

INVESTING IN A RESILIENT & FUTURE-PROOF ECONOMY

About Agency Implementation of Investments and Cooperative Eligibility

Across agencies, the federal government has recognized the power of cooperatives to drive a robust and resilient economic agenda. Recent investments to address our nation's infrastructure, markets, manufacturing capabilities and affordability crisis have created an opportunity to address the threats to our economy through direct support for cooperative businesses. These investments are crucial for the wellbeing of our communities and should be successfully implemented to boost economic growth.

POLICY POINTS

Invest in Time-Tested Models to Drive Economic Growth: Cooperatives level the playing field for farmers, workers, consumers, residents, and small businesses

- Successful implementation of recent investments is critical to supporting cooperatives and local economic growth. As cooperatives lead the way in addressing our nation's crumbling infrastructure, key supports like Direct Pay Tax Credits and Regional Technology should receive the necessary support that allow cooperatives to create jobs, drive energy and technology innovation, and empower consumers.
- Across the cooperative sectors, Rural Electric Cooperatives, Employee-Owned Worker Cooperatives, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and other Financial or Consumer Cooperatives, Agricultural Cooperatives and Development Organizations, local businesses are creating a positive ripple effect across their communities.
- Cooperatives exist across every sector of the economy contributing significantly to national and local GDP. Measuring and distributing Cooperative Data from the Census Bureau's 2017 and 2022 Economic Census would increase efficiency of federal efforts.
- Cooperatives are an effective way to maximize the return on federal investment to address the challenges of today and create resilient communities of tomorrow. The Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development and Department of Labor Employee Ownership Initiative are key federal agency efforts that support access to resources, technical assistance and streamlining for cooperative development.