

Check out these links to agencies and programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, links to other Federal departments, and cooperative stakeholders to assist cooperatives and cooperative development.

Federal Cooperative Development Assistance

[U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)

USDA provides funding and program support for cooperatives through several of its [agencies](#). The following agencies administer several programs that benefit cooperatives and their members:

[Rural Development](#) maintains the following programs and services that may assist cooperatives and their members:

[Cooperative Services](#) provides technical assistance and cooperative educational materials

The [Rural Cooperative Development Grant](#) is a competitive award to [cooperative development centers](#) that help individuals and businesses start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually owned businesses

The [Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#) competitive program provides funds so cooperative development centers and cooperatives can assist socially disadvantaged groups to create cooperatives

Cooperatives can receive guaranteed loans through the [Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program](#). These loans can be used, for example, to convert a business

to an employee-owned worker cooperative; enlarge, repair, or modernize a business; or purchase and develop land

The [Value-Added Producer Grant](#) provides funds that cooperatives can use for planning or putting in place operations improvements that add value to an agricultural crop

[The Intermediary Relending Program](#)

provides 1 percent low-interest loans to local lenders including cooperatives (“intermediaries”) that re-lend to businesses to improve economic conditions and create jobs in rural communities

[Rural Business Development Grants](#)

can provide small businesses with technical assistance and training, or business loans to fund a business incubator

[Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#)

provides guaranteed loans and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements

Multi-Family Housing [Direct](#) and [Guaranteed](#) Loans. While the direct loan has been unfunded in recent years, the guaranteed loan program is available to provide guaranteed financing for low- to moderate-income occupants.

Among other programs cooperatives can take advantage of include [broadband](#) grant and loan programs and [water and waste](#) loans, grants, and loan guarantees. Browse more [here](#).

The [Agricultural Marketing Service](#) administers a number of programs to assist cooperatives and other agricultural producers with marketing foods to consumers across the country and

internationally. AMS also [purchases](#) food from agricultural producers for distribution through the USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs for schools, food banks and households as part of the nation's food safety net.

- The [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) increases the availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities. Related programs include the [Regional Food System Partnerships](#) program and the [Local Food Promotion Program](#)

Additional AMS programs may support cooperatives and their members in the [dairy](#), [maple syrup](#), [meat and poultry](#), [seafood](#), and [sheep](#) husbandry industries

The [Food and Nutrition Service](#) administers a variety of programs that purchase food for low-income individuals from agricultural producers and works with states and territories that authorize groceries, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture programs to accept food vouchers from low-income individuals. Cooperatives and cooperative members may become [vendors](#) through the following FNS programs:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance [Program](#)

The Emergency Food Assistance [Program](#)
The Food Distribution [Program](#) on Indian Reservations

The Farmers Market Nutrition [Program](#)

The Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition [Program](#)

USDA Foods in Schools [Program](#)

The Commodity Supplemental Food [Program](#)

The [Farm Service Agency](#) offers a number of programs that may help cooperatives and their members including:

Farm loan [programs](#)

Conservation reserve [programs](#) that pay farmers to take their land out of production

A Biomass Crop Assistance [Program](#) for forest owners that produce biomass feedstock

A Feedstock Flexibility [Program](#) to encourage the domestic production of biofuels from surplus sugar

Programs that benefit [cotton](#) and [dairy](#) farmers

Disaster assistance [programs](#)

Commodity [loans](#) providing interim financing at harvest time to meet cash flow needs

Facility loan [programs](#) that help producers build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities

[Assistance](#) to producers with commodities impacted by retaliatory tariffs

An Organic Certification Cost Share [Program](#) that provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program

Commodity price support [programs](#)

USDA's agencies also include the [Foreign Agricultural Service](#), the [Agricultural Research Service](#), the [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#), the [Economic Research Service](#), the [Food Safety and Inspection Service](#), the [Forest Service](#), the [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#), the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), and the [Risk Management Agency](#)

And other **Federal** departments and agencies outside of USDA:

Commerce Department, [Economic Development Administration](#)
Commerce Department, [Minority Business Development Agency](#)
[Environmental Protection Agency](#)
[Education Department](#)
[Energy Department](#)
[Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
[Federal Reserve](#)
[Health and Human Services](#)
[Housing and Urban Development](#)
[Interior Department](#)
[Justice Department](#)
[Labor Department](#)
[Postal Service](#)
[Securities and Exchange Commission](#)
[Small Business Administration](#)
[Transportation Department](#)
[Treasury Department](#)
[Tribal Government Services](#)
[U.S. Agency for International Development Cooperative Development Program](#)
[U.S. Postal Service](#)
[Veterans Affairs Department](#)
[The White House](#)
And others...(if your agency is missing from this list, please let us know at coopinfo@usda.gov)

Some of the IAWGCD non-federal **stakeholders** of the IAWGCD include:

- [National Cooperative Business Association \(NCBA\)/Cooperative Development Foundation \(CDF\)](#)
- [National Council of Farmer Cooperatives \(NCFC\)](#)
- [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. \(NRECA\)](#)
- [Credit Union National Association \(CUNA\)](#)

- [National Association of Housing Cooperatives \(NAHC\)](#)
 - [U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives](#)
 - [Neighboring Food Co-ops Association](#)
 - [CoBank](#)
 - [Farm Credit Council](#)
 - [National Cooperative Bank \(NCB\)](#)
 - [Cooperative Fund of the Northeast](#)
 - [National Telecommunications Cooperative Association \(NTCA\)](#)
 - Cooperative centers and cooperative development centers (see resource Workbook located on this [page](#))
 - [Cooperation Works!](#)
 - [North American Students of Cooperation \(NASCO\)](#)
 - [Cooperative Professionals Guild](#)
 - [American Farm Bureau Federation](#)
 - [National Farmers Union](#)
- And others...(if your organization is missing from this list, please let us know at coopinfo@usda.gov)