



WHAT IS **CLS** COOPERATIVE LEADERS & SCHOLARS?

The Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program is an opportunity to **participate in multi-sector programming and events**, and to **engage with co-op industry thought leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders**. The experience is open to **new and emerging cooperators**: current employees or board members, post-secondary students, or others interested in working for, creating, or leading a cooperative or cooperative organization.

Designed to **deepen and broaden knowledge of cooperatives** and the role the model plays in meeting economic and social needs of communities, the program is structured to **empower participants to shape their experience for maximum value** as they connect and collaborate with peers and industry experts.

WHO IS **ELIGIBLE?**

Applicants must qualify under one of the **three categories** and reside in North America.

-  Emerging cooperators (ages 18 - 35) pursuing a career in or working with cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance.
-  Individuals new to cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance with less than 5 years of experience.
-  Post secondary students of any age with an interest in cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance.

WHAT IS THE **TIMELINE?**

Applicants will be notified of their status by **March 1, 2024**. Programming begins in April and concludes in November with in-person events in April and October and monthly webinars.



Cooperative Leaders & Scholars
A Project of **CDF** and **NCBA CLUSA**

WHAT
CAN
YOU

EXPECT?

MAXIMIZE
CONNECTIONS



Engage in an **8 month program** with **multiple in-person** opportunities meant to maximize peer relationships

Participate in exclusive **multi-sector programming** and network with industry leaders

FOSTER
LEADERSHIP



SPARK
COLLABORATION



Co-create a capstone project meaningful to your cooperative or organization

Shape your program with content relevant to your interests

INFORM
CONTENT



WHAT
ARE

CAPSTONES?

The culmination of the Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program is a capstone project that can be completed individually or in a small group. Participants select projects based on several parameters, including alignment with the NCBA CLUSA lines of work, as well as relevance to the participants' own cooperative work and personal interests. CLS staff work with the cohort to develop the capstone projects, connecting participants with cooperative information, experts, and organizations - within and outside of their sector and geography - that can provide critical insight and valuable connections to enhance project success and advance participants' networks and professional development.

WHEN
WILL
WE

MEET?

Virtual

- ▲ April 3 ▲ May 15 ▲ June 20
- ▲ July 17 ▲ Aug 21 ▲ Sept 18
- ▲ Nov 20

In-Person

- ▲ April 23 - 26 Denver, CO
- ▲ Sept 30 - Oct 4 Washington, DC

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HOW
CAN
YOU
GET

INVOLVED?

Share with your network



Help us with outreach and share the news about CLS with your network.

Sponsor the program

Partner with us to support the program and participants.



Provide a scholarship



Name a participant or open up a spot to a qualified applicant. The full cost to support an attendee is \$5,500.



"The CLS program has inspired me by **deepening my understanding of what co-ops are capable of**, and given me a **network of peers with diverse experiences that will shape my own cooperative work for years to come!**"

CLS participants will receive:



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Registration for NCBA CLUSA's Co-op IMPACT Conference, CDF's Cooperative Hall of Fame, and a short course from the International Centre for Co-operative Management at Saint Mary's University



Travel stipend, accommodations, and meals during two in-person events



Exclusive networking events and webinars from industry experts

"Being a part of the CLS cohort has **broadened my understanding** of the international history of cooperatives and **helped me to make connections** with likeminded individuals who are doing amazing work **promoting democracy, equity, and workers' rights** today."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact Kirstie Boyette at kboyette@ncba.coop or visit

CDF.COOP/CLS

**APPLICATIONS DUE
FEBRUARY 16, 2024.**

