

MEMBERSHIP PACKET AND BENEFITS

A complete guide to the Montana Council of Cooperatives
membership levels and benefits



CONTACT US

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406-727-1517
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OUR ORGANIZATION

➔ Serving Montana Cooperatives Since 1960

The Montana Council of Cooperatives is a statewide organization dedicated to uniting, promoting, and strengthening cooperative businesses across Montana. As a non-sector-specific entity, the Council represents over half of Montana's cooperatives and is growing. The Council offers vital resources and support to foster growth and collaboration amongst Montana's vast cooperative ecosystem.

Strengthening Montana Cooperatives Through Four Pillars



Advocacy

Championing cooperative interests.



Connection

Building networks and partnerships.



Education

Providing cooperative training.



Development

Fostering cooperative growth.

The Montana Council of Cooperatives (MCOC) exists to strengthen and advance Montana's cooperative ecosystem through four core pillars: advocacy, connection, education, and development. We represent and promote cooperative interests at the state and regional level, connect cooperatives and partners across sectors, provide educational resources and learning opportunities, and support the growth of new and emerging cooperatives. Through these efforts, we help ensure that cooperative businesses remain a strong, visible, and thriving part of Montana's economy and communities.



Heidi Heilig

Ag West Farm Credit

Board President,
MT Council of
Cooperatives

"It is an exciting time to be part of the MCOC. The board and staff have been hard at work revitalizing the organization and expanding services!"

☼ MEMBERSHIP OF MCOC



➔ TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

1) **Montana Cooperatives:**

- Credit Unions
- Utility Cooperatives (Electrical and Telecommunications)
- Agricultural Cooperatives
- Multi-sectoral Cooperatives
- Community-based Cooperatives
- Any legally structured cooperative in Montana.

2) **Sponsoring Members:**

- Cooperative Associations within Montana serving Montana Cooperatives
 - This includes other cooperative associations that support Montana Cooperatives (as identified on the next page)
- Out of State Cooperatives or Cooperative Associations
 - These are cooperatives doing business in Montana that want to engage in the Montana Cooperative Community but whose primary office is outside the state.

3) **Associated Members:**

- Businesses/Organizations wanting to do business with Montana Cooperatives



☼ **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

1) Montana Cooperatives:

Credit Union and Utility Cooperative Dues are based on the number of members in the cooperative as of January 1st.

\$.075 per member or up to a Maximum Amount:

- Maximum Amount of \$675
- Minimum Amount of \$100

All other forms of cooperatives are based on the gross income of the cooperative:

Gross Income	2026 + Dues
Up to \$15,000	\$100
\$15,001 to \$100,000	\$132
\$100,001 to \$200,000	\$264
\$200,001 to \$300,000	\$408
\$300,001 to \$400,000	\$540
\$400,001 and over	\$675

2) Sponsoring Members

There are two forms of sponsoring members:

- Montana Cooperative Association dues are \$750/year. Examples of associations are:
 - Montana's Credit Unions and Credit Union League
 - Montana Electrical Cooperatives' Association
 - Broadband MT

* If an association or organization based in Montana would like to apply for this specific membership, they must complete a written statement on how they serve Montana cooperatives and why they would like to be a sponsoring entity.

- Out of State Cooperatives or Cooperative Associations dues are set at \$3,000 a year.

✳ MEMBERSHIP DUES

3) Associated Members

Dues are \$300 for Associated Members



Two Variances Can Apply to Membership:

1) Any cooperative (in-state or out-of-state) interested in membership can ask for a dues variance based on hardship or the cooperative's size.

To discuss a dues variance, contact MCOC Administrator Tracy McIntyre (tracy@mcdc.coop, 406-727-1517). The final decision is with the MCOC Board of Directors.

2) The Montana Council of Cooperative's sister organization is the Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC). MCDC is the economic development branch of the Montana Cooperative Community and utilizes the cooperative business model to address economic and community needs statewide.

