



Coalition for Worker Ownership and Power

Worker Ownership for a Stronger Massachusetts

Who

We are a **statewide coalition** of worker cooperatives and developers, grassroots organizations and labor unions, and funders and investors helping build **the worker ownership movement in Massachusetts.**

Why

We support **the equitable growth of the cooperative sector** by realigning it with the leadership and policy power of grassroots and labor movements that center frontline communities across the state.

What

We're currently advancing a **worker-ownership policy platform** to secure grants and guarantees, technical assistance and expand workforce training and certification to worker co-ops across MA.

Contact

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Our Strengths

The employee ownership sector of Massachusetts has a rich history, including established co-ops like **Equal Exchange** * nationally recognized technical assistance providers like **ICA Group**, **Cooperative Development Institute**, and **Ownership Associates** * cooperative lenders like the **Cooperative Fund of New England** and **Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF)** * Massachusetts was the first state to form an incorporation statute for worker owned companies, and in 2018, the **Massachusetts Center for Employee Ownership (Mass CEO)** was reintroduced to popularize employee ownership as a succession option for businesses.

Our Opportunities

- * Despite our rich history, the worker ownership sector has not gained **prominence as a preferred business form**. The number of employee-owners --especially amongst worker owned co-ops-- remains very few.
- * While the demographics of new worker co-ops are more racially diverse, worker ownership must be better resourced to **counter Massachusetts' extreme racial wealth divide**.
- * For grassroots groups, worker centers, and others organizing to improve conditions in poor and working class communities of color, worker ownership remains a largely underutilized strategy to **build wealth and power in the workplace**.

