



## NCG Contributions Report for 2025

Food co-ops have tasked their national business services cooperative, National Co+op Grocers (NCG), with the following advocacy priorities:

- [Cooperative Business](#)
- [Inclusive Economies](#)
- [Racial Equity](#)
- [Food Justice](#)
- [Local Food and Farming](#)
- [Organic Certification](#)
- [Climate Action](#)
- [Environmental Responsibility](#)
- [Engaged Citizens, Vibrant Communities](#)

In addition to federal policy work and operational support for co-ops in these areas, NCG also works to address priorities through direct financial contributions on behalf of food co-ops to complementary organizations that can amplify their influence.

### **Advance Native Political Leadership Fund**

[Advance Native Political Leadership](#) is a Native-led organization building power by and for Indigenous Peoples of the United States by creating pathways for leaders to shape public life and strengthen a democracy that works for all communities. NCG made a donation in honor of the land acknowledgment given at the Focus on Fresh conference.

### **Agricultural Justice Project**

[Agricultural Justice Project](#) (AJP) administered [Food Justice Certification](#), widely regarded as the most rigorous standard for domestic fair trade. Certification promoted fair wages and benefits for farmworkers, among other social and economic criteria, and helped farmers communicate their values in the marketplace. NCG contributed to AJP's technical assistance for farmers seeking certification. Unfortunately, AJP has announced they have ceased operations in 2026.

### **Alianza Nacional de Campesinas**

[Alianza Nacional de Campesinas](#) (National Alliance of Farmworker Women) is the first national women farmworkers' nonprofit in the U.S. created by current and former women farmworkers, along with women who hail from farmworker families. Their advocacy efforts are focused on the intersection of gender, migrant, labor and climate justice working for sustainable and healthy communities where farmworkers and their families can live well and thrive. NCG contributes to la Alianza's [Mother Earth Project](#), a campaign for farmworkers to gain access to unused land for community gardens as well as federal advocacy efforts to strengthen farmworker protections



against pesticide exposure. We also sponsored their 2025 *Convivencia* which brought farmworker women from across the U.S. to Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers.

## **American Indian College Fund**

The [American Indian College Fund](#) is the nation's largest Native-led charity supporting Native student access to higher education. The College Fund believes "education is the answer" and provides American Indian and Alaska Native students with scholarships and program support, ensuring they have the tools to graduate and succeed in their chosen careers. NCG made a donation in honor of a land acknowledgment given at our Marketing Matters Conference.

## **Capital Impact Partners**

A leading nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution, [Capital Impact Partners](#) provides a variety of services to support underestimated communities, including real estate lending, training and mentorship programs and social impact investments for growth-stage businesses. In 2025, NCG donated to the [Co-op Innovation Awards program](#), awarding annual grants to organizations with innovative strategies to increase the number of food, housing and worker co-ops that drive economic development and job creation.

## **Columinate**

[Columinate](#) is a national consulting cooperative serving mission-driven organizations, including food co-ops. In 2025, NCG provided financial support for their [Cooperative Cafés](#), which bring together top leadership of food co-ops for a day of strategic conversations designed to build shared understanding of key issues facing food co-ops. NCG also provided financial support for Columinate's [General Manager Compensation database](#), which helps managers access information on national compensation trends and supports gender equity.

## **Consumer Cooperative Management Association (CCMA)**

The [CCMA conference](#) is an annual event, held since 1956, that brings together managers, directors and supporters of food co-ops from throughout the U.S. and features tours, plenary sessions, workshops, breakouts and ample networking sessions. In 2025, NCG was a conference sponsor.

## **Cooperation Works!**

[CooperationWorks!](#) (CW) is a national network of organizational and individual members working to strengthen America's cooperative movement by building and empowering a network of skilled cooperative development practitioners. Through Cooperative Development Centers, CW members work together to revitalize communities through effective cooperative enterprise development. NCG contributed to [CW's 25th Anniversary campaign](#).

## **Cooperative Development Foundation**

The [Cooperative Development Foundation](#) (CDF) is a development nonprofit that promotes self-help and mutual aid in community, economic and social development through cooperative enterprise. Through its funds, fiscal sponsorships and fundraising, CDF makes grants and loans that foster cooperative development in the U.S. and abroad. In 2025, NCG donated to the Race for Cooperative Development (Co-op 5K) and the [Co-op Hall of Fame](#), contributing in honor of



2025 Cooperative Hall of Fame inductee, former CEO of PCC Community Markets and longtime NCG board member, [Randy Lee](#).

### **Cooperative Development Services Fund**

[Cooperative Development Services](#) (CDS) and its 501(c)(3) charitable subsidiary, the Cooperative Development Fund of CDS, actively support the growth of cooperative businesses at all stages, including long-established co-ops, startups and co-op conversions in urban and rural communities. NCG contributed to the Fund's [fiscal sponsorship program](#) and the development of materials to help co-ops fundraise more effectively.

