

# COLORADO

ASSETS: **\$73 BILLION**  
 REVENUE: **\$8 BILLION**  
 MEMBERS: **2 MILLION**  
 JOBS CREATED: **9,700**

TOTAL CO-OPS:  
**286**

## COLORADO CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in Colorado are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

### AMICUS SOLAR

Based in Boulder, Amicus is a solar energy purchasing cooperative comprised of 36 independent solar energy businesses across 26 states working to create a market solution to climate change and pollution.

### COBANK

Denver-based CoBank is an \$110 billion cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America, providing loans, leases and other financial services to agribusinesses and rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states. CoBank also provides financial services to affiliated Farm Credit Associations serving more than 75,000 farmers, ranchers and other rural borrowers.



In an industry dominated by large firms, Amicus is a tool for independent companies to unite and offer solar customers incredible value and service

## COLORADO TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: **126**

UTILITY: **46**

AGRICULTURE: **38**

ELECTRIC: **25**

FOOD: **11**

TELEPHONE: **9**

ARTS & CRAFTS: **8**

## ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

## COBANK COMMITS \$1 MILLION TO LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE

DC Central Kitchen, the innovative, Washington, D.C.-based workforce development nonprofit and social enterprise today announced a \$1 million commitment from CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations nationwide. DC Central Kitchen is dedicated to reducing hunger with recycled food, training unemployed adults for culinary careers, serving healthy school meals, and rebuilding urban food systems through social enterprise.

With this contribution, CoBank and DC Central Kitchen continue a partnership that began in 2011, when CoBank funded the purchase of a refrigeration truck and delivery van, used to move produce grown by family farmers in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley to DC Central Kitchen's meal preparation and distribution facilities. Since then, the organizations have partnered to increase the use of fresh, locally-grown produce in DC Central Kitchen's various nutrition and hunger-relief programs at Washington-area schools, homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and corner stores located in DC neighborhoods without access to fresh fruits and vegetables.



**Boxes of fresh, locally-grown vegetables await transport to a USDA-recognized food hub.**

Thanks to CoBank's investments in DC Central Kitchen's infrastructure, transportation fleet and human capital, the organization has become the only USDA-recognized permanent food hub in the District of Columbia and has invested nearly \$1 million in local farmers, purchasing approximately 1.2 million pounds of local farm products.

"DC Central Kitchen has an incredibly powerful model that takes advantage of food grown by local farmers to help people in need," said CoBank CEO Robert Engel.

"We're delighted to partner with an organization that is doing so much good and having such a powerful impact."

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

**NCBA CLUSA**  
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