

**Interested in starting a  
cooperative business?**

**MCDC is here to help!**



**Building Community Pathways Together**



[MCDcmadison.org](http://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.



Madison Cooperative  
Development Coalition - MCDC



@MCD4Coops

---

**CONTACT**

Charity Schmidt, MCDC Coordinator  
[charity.schmidt@wisc.edu](mailto:charity.schmidt@wisc.edu) | 608-262-5905



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



**"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.



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

## 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 co-op 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 and Cooperation Jackson at Cooperation Works! - Training in 2016