



2025 Impact Summary

In the midst of so many struggles for justice globally, nationally, and at home in Buffalo, we are reminded that in order for change to happen, and in order for the working class to have a stake in our future, we must give workers and communities ownership of that future.

Cooperation Buffalo works every day to expand ownership opportunities for Western New York workers and neighbors. We **train, support, and fund worker-owned and community-owned cooperative enterprises** in underserved communities and with working class people because we all deserve **an economy that puts people first**—one that prioritizes good jobs, economic stability, and community needs above profit.

In 2025 we deployed **\$360,000 in new loan capital** to local cooperatives, including the worker co-op Farmer Pirates Compost to support their expansion, hire new workers, and purchase new vehicles. We assisted new, existing, and prospective cooperatives with **over 550 hours of technical assistance**. We welcomed 36 new co-op entrepreneurs and advocates to Buffalo State University for our annual Cooperative Changemakers Fellowship, and **trained over 200 individuals** through public workshops, teach-ins, and in-depth co-op worker training.

We hosted the second annual **Co-op Fest**, where co-ops and solidarity economy organizations joined together with 100+ guests to enjoy and envision the magic of a cooperative economy. This year we began the tradition of celebrating the co-op community's successes with the **Co-op Movement Awards**. In 2025, we recognized Extra Extra Pizza with the Living into Our Values Award for their embodiment of Principle 7 of the Cooperative Principles, "Concern for Community."

There are no shortcuts to building real worker and community power. Changing our economic paradigm from oligarchy to **shared ownership, community control, and economic democracy** is going to take all of us, whatever we have to offer, each day. Whether you're able to join our growing community of monthly donors, or to support us with a one-time gift, please help us continue to invest in the entrepreneurs and changemakers that are building an economy that works for all.



COOPERATION BUFFALO

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Cooperative Development

23	New co-op entrepreneurs & teams received technical assistance in 2025
60	Workers supported through funding or technical assistance provided to their cooperatives in 2025
550+	Hours of technical assistance provided to cooperative businesses in 2025
175+	Total co-op entrepreneurs and teams that have received technical assistance since 2016
13	Total new cooperatives that have launched with our support since 2016



Cooperative Lending

\$360K	New lending to cooperative businesses in Western New York in 2025
\$1.4M	Total non-extractive loans made to cooperative businesses in Western New York since 2016



Cooperative Entrepreneurship Education

200+	New individuals trained through public workshops, teach-ins, and in-depth co-op worker training
225	Total co-op entrepreneurs and advocates completed Cooperative Changemakers Fellowship and Cooperative Academy trainings in 7 years: 56% BIPOC participants and 68% women, trans, and nonbinary participants



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