

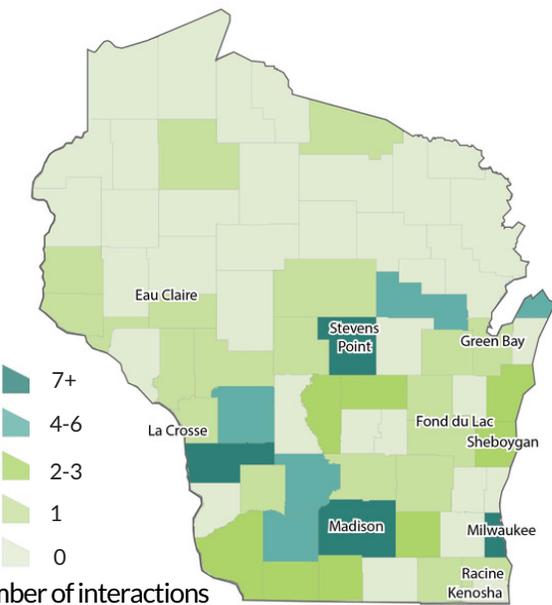
UW Center for Cooperatives 2018 Highlights



The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives (UWCC) is a trusted and unbiased voice on the cooperative business model serving the needs of cooperatives in Wisconsin and beyond. With a strong public service orientation and access to world-class university resources, we leverage research, education, and outreach capabilities to foster critical thinking and understanding about cooperatives. As the only U.S. university-based center that studies and supports all forms of cooperative business, UWCC provides valued education and research to a diverse range of business communities.

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Counties where co-ops received education or services from UWCC



Cooperative Development

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Through the Rural Cooperative Development Grant from USDA, UWCC provides technical assistance to groups forming new co-ops, businesses converting to a cooperative structure, and established co-ops in rural areas.

MADISON COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT COALITION

UWCC provides leadership to the Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC). Funded by the City of Madison, MCDC is made up of labor groups, cooperatives developers, and community based organizations. The initiative is designed to address income inequality and racial disparities by creating co-ops that provide living wage and union jobs. Soaring Independent Living Co-op is a worker-owned home care cooperative that is receiving MCDC assistance.



Cooperative Research

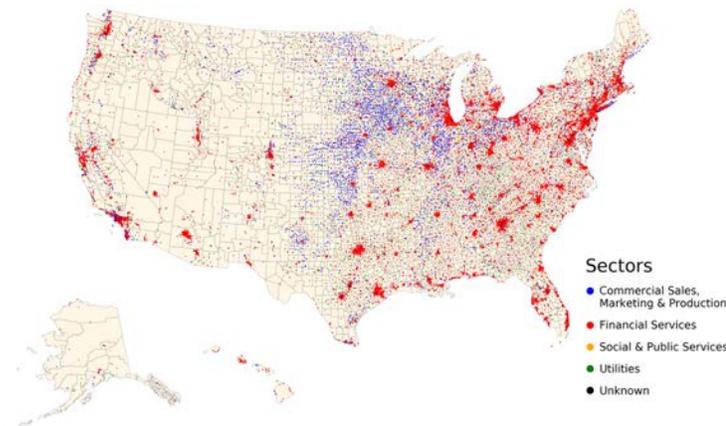
MEASURING THE COOPERATIVE ECONOMY

In 2018, UWCC continued its work on developing data resources for measuring the cooperative economy. In 2017, the U.S. cooperative economy included over 64,000 cooperative establishments (*excluding housing cooperatives*) and over 853,000 jobs.

COLLECTIVE ACTION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Funded through the NIFA's Agriculture Food Research Initiative, this project aims to understand the factors that drive co-op development in rural communities. In 2018, we identified and began studying five clusters of robust co-op activity in the U.S. Findings will be shared in 2019.

Cooperative Locations: Sectoral Composition



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Cooperative Education

In 2018, UWCC provided a range of education and professional development programs for current and future cooperative leaders.



Participants in UWCC education programs

CONSUMER COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The 2018 Consumer Cooperative Management Association conference brought together 425 food co-op leaders from 81 cooperatives. Co-hosted by the area co-ops in Portland, OR, the conference featured five co-op tours, 30 educational sessions, and plenary sessions that addressed the state of the co-op sector, strategic differentiation, and how capitalism drives our food system.



FARMER COOPERATIVES CONFERENCE

The 21st Annual Farmer Cooperatives Conference welcomed over 150 cooperators from across the country to discuss issues related to talent development and retention, trade, sustainability, and policy issues. In 2018, UWCC and the Renk Agribusiness Institute launched a scholarship program for University of Wisconsin students studying agribusiness or other agriculture related majors to attend the conference.

COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS WEBINARS

In 2018, UWCC produced five webinars that highlighted cooperative solutions to challenges in business succession, broadband, housing, childcare, and healthcare. Participation totaled 160. Webinar recordings and a "Co-ops 101" video are available on the UWCC website.

CO-OP DIRECTORS FORUM

In 2018, nearly 100 attendees participated in the Co-op Directors Forums. Co-hosted with Cooperative Network, the forums featured topics such as equity management, communicating your financial strategy, economic trade offs of growth, and external expertise in the board room.



SMALL AND STRONG INITIATIVE

UWCC participated in the Small and Strong Initiative, which provides support and training to small grocery cooperatives in the Upper Midwest. The 2018 program included store peer audits and a one-day conference that attracted 44 attendees from 22 cooperatives.



International visitors

DEVELOPING FUTURE COOPERATIVE LEADERS

UWCC educates future cooperative leaders through campus courses and participation in the UniverCity Alliance, which connects Wisconsin municipalities to UW-Madison students to collaborate on finding practical solutions to community challenges. The fall 2018 cooperatives class researched the feasibility of launching a new farmer owned cooperative in rural Green County.

In 2018, UWCC welcomed three international delegations from Japan and Brazil for tailored cooperative education programs and tours of local co-ops.



Center for Cooperatives
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