

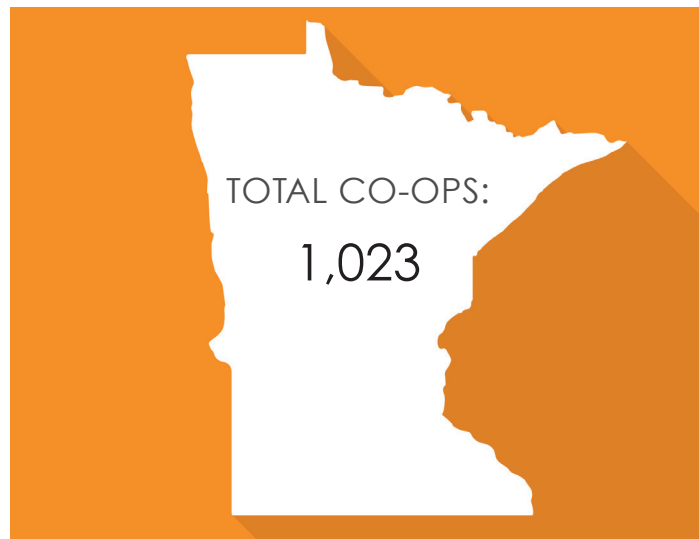
MINNESOTA

ASSETS: **\$90 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$34 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **3.4 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **46,000**



MINNESOTA CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Minnesota are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

MISSISSIPPI MARKET NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

Mississippi Market has been building community wealth in St. Paul since 1979. The food co-op purchases half its goods from local farmers, producers and Minnesota-owned businesses and pays 100 percent of its eligible employees St. Paul's living wage.

SHARED CAPITAL COOPERATIVE

Minneapolis-based Shared Capital is a national loan fund and federally certified Community Development Financial Institution that fosters economic diversity by investing in co-ops to create wealth in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities.



MINNESOTA TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

HOUSING: **305**

AGRICULTURE: **233**

CREDIT UNIONS: **163**

UTILITY: **64**

FOOD: **56**

INSURANCE: **55**

ELECTRIC: **44**

ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

HOUSING CO-OPS TRANSFORM MINNESOTA LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

The residents of a manufactured housing community in Fairmont, Minnesota, recently joined the ranks of about 1,000 other such communities around the country by purchasing their community.

Resident-members of Five Lakes Cooperative worked together to form a Minnesota cooperative corporation, an entity owned and controlled by its homeowner members. Cooperative members, represented in day-to-day decision-making by an elected Board of Directors, will run the 94-site community for their mutual benefit. This new resident-owned community is the latest such cooperative among many emerging across the Upper Midwest.

"This has been an amazing experience," said Kendall Gray, interim president of the Five Lakes Cooperative. "As a group, we're committed to owning and managing our community successfully. There are so many people who live in this community with so much to contribute. We're so happy to have taken this step of taking control."

Northcountry Cooperative Foundation (NCF) supported residents' efforts to organize a new cooperative corporation, provided governance support and training, supported the housing



Residents celebrate the creation of the Elmwood Homeowners Cooperative. Resident-owned communities (ROCs) like this are making home ownership affordable for rural Americans, especially in the Upper Midwest. NCBA CLUSA member ROC USA has now built a network of 10,000 secure and affordable homes in 14 states.

co-op's transaction-related due diligence and helped the co-op secure financing from a national lender. NCF is a ROC USA® Certified Technical Assistance Provider (CTAP), a member of a professional network of nonprofits that perform community development nationwide.

"Five Lakes Cooperative residents have better secured their futures by taking over ownership and control of their community," said NCF Executive Director Warren Kramer. "Residents now enjoy the pride and security that comes with ownership, which delivers important social and economic benefits to these community members."

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NCBA CLUSA
The National Cooperative Business Association • CLUSA International

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