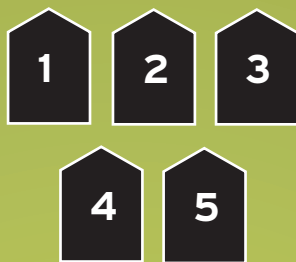


# WHY ARE CO•OPS IMPORTANT TO MY LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Cooperative businesses - co-ops - are local businesses that have joined with other businesses to bring you a competitive alternative to big corporations. With co-ops you get expertise without compromise - selection, pricing, attention, and a vested interest in your community. From the outside, cooperatives may look like any other local business but behind the scenes they are unique. Did you know....



## THERE ARE 5 TYPES OF COOPERATIVES



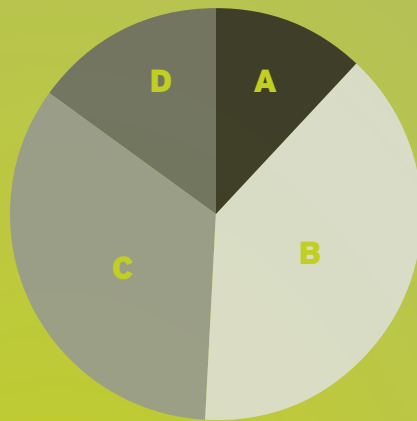
1. Consumer Cooperatives
2. Purchasing & Shared Service Cooperatives
3. Worker Cooperatives
4. Producer Cooperatives
5. Hybrid Cooperatives

## 7 PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATIVES

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation among Cooperatives
7. **Concern for Community**

The original principles were established in 1937 but have been revised twice since then to keep them up-to-date and remain relevant in today's society. The most recent revisions were completed in 1995.

## CO•OPs in YOUR Community



There are nearly **30,000 Cooperatives** in the United States with nearly **73,000 locations.**

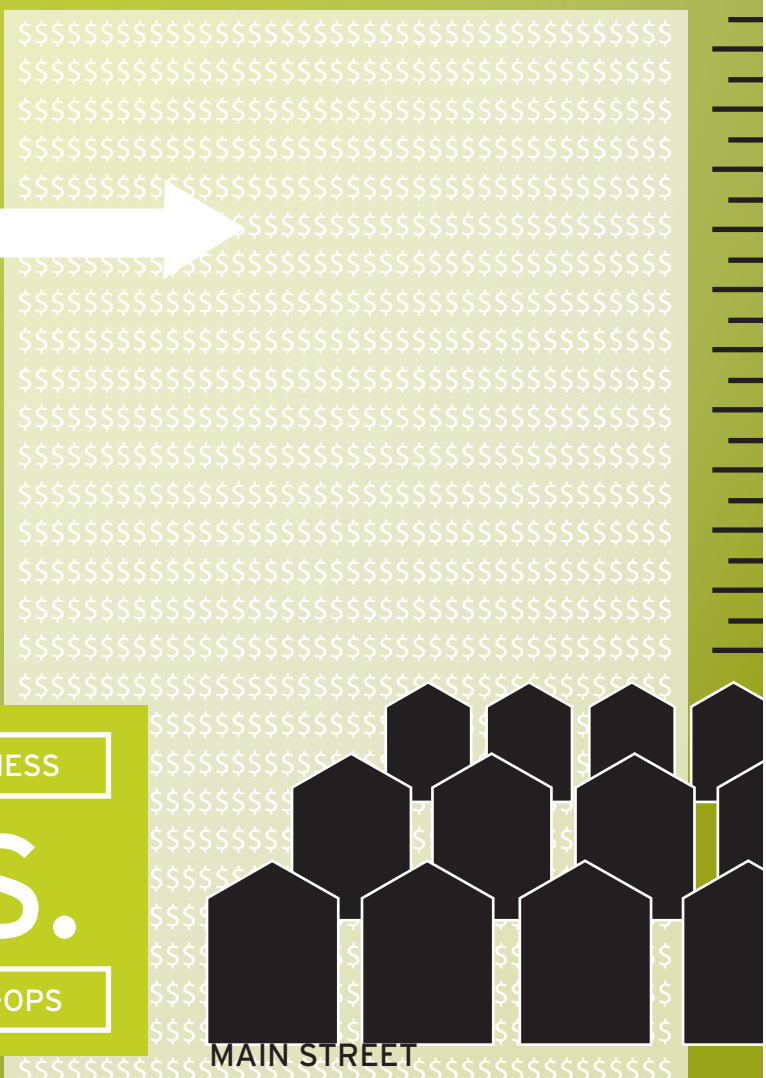
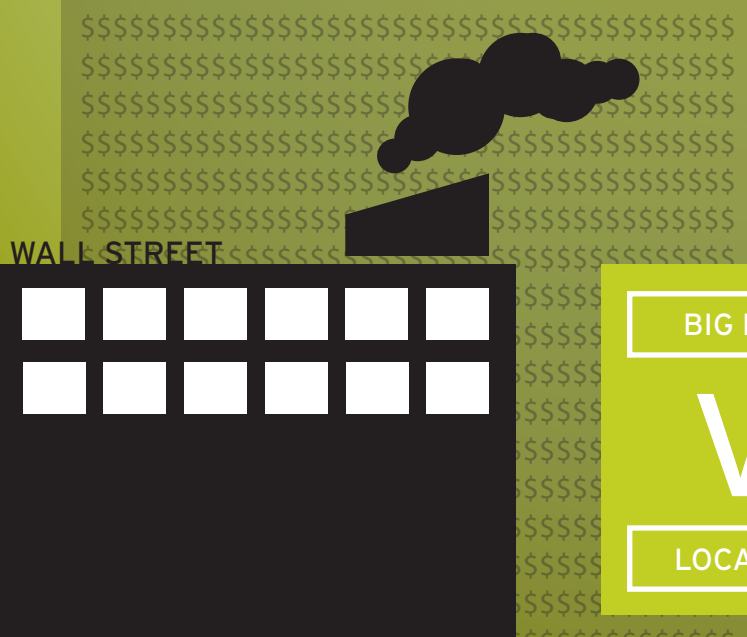
- A. 12% Commercial Sales and Marketing
- B. 39% Social and Public Services
- C. 34% Financial services
- D. 15% Utilities

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

**Cooperatives create over 1.7 million jobs in the United States and contribute \$25 billion to U.S. wages.**

**CHOOSING A CO-OP MEANS PUTTING YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FIRST.**

Cooperatives drive **2X MORE LOCAL \$** than Big Corporations



**BIG BUSINESS**  
**VS.**  
**LOCAL CO-OPS**



## What can you do? Choose A Co-Op.

Make a choice. Shop a local Co-Op and support your local community. Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ChooseACoop](https://www.facebook.com/ChooseACoop).