CO-OP STATE SNAPSHOT

PENNSYLVANIA

ASSETS: $29 BILLION
REVENUE: $500 BILLION
MEMBERS: 3.6 MILLION
JOBS CREATED: 14,500

PENNSYLVANIA CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

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

PHILADELPHIA AREA COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE (PACA)
PACA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to growing a vibrant cooperative economy in Pennsylvania and building a movement for economic justice.

EAST END FOOD CO-OP
East End is Pittsburgh’s only member-owned natural and organic foods grocery store, striving to bring healthy food to the community, build consumer ownership and participation in the city and region.

PENNSYLVANIA TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

CREDIT UNIONS: 604
AGRICULTURE: 44
UTILITY: 41
INSURANCE: 40
HOUSING: 21
ELECTRIC: 16
HEALTHCARE: 11

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.

NCBA CLUSA member East End Food Co-op ensures money stays in the local economy by prioritizing locally-produced goods and encourages its members to support local small businesses through its Community Partners Program.
PHILADELPHIA AREA CO-OP ALLIANCE RECEIVES $25,000 USDA GRANT

The Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA) was awarded a $25,000 grant in October 2015 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study the feasibility of forming a purchasing co-op to better serve local food co-ops and producers.

The purchasing co-op would facilitate buying, warehousing and distributing local food and would make it easier for Philadelphia’s co-ops to buy more local food. Currently, many producers within 150 miles of Philadelphia are unable to sell their products at food co-ops in the Philadelphia area because of delivery limitations, limits on storage and lengthy vendor approval processes.

A purchasing co-op would be an excellent tool to boost local food production and distribution. Through a purchasing co-op, local food producers could sell more of their products in a large, urban market and the food co-ops would receive better prices on those products by buying in bulk.

Currently, the combined sales of Philadelphia-area Weavers Way Co-op, Mariposa Food Co-op, Creekside Co-op and Swarthmore Co-op total $37 annually. Between 25 and 30 percent of these co-ops' total sales are from local products. PACA has estimated that a centralized purchasing, warehousing and delivery option would allow food co-ops to increase their local sales by at least 10 percent.

After its initial years of operation, the purchasing co-op could expand to serve two other food co-ops outside Philadelphia, along with five start-up co-ops. In total, the purchasing co-op could serve 11 independent food co-ops in the Philadelphia area, with potential annual purchasing co-op sales as high as $65 million.