



PRESENTS...

Cooperatives = Community Development

How cooperative business models can contribute to sustainable economic development in Minnesota

When: Friday, November 8, 2013, 8:30am – 4:30pm (reception to follow)

Where: Thrivent Financial, 625 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

Why: For over 150 years, cooperatively owned businesses have been a vibrant part of Minnesota's economy, strengthening our local communities, creating jobs, and building wealth equitably for people throughout the state. Yet, despite their impressive track record of creating social and economic capital in multiple ways, cooperatives remain little understood and largely untapped as a strategy for community and economic development.

This one-day conference will begin to address that gap by providing a practical introduction to cooperatives. Attendees will see how cooperative enterprises are being used in the region to meet local needs, retaining and growing community wealth and jobs, and creating economic vitality. Attendees will also come away with connections to regional resources and expertise that can support new and existing cooperative enterprises in their communities.

Who should attend:

- Community and economic development professionals
- Local and regional policymakers and public managers
- Community organizers and social justice advocates
- Community and cooperative entrepreneurs
- Others with an interest in strategies for building a more sustainable economy.

Registration Cost: \$45/person (includes lunch);
Students and professionals under 30, \$20/person or pay what you can afford.

Online registration: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Sponsors:

- Thrivent Financial / Brightpeak Financial Services
- Cooperative Development Services, Inc.
- Northcountry Cooperative Foundation

Cooperatives Community Development

How cooperative business models can contribute to sustainable economic development in Minnesota

November 8, 2013 | Thrivent Financial, 625 4th Ave S., Minneapolis, MN | www.cominnesota.coop

8:00 – 8:30am

Registration

Morning:

- **Introduction to Minnesota's Cooperative Economy**
- **Cooperatives and Sustainable Economic Development**
- **Cooperative Community Development Snapshots**
- **Breakout Discussions**

11:30 – 12:30pm

LUNCH

- **Informal Table Talks, topics TBD**

Afternoon:

Planned Breakout Sessions:

- *Senior Housing Co-ops: Building Opportunities for Aging in Place*
- *Manufactured Home Parks: Creating Affordable and Stable Homeownership through Conversion to Co-op Ownership*
- *Food Co-ops: Community Ownership as a Strategy to Meet Local Grocery Needs*
- *Co-op Conversions: Retaining Local Businesses through Employee Ownership Strategies*
- *Co-op Financing Nuts and Bolts*
- *Cooperatives and Community Investment*

Open Space Session

- *Small group discussions on various topics, TBD*

Wrap-up and Closing Reception

Speakers:

- Mark Ritchie, *Minnesota Secretary of State*
- Chris Kopka, *Vice-President, brightpeak financial*

Workshop presenters and Table Talk hosts:

- Christina Jennings, *Executive Director, Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund*
- Dennis Johnson, *Board Chair, Senior Cooperative Foundation*
- Warren Kramer, *Executive Director, Northcountry Cooperative Foundation*
- Margaret Lund, *Principal, Co-opera Co.*
- Stuart Reid, *Executive Director, Food Co-op Initiative*
- Leslie Watson, *Board Member, Northeast Investment Cooperative*

"In recent years community developers have seen a surge in interest in collaborative ways of doing business, including cooperatives, but they don't always have the training and experience to know how to support these efforts. This conference couldn't be more timely or welcome for those of us interested in how to bring the cooperative model into the community development toolbox." –Kristin Guild, Minneapolis CPED Business Development Manager.

Agenda and speakers are subject to change.