



Conversation Guidebook

How Co-ops can help Solve Problems in Community

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Introduction



The purpose of this self serve guidebook is to support anyone looking to create change to understand how the co-op model can help solve problems or challenges in community.

It is also designed to be inclusive especially in relation to showcasing how marginalized and racialized communities have used the co-op model to create change in their communities.

The **Design Principles** for this guidebook are:

- To show how the story of marginalized and racialized people have been involved in co-operation and co-ops as part of their culture for many years.
- To showcase examples of co-ops led by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) people.
- To show how flexible the co-op model can be in helping to solve problems in community.
- To support BIPOC communities to create more just, equitable, diverse and inclusive community-based economic development.

Conversation Goals

- Find out what people knew about co-ops before the meeting.
- Find out what kind of problems / challenges in community people would like to address.
- Demonstrate the flexibility of co-op model to address a variety of challenges.
- Showcase how co-ops are being used, and have been used, by BIPOC communities to create change.



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Overview



Goal: Get a sense of all the modules included here, and how to use.

Use What Makes Sense for You!

There are 7 modules in this Co-op Conversation Guidebook, but you do not have to use all of them or use all of them at once.

The idea is for a host(s) to be able to pick and choose which modules make sense for them to use and when. We have tried to make things flexible. Feedback on these modules and how they work for you is also welcome.

Module 1: Getting Started

Module 2: What is a Co-op?

Module 3: Relevance of Co-ops for BIPOC Communities

Module 4: Case Studies

Module 5: Identifying Challenges to Work On in Community

Module 6: Learning More about Co-ops

Module 7: Closing



Total Time: 2.5 - 4 hours approximately, depending on group size and how many modules you want to do at once.

Host: Should have some experience working with groups. No expertise in co-ops though is required.

Tips for Working with Groups!

Community Guidelines

It is normal to have conflict in groups, but setting up some community guidelines at the beginning can help everyone to work together well.

Use a flipchart or some paper you can post on a wall, and ask participants what they think could be some important guidelines for a group of people to work well together.



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