

PENNSYLVANIA

ASSETS: **\$29 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$500 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **3.6 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **14,500**

TOTAL CO-OPS:

809

PENNSYLVANIA CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

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

PHILADELPHIA AREA COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (PACA)

PACA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to growing a vibrant cooperative economy in Pennsylvania and building a movement for economic justice.

EAST END FOOD CO-OP

East End is Pittsburgh's only member-owned natural and organic foods grocery store, striving to bring healthy food to the community, build consumer ownership and participation in the city and region.



NCBA CLUSA member East End Food Co-op ensures money stays in the local economy by prioritizing locally-produced goods and encourages its members to support local small businesses through its Community Partners Program.

PENNSYLVANIA TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **604**

AGRICULTURE: **44**

UTILITY: **41**

INSURANCE: **40**

HOUSING: **21**

ELECTRIC: **16**

HEALTHCARE: **11**

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.

PHILADELPHIA AREA CO-OP ALLIANCE RECEIVES \$25,000 USDA GRANT

The Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA) was awarded a \$25,000 grant in October 2015 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the feasibility of forming a purchasing co-op to better serve local food co-ops and producers.

The purchasing co-op would facilitate buying, warehousing and distributing local food and would make it easier for Philadelphia's co-ops to buy more local food. Currently, many producers within 150 miles of Philadelphia are unable to sell their products at food co-ops in the Philadelphia area because of delivery limitations, limits on storage and lengthy vendor approval processes.

A purchasing co-op would be an excellent tool to boost local food production and distribution. Through a purchasing co-op, local food producers could sell more of their products in a large, urban market and the food co-ops would receive better prices on those products by buying in bulk.

Currently, the combined sales of Philadelphia-area Weavers Way Co-op, Mariposa Food Co-op, Creekside Co-op and Swarthmore Co-op total \$37 annually. Between 25 and 30 percent of these co-ops' total sales are from local products. PACA has



Above: members of NCBA CLUSA member the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance. "Co-ops are propelled by real people who are also your neighbors, friends and family. Being a co-op means we are accountable to our whole community," they said in a recent co-op profile published by NCBA CLUSA.

estimated that a centralized purchasing, warehousing and delivery option would allow food co-ops to increase their local sales by at least 10 percent.

After its initial years of operation, the purchasing co-op could expand to serve two other food co-ops outside Philadelphia, along with five start-up co-ops. In total, the purchasing co-op could serve 11 independent food co-ops in the Philadelphia area, with potential annual purchasing co-op sales as high as \$65 million.

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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