

COMING SPRING 2027
DEVELOPMENT CO+OP UNIVERSITY

Your vision. Your community. Your co-op.

Development Co+operative University (DC U) is a seven-month hybrid program that turns community ownership from a vision into a viable plan. You'll build your business development skills through webinars and guided training and have your business concept reviewed by industry experts.

What you can expect:

- **Expert business concept review** – industry professionals help you strengthen your Business Concept
- **Business training** – webinars and self-directed activities covering the essential feasibility components of food co-op development
- **Introduction to National Co+op Grocers (NCG)** – identify the path to NCG membership
- **One-on-one guidance** – personalized technical assistance throughout the duration of the program and beyond
- **Startup peer network** – connect with peers, NCG staff, and existing food co-ops who have walked the path you're on

Questions? Contact Allanah Hines at startup@ncg.coop

Development cooperative

PARTICIPANTS LEARN:

- Governance Basics
- Market & Financial Feasibility
- Site & Community Feasibility
- Stabilization
- NCG Membership Requirements

APPLICATIONS OPEN: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

COHORT BEGINS: MARCH 15, 2027

Six Monthly Virtual Sessions + One In-person Gathering with Co-op Tours

PROGRAM COST: $2,400 PER CO-OP (UP TO 3 PARTICIPANTS)

PROGRAM DATES: MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2027

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