Emerging cooperatives that legally form within Montana and were/are clients of MCDC's receive an introductory membership fee of \$50.00 for the first three years after incorporation.

✱ COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



WHAT DO MEMBERS GET?

As a member of the Montana Council of Cooperatives, you will gain access to valuable networking opportunities and cooperative services across sectors. Explore all the benefits the Council has to offer!



Montana Cooperatives and Sponsoring Members:

Networking Across Cooperative Sectors

- Connect with peers and leaders throughout the state
- District-level events
- Annual Meeting and biennial Legislative Dinner where there is an opportunity to connect with national and international cooperative peers and leaders
- Orientation/networking event for new members or staff at the Annual Meeting

Governance Engagement

- Eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors
- Voting rights on key organizational decisions

Membership Awards and Programs

- Recognition through cooperative awards
- Participation in the Montana Cooperative Pre-apprenticeship Program
- Access to cooperative community data and insights
- Member Discounts
- Reduced rates for MCOC events, including the Annual Meeting
- Discounts on MCDCC services such as board training, strategic planning, grant writing, and project management
- Special pricing for Cooperative Academy and other training opportunities

Cooperative Awareness and Outreach

- Receive the Montana Cooperative Economic and Community Impact Report (bi-annual)
- Featured on the updated website and in the Membership Directory
- Highlight your co-op's activities for Co-op Month and other events





Policy and Advocacy

- Support Cooperative Community Policy and Advocacy Work
- Gain access to the biennial Montana Cooperative Economic and Community Impact Report
- Engage with legislative bodies, policymakers, and cooperative leaders to support the cooperative community (in and outside of Montana).

Associated Member Benefits:

The Council's Associated Membership Program promotes and facilitates economic growth in Montana through the cooperative community by engaging businesses, non-cooperative entities, and organizations.

Eligibility and Restrictions

- *Eligibility:* Any businesses, non-cooperative entities, and organizations that are interested in supporting, engaging, and doing business with the Montana Cooperative Community.
- *Restrictions:* Associated members cannot vote on Council business and cannot serve on the Council Board.

Benefits of an Associated Member:

- *Networking: Opportunities:* Access to networking events, national and international co-op leaders, economic opportunities, as well as workshops and seminars.
- *Visibility and Recognition:* Listing on the Montana Council of Cooperatives' website and in the membership directory. Recognition as an affiliated member at events and in publications.
- *Educational Resources:* Discounts on educational programs and resources offered by the Montana Council of Cooperatives.
- *Business Development Support:* Opportunities for business matchmaking and partnerships within the cooperative community. Access to business consulting services and support for cooperative-related projects through the Montana Cooperative Development Center. Note that some services through MCDC may have a fee.
- *Marketing and Advertising:* Discounted advertising rates in Council publications and on the website. Opportunities to sponsor events and programs, increasing your brand awareness statewide.
- *Exclusive Invitations:* Invitations to exclusive Council events, receptions, and roundtable discussions. Opportunities to host or co-host events and workshops.

■ MT Council of Co-ops' Membership APPLICATION



To apply for membership please complete all questions.
Return to admin@montanacouncil.coop or send to
PO Box 3027, Great Falls, MT 59403

Cooperative, Association, Organization or Business Name

Membership
Type: :

☐

Montana
Cooperative

☐

Sponsoring
Member

☐

Associated
Member

Best Contact Persons Name:

Title

Phone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Website

Type of
Cooperative

☐

Utility

☐

Credit Union

☐

Worker-Owned

☐

Consumer -
Retail

☐

Ag Producer -
Marketing

☐

Housing Co-op

☐

Farm/Fuel
Supply

☐

Shared Services

☐

Community
Investment

☐

Other
(please list)

Number of Members:

Number of Staff:

Full Time

PT Time

Gross Annual Income of Last Fiscal Year

Year of Incorporation:

Are you a client or were you a client of MCDC's in the last 3 year?

☐

Yes

☐

No