

Our Mission

We work for economic, social, and racial justice by advancing community-based, cooperative, and democratically owned or managed enterprises with a preference for assisting cooperatives in low-income communities by:

- providing financial products at reasonable rates
- developing business skills
- offering an investment opportunity that promotes socially conscious enterprise

Our Vision

Economic justice for all through thriving cooperative enterprises

What Is a Cooperative? A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Values: Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.

Principles: Cooperatives embrace the principles of voluntary open membership, democratic owner control, owner economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community.

Visit us online at

www.coopfund.coop

to find links to our borrowers, access our loan application, request our prospectus, and learn more about cooperatives.

**PO Box 970
Watertown, MA 02471**

Send Us Your Feedback!

This issue is all about growth! As we continue to grow as an organization, we want to make sure our internal structures and operations are aligned with that growth. Some of that will reflect in how we communicate, what we communicate, and when. Our new name and branding rolled out in 2022 and you will continue to see more communications changes begin to take shape throughout 2023.

Holding true to our values, we want this growth process to unfold with ease and open communication. With that said, we created an online form for you to share your newsletter comments with us. We look forward to hearing from you!

Type this URL into your browser address bar, or scan the QR code to access the form:
<https://bit.ly/CFNE-news-feedback>



Loans Approved and Funded



Jamal's Logo

Jamal's Daycare Cooperative | Lewiston, ME | Financing for Culturally Appropriate Childcare

Lewiston is home to 6,000 immigrants – that's 16% of the city's population. The Lewiston-Auburn neighborhood has the highest density of children in the State and the lack of culturally appropriate child care limits all parents in a household from working full-time. Jamal's Daycare Cooperative is a childcare center in the early stage of development in Lewiston. It is 100%-owned by a Somali-American group of women keen to share their heritage, as they help children develop and be ready to learn in

kindergarten. Jamal's Daycare plans to serve the needs of parents working both first and second shifts and plans to open summer 2023.

Need for Funding: Building and land purchase, renovations, furniture and equipment, working capital, launch costs

Funding Provided: \$600,000 loan from CEI (with CFNE being a participating lender). Jamal's Daycare will be applying for \$80,000 through Maine's Child Care Infrastructure Grant Program and is seeking to raise \$200,000 via crowdfunding: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jamals-daycare-childcare-center-launch>

Jamal's TA Team: Cooperative Development Institute (CDI), Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) Child Care Business Lab, Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network, and the Somali-Bantu Sustainable Livelihoods Relief Organization (SLRO) support agency

RLMG, Inc. | Watertown, MA | Line of Credit for a Recent Conversion

RLMG, Inc. is an employee-owned digital media company committed to enhancing interaction, enjoyment, and inclusion in public spaces. This already strong, profitable team (average sales grossing over \$4 million annually) transitioned to worker-ownership in April 2022, with over 90% of its 35-person staff joining as co-op members.

The selling owner will remain with the company for the next few years to assist with management and a smooth transition to the 4-person general management team.

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Cooperators,

Our annual appeal ended with a large donation that helped us to exceed our fundraising goal by over 20% putting a final stamp of success on our 2022! Driven by our racial equity goals, we continue to expand our financing work (loan portfolio grew by 8%), launch new learning programs, and invest in our workplace to ensure that as we grow, all staff continue to feel valued, engaged, and excited.

For 2023, we've set our sights on connecting more deeply with investors, donors, and future supporters. This spring, we will host a series of virtual and in-person events to create opportunities for us to engage with each other in ways that go beyond the exchange of dollars. We hope that through these engagements, supporters will get the information they need, connect more to the cooperative ecosystem, and deepen their excitement to grow with us in ways that make sense for where they are in their own investor journey.

Finally, we are seeking people interested in serving on CFNE's board and committees. While active recruitment will begin in the spring, eager supporters are encouraged to reach out to Marilyn Scholl at marilynscholl@gmail.com.

In cooperation,
Bonnie Hudspeth
Kimberly R. Lyle
Micha Josephy

THE DRIVERS CO-OP | FEATURING ELF

New York, NY – Our FIRST Equity-Like Disbursement



The Drivers Cooperative (TDC) is a driver-owned immigrant-led ride-sharing company in New York City. They launched in 2020 to improve working conditions for drivers, over 90% of whom are immigrants. The cooperative is one of several recent “platform cooperatives” that brings economic democracy goals into the digital economy. The project builds

upon worker-owned taxi organizing in Wisconsin, California, Virginia, Texas, and Colorado, and upon organizing work by the Independent Drivers Guild.

With no track record, no collateral, and a strategy that required a long runway to scale, finding enough start-up capital for the cooperative has been a huge challenge.

In New York City alone, there are 50,000 daily rideshare drivers. Many of these drivers are independent contractors for more than one platform simultaneously. To date, **The Drivers Cooperative has signed up more than 8,000 drivers.**

Scan the QR code or go to our website to read the full story of TDC and how CFNE's ELF (Equity-Like Financing) is helping to support their growth:



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

New Loan Record!

