

Pre Cooperative Work: Resources and Community Connections

Land Acknowledgement

We want to take a moment to acknowledge those who came before us, and original stewards of the land on which we stand. Here in the Twin Cities, we are gathering on the ancestral and occupied territory of the Dakota people, the Ojibwe and Anishinaabe peoples, past, present, and future.

By offering this acknowledgment, we commit to disrupting the on-going violence of colonization and genocide, and we affirm and celebrate the existence, rights, and sovereignty of Native nations in Minnesota and beyond.

We invite you to drop in the chat which lands you are calling in from – if you aren't sure, here is a link to find out whose land you are on:

<https://native-land.ca>

Labor Acknowledgement

In addition to naming the stewards of this land. It is also important to acknowledge the stolen labor, life and humanity of Enslaved Africans and their descendants, who built the foundation of these United States.

We owe much of what we know of this country today, including its culture, economic growth, and development throughout history and across time, to those who suffered greatly under chattel slavery, and Jim Crow.

By offering this acknowledgement, we commit to disrupting the on-going violence of anti-blackness and racism, and we affirm the need for redress and reparations.

In that spirit, we want to offer a link to an amazing Black housing co-op that you can learn more about and donate to directly called [Yo Mama's House](#)

Today's Agenda

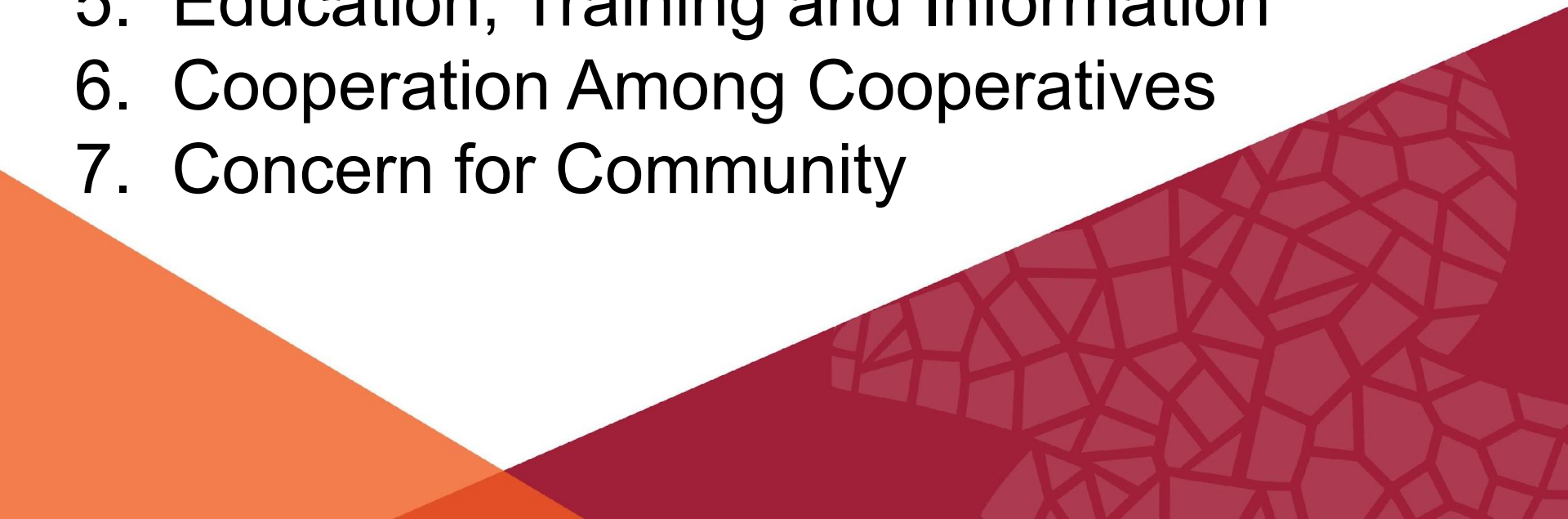
1. Quick Check in on Last Week
2. Cooperative Principles
3. Defining Technical Assistance
4. TA Resource Overview
5. Funding Resource Overview
6. Questions
7. Next week overview
8. Reference Reboot

Introduction

Nexus Community Partners supports strong, equitable and just communities in which all residents are engaged, are recognized as leaders and have pathways to opportunities. We believe the key to building more engaged and powerful communities of color lies in the connections between authorship, leadership, and ownership.



7 Co-op Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
 2. Democratic Member Control
 3. Members' Economic Participation
 4. Autonomy and Independence
 5. Education, Training and Information
 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
 7. Concern for Community
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- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide. It consists of overlapping geometric shapes in shades of orange and red. One shape is a solid orange triangle pointing towards the bottom left. Another is a solid red shape pointing towards the bottom right. A third, larger red shape overlaps them, featuring a white geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming a mesh or honeycomb-like structure.

Defining Technical Assistance

1. **Geographic** - There are no National/Federal Cooperative laws governing the structure of cooperatives directly. Cooperatives are incorporated at the state level. So, when looking at Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, it is important to know the guidelines for your state.
2. **Start up focused** - a majority of TA resources available are designed to assist with initial stages of business planning, developing pro formas and 1-3 years of projections. It is important to build out a peer network of existing co-operators for better understanding of how to build mid to long term success
3. **Free Resources** - there are many many resources available online to answer questions about design/structure and existing cooperatives that your work can be modeled after. Check the list at the end of this presentation (and click on the links throughout) for more information!

1. <https://aaronhall.com/co-op-business-law-minnesota-cooperative-associations-act/#:~:text=Minnesota%20law%20authorizes%20cooperatives%20to,of%20its%20members%20or%20patrons>.

TA Resources Overview

City of Minneapolis

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/b-tap/c-tap/>

Hennepin County

<https://www.elevatehennepin.org>

State of Minnesota

<https://www.mnceo.org/>

Regional:

<https://institute.coop/chicago-wealth-building-dawi>

National:

<https://icagroup.org/employeeownership/>

<https://www.federation.coop/>

<https://www.usworker.coop/en/>

Funding Resource Overview

Up to 50 hours for each resource provider in Minneapolis:

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/b-tap/>

CTAP class availability:

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/media/content-assets/www2-documents/government/C-TAP-Co-op-Feasibility-Training.pdf>

Fund to support Cooperative Development in Minneapolis:

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/media/content-assets/www2-documents/government/Coop-Creation-Fund-Eligibility-and-Uses-Document.pdf>

Why Do This Work?



Vivek George

Jul 12, 2021 · 9 min read · Member-only · Listen



Want to Change the World? A More Efficient, Stable and Better Startup Model

How a worker-owned co-op, not a startup, can create the lasting impact you imagine



Photo by [sol](#) on [Unsplash](#)

<https://medium.com/swlh/want-to-change-the-world-a-more-efficient-stable-and-better-startup-model-e6fc58560150>

Questions



Next Week: Future Visions

- Who are your people?
- What are your plans?
- How can we help?



Thank you!

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ownwork.org



Resources Week II

<https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1186&context=tapestries>

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/employees/employee-news-stories/black-history-month-resistance-through-agricultural-innovations>

https://resources.uwcc.wisc.edu/History_of_Cooperatives.pdf

<http://sheisafrica.eu/2019/07/06/international-day-of-cooperatives-cooperatives-in-africa/>

<https://mutualaiddisasterrelief.org/>

<https://www.neic.coop/starting-a-co-op>

<https://uwcc.wisc.edu/start-a-co-op/>

<https://everything.coop/>