— OUR ROLE —

The Cooperative Development Center incubates and supports cooperative businesses and projects.

PRIMARY FOCUS AREAS
- Local Food Systems, Co-ops & Food Hubs
- Beginning Farmer Access to Land & Resources
- Worker-Owned Cooperatives

— WHAT WE PROVIDE —

- Feasibility Studies & Business Plans
- Education on Co-ops & Other Business Models
- Organizational Planning & Development
- Grant Proposals & Fiscal Sponsorship
- Legal Assistance, Incorporation & Bylaws
- Board & Member Capacity-Building
- Connecting Projects with Resources

To learn more about how the RMFU Cooperative Development Center can support your group, visit www.rmfu.org/co-op

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MISSION: To build a more just, healthy, thriving and inclusive economy through cooperative enterprises in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

Formed in 1996, the Center has worked with and helped grow more than 100 cooperatives, LLC’s and other businesses and organizations, with a focus on areas and professions suffering from economic stress, high unemployment or high poverty.

EXAMPLES OF CENTER PROJECTS

MY NANNY SOLUTION
Our Urban Program led this worker-owned childcare cooperative through the first RMFU/MiCasa Worker Co-op Training Academy, where participants learned business planning, democratic governance, and cooperative capacity-building.

MOUNTAIN STATES LAMB COOPERATIVE
The Center was instrumental in organizing this co-op’s steering committee and assisting with a highly successful equity drive. We advised them on options for financing and grower contracts, as well as on lamb quality standards.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE COOPERATIVE
Our Urban Program helped this interpreter’s co-op incorporate in 2014, and has supported them with business planning, legal structure and governance so that they are poised for growth.

SOUTHWEST FARM FRESH COOPERATIVE
This innovative, farmer-owned cooperative sources from small farmers in southwestern Colorado and distributes their products to new, larger markets. RMFU helped them organize and continues to provide grant management and technical assistance.

HIGH PLAINS FOOD COOPERATIVE
This marketing, aggregation and distribution online food cooperative has enabled western Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwestern Nebraska producers to access the rapidly growing demand for locally-produced food along Colorado’s Front Range. The Center helped them organize and develop their feasibility study and business plan.

ARKANSAS VALLEY ORGANIC GROWERS (AVOG)
This producer co-op focuses on marketing and distributing year-round produce, meat, eggs and other agricultural products from Pueblo north to Denver, and in 2013 opened Colorado’s first farmer-owned and -operated food hub. Now with 10 members and another 10 cooperating suppliers, AVOG is also helping to establish a working network of food hubs and cooperatives throughout RMFU’s service area.