Loaned over \$10M to 47 different co-ops in the region; 25 of them were new borrowers.



New Programs

Launched the Co-op Navigators Fellowship and Equity Like Financing (ELF).



Co-Lending

Eight of our loans were co-lending relationships with partners across the region.



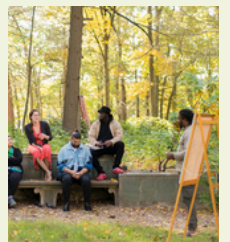
Diversifying Portfolio

20% of new borrowers were BIPOC and over 50% were women.



Workshops

Presented 32 workshops on key co-op business skills to over 150 entrepreneurs.



Growing Team

Four new people joined CFNE's staff. Three of those positions were newly created.



LOAN PROGRESS REPORT

	2022	Since inception
Loans disbursed	94	1,259
Dollars disbursed	\$10,623,021	\$ 87,089,691
Loan loss	0	1.13%
Loans repaid	\$ 4,686,647	98.87%
Average loan	\$ 289,568	\$ 101,342
Smallest loan	\$ 50,000	\$ 400
Largest loan	\$ 1,200,000	\$1,938,307
Jobs created/retained	909	17,251
Affordable housing units created/retained	816	8,396

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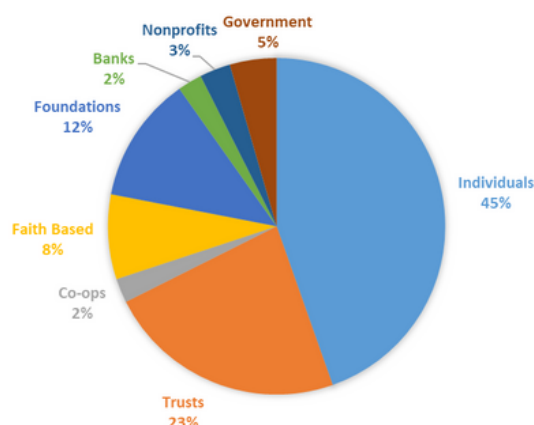
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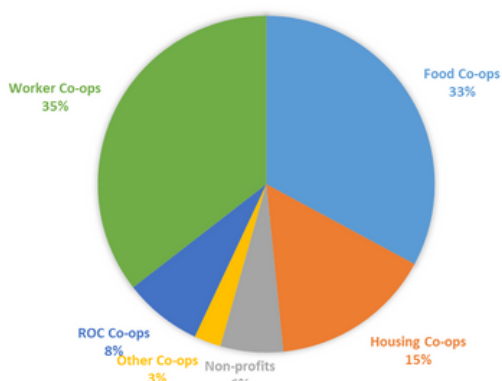
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INVESTMENT SOURCES BY INVESTMENT AMOUNT



LOAN PORTFOLIO BY LOAN AMOUNT



MEET THE NAVIGATOR FELLOWS



We recently published a blog article introducing the Co-op Navigator fellows. Since October 2022, fellows have been working with their assigned Host Site to develop a cooperative project identified by their community. By the end of the fellowship, fellows will have built their projects up to eligibility for early-stage financing.

Scan the QR code to take you to the full blog article on the CFNE website:



The Cooperative Fund of the Northeast (CFNE) is a regional nonprofit community loan fund, serving cooperatives and community-based nonprofits. Founded in 1975 by co-op activists and social investors to provide financial assistance to food cooperatives, CFNE now offers loans and technical assistance to a wide range of co-ops and nonprofit groups.

We serve borrowers and partners from offices in various locations across New England and NY State. CFNE is a U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



CFNE FUNDING THE FUTURE

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Loans Approved and Funded, cont'd

Because of the conversion, RLMG is now majority woman-owned.

Need for Funding: Hire new employees and contractors to sustain increased sales and prepare for projected project levels

Funding Provided: \$300,000 Line of Credit

RLMG's TA Team: Cooperative Fund of the Northeast (CFNE), ICA Group, and Massachusetts Center for Employee Ownership (MassCEO)

Midnight Oil Collective | Branford, CT | Early-stage funding for cooperative arts

Midnight Oil Collective (MOC) is a venture studio that incubates, accelerates, and invests in arts and entertainment ventures. It's a new kind of worker-owned cooperative that gives artists the opportunity to buy into the collective with creative capital rather than financial capital. The artists in the collective decide which artists are enrolled into the programs. This framework gives artists from historically marginalized communities easier access to participate. Cultural equity and diversifying the arts is a priority in New Haven, so MOC is well-positioned to be a resource for culturally diverse artists both locally and nationally.



Need for Funding: Start-up operating costs while the co-op establishes their revenue sources. Funding will help to cover two full-time employees and seven part-time employees

Funding Provided: \$150,000 Line of Credit | **MOC's TA Team:** Cela Innovation, AmbitioUS

Want to learn more about the co-ops we're highlighting in this issue and other loans we've approved? We're exploring ways that we can bring you more relevant stories (and maybe even sharing them more frequently). Have thoughts on this? Scan the QR code on page 1.