



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

The CLS program builds capacity and support networks for new and emerging co-op leaders and scholars. This community empowers and trains its members to build a more inclusive economy in North America, together.

CLS achieves the following:

- ▲ Attracts, engages, and retains talent
- ▲ Deepens and broadens knowledge of cooperatives and provides training for the next generation of leaders
- ▲ Brings together cooperators from every sector to foster cross-sectoral relationships, networks, and collaboration early in their careers

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



Cooperative
Leaders &
Scholars
A Project of CDF and NCBA CLUSA

WE
NEED
YOUR

SUPPORT

Share with your network



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

Support the program

Partner with us to fund the program and scholarship participants.



Sponsor a participant



Sponsor a qualified participant from your workplace. The full cost to support a participant is \$5,000.

"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!**"



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WHY
GET

INVOLVED?

"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."

"Participating in the 2022 cohort ... **turbocharged my awareness of a national cooperative movement** and the pivotal role it has been playing for decades in our society, unbeknownst to the average person. The value of CLS also extended to providing me with the **unique opportunity to spend lots of time with and get to know personally current and up-and-coming leaders in the cooperative movement from across the nation.**"

"This experience has **expanded my cooperative horizon**. Serving on my co-op's board of directors, I now have a **better sense of where my cooperative fits within the broader cooperative movement**. I have made amazing connections with the cohort and see myself **continuing to collaborate and overlap with CLS folks in the years to come**. This program has instilled in me the value that cooperatives play in the alternative economy and has **influenced me to continue to work in the cooperative space five years from now.**"

Every
Journey
Needs a
Next Step

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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