



Pathways to Worker Ownership

Worker-owned cooperatives – businesses that are owned and operated by their workers — are a critical strategy in building community control and community wealth. Worker cooperatives create quality jobs, are democratically run, and build wealth among those who build a business' value – the workers. Across the world worker cooperatives prove to be scalable and competitive in the marketplace. They are more productive than conventional companies, more resilient in times of crisis, and are a key factor in generating economic opportunity and growing communities centered in equity and democracy.

Financially Supporting Worker Cooperatives

Legislators at all levels of government can play a key role in supporting worker cooperatives:

- Invest in local financial support for worker coops, including revolving loan funds, loan guarantees, and grant programs for both worker cooperative businesses and the technical assistance providers to serve them.
- Develop state-level financial support to amplify the effects of local support.
- Allocate a percentage of funding from the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program for worker-cooperative development.
- Give workers a right of first refusal to buy businesses that are put up for sale or threatened with closure
- Provide student loan forgiveness for individuals employed at a worker cooperative.

Why it Matters

Worker cooperatives have the potential to meet the needs of a small business sector where a large percentage of owners are retiring. Local, state, and federal business loan funds and technical assistance grants can help ensure that local businesses do not close, even as the business owners retire.



Learn more at www.peopleseconomy.org

A project of the New Economy Coalition

