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# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **New Tools for Building Co-Ops in MT!**

The Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) is proud to announce the release of its latest toolkits, created to empower communities, workers, and business owners across Montana by providing the knowledge and resources needed to take control of their economic future through cooperative ownership. These comprehensive guides on Worker Conversion and Multistakeholder Cooperatives offer essential resources for economic development, helping to preserve and strengthen local businesses and communities.

The cooperative business model represents a powerful form of democratic ownership, allowing communities to exercise self-determination, self-help, and self-responsibility. Through this model, business owners can plan for the succession of their businesses in a way that not only benefits them but also preserves their legacy, ensuring that businesses continue to contribute to the local economy and tax base. MCDC's Worker Conversion and Multistakeholder Cooperative toolkits are designed to guide communities through the process of transitioning businesses into cooperatively owned enterprises, playing a crucial role in sustaining the vitality of our communities. These resources are essential for maintaining the anchor businesses that are the lifeblood of many Montana towns.

As the only statewide cooperative developer, MCDC stands out with its educated and experienced staff who are dedicated to fostering relationships, building trust, and providing technical expertise. "The new toolkits are a testament to MCDC's commitment to supporting the economic and social well-being of communities throughout Montana." said Cooperative Specialist Nicole Borner

"These resources will play a crucial role in ensuring that businesses remain rooted in their communities, contributing to economic resilience and long-term prosperity." said Tracy McIntyre, Executive Director at MCDC.

MCDC's toolkits offer practical guidance and resources tailored to build stronger, community-centered businesses and to help various stakeholders across Montana including:

- Business owners: interested in succession planning or cooperative models
- Employees: exploring ownership opportunities
- Community leaders: looking to strengthen local economies
- Economic developers: seeking to promote sustainable business growth
- Nonprofits and organizations: aiming to create cooperative enterprises
- Entrepreneurs: considering cooperative business structures

For more information on MCDC's new toolkits and how they can benefit your community, please visit [mcdc.coop](http://mcdc.coop) or contact us at [mcdc@mcdc.coop](mailto:mcdc@mcdc.coop)

The Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the development of cooperative businesses across Montana. MCDC provides education, technical assistance, and resources to help communities harness the power of the cooperative model for economic and social development.

Montana Cooperative Development Center

Disclaimer: Montana Cooperative Development Center and the Montana Council of Cooperatives provides cooperative education and information to those interested in and/or part of the cooperative community. Our information does not replace legal and accounting services. We recommend contacting a qualified professional as needed.

Montana Cooperative Development Center

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