside investors. Worker-owners democratically control their co-op by exercising voting rights that come with membership. The co-op model can be an effective way for people to address their own economic needs while diversifying and strengthening their local community.

Want to start a worker cooperative?

MCDC will connect you to the resources you need.

◆ Mini-grants up to $10,000 to cover assistance, development, and outreach
◆ Education on the worker-cooperative model
◆ Support from our peer network
◆ Business planning, legal, and other technical assistance via MCDC, the UW Center for Cooperatives, and our network of preferred providers
◆ Connect to local organizations and unions for training, benefits, and resources from local organizations and labor unions
◆ Start-up capital and financing through our lending partners

Are you a community-based organization?

MCDC can help integrate co-op development into your work.

◆ Access mini-grants up to $30,000 to participate in coop development
◆ Staff training and capacity building to assist co-op start-ups
◆ Community organizing and outreach to identify potential new co-ops or convert existing businesses to co-ops
◆ Participating in co-op education and MCDC program development
◆ Access or organize targeted workshops for your community

MCDC scholarship awardees from Centro Hispano and Freewheel Bikes at Cooperations Works! - Training in 2017

MCDC and Cooperation Jackson at Cooperation Works! - Training in 2016