### **Equal Exchange Small Farmer Fund**

[Equal Exchange](#) is a longstanding, valued brand partner for NCG food co-ops and a fair trade worker cooperative that sources products from fair trade farmers around the world. In 2025, NCG made a donation [Equal Exchange's Small Farmer Fund](#) to assist fair trade farmer cooperatives that lost funding for climate projects due to federal executive orders that halted federal USAID grants.

### **Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund**

The [Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund](#) is a regional cooperative and rural economic development organization serving a membership of Black farmers, landowners and farmer cooperatives in the South with co-op development, land retention and advocacy. In 2025, NCG donated to FSC's regional marketing and member outreach efforts.

### **First Nations Development Institute**

[First Nations Development Institute](#) improves economic conditions for Native Americans through direct financial grants, technical assistance and training, and advocacy and policy work. NCG made a donation in honor of a land acknowledgment that was given at the Co+vergence tradeshow.

### **Food Co-op Initiative**

[Food Co-op Initiative](#) (FCI) is a nonprofit dedicated to providing targeted resources to help support the number and success of new startup food co-ops. NCG is a founding member of FCI and has provided annual financial and technical support to FCI for more than a decade. In 2025, NCG made a significant contribution to FCI to help the organization bridge funding gaps due to federal grant funding cuts. NCG also sponsored their [FCI Live program](#).

### **HEAL Food Alliance**

The [Health, Environment, Agriculture and Labor \(HEAL\) Alliance](#) is a national coalition of 55 organizations representing over two million rural and urban farmers, food chain workers, Indigenous groups, scientists, policy experts, public health advocates and community organizers who are building a movement to transform our food and farm systems. NCG donated to support HEAL's [policy work](#) on the Farm Bill.



## **International Cooperative Alliance**

NCG maintains a direct membership in the [International Cooperative Alliance](#), which works to unite, represent and serve the common interests and goals of cooperatives worldwide with over one billion cooperative members. Beyond annual dues, NCG provided sponsorship for the [International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank](#) (ICETT), a group formed to offer strategic thinking on the cooperative business model as a key differentiator for entrepreneurial competitiveness and to strengthen cooperatives' business performance.

## **Mileston Cooperative Association**

NCG made contributions to [Mileston Cooperative Association](#), a Black farmers cooperative located in Western Holmes County, Mississippi. The association is a member of NCG partner, the [Federation of Southern Cooperatives](#). NCG's contributions funded efforts to support a food store in the community, youth workforce development and increase market access for distribution of their produce to NCG members.

## **Minneapolis American Indian Center**

The [Minneapolis American Indian Center](#) provides educational, health, employment and social services to the Twin Cities urban Native community. The Center provides a variety of programs that celebrate and uplift Native culture, drawing more than 10,000 participants each year. NCG rented space for a regional human resources meet-up in Minneapolis in 2025, which happened shortly after a tragic shooting that killed five people from Red Lake Nation. NCG made an additional donation to show support for the local community during a difficult time.

## **National Black Food and Justice Alliance**

The [National Black Food and Justice Alliance](#) (NBFJA) represents hundreds of Black urban and rural farmers, organizers and land stewards in the U.S. working together to protect Black land ownership and food sovereignty. NCG contributes to NBFJA's self-determining food economies platform which supports the organizing efforts of Black-led food co-ops, including the "Black-led food co-op day" at the annual Up & Coming conference for start-up food co-ops.

## **National Cooperative Business Association – NCBA CLUSA International**

NCG is an active member of [NCBA CLUSA](#), the national apex association of U.S. cooperatives founded in 1916. NCBA's work is focused on bringing together and advocating for all cooperatives to build a more inclusive economy by empowering people to have a greater say in their futures and more equitable access to economic opportunities. NCG's contributions in 2025 included annual dues, sponsorship of NCBA CLUSA's first Cooperative Film Festival at the [Co-op IMPACT conference](#), support for the [Principle 6 Initiative](#), executive roundtable, DEI projects and NCBA's 2025 International Year of Cooperatives efforts.

## **National Farm to School Network**

Food co-ops' vision for community food security and empowerment is well-aligned with the mission and work of [National Farm to School Network](#) (NFSN), a nonprofit information, advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sourcing, school gardens and food and agriculture education into schools, early care and education settings. In



2025, NCG contributed to NFSN's operating budget, supporting their federal policy work to build strong, equitable and just local food systems.

## **National Organic Coalition**

Many NCG food co-ops played a vital role in creating a market for organic food and took part in advocating for the federally regulated system of organic certification that exists today. NCG continues this tradition as a [founding member and active participant](#) of the [National Organic Coalition \(NOC\)](#), a national alliance of organizations working to provide a "Washington voice" for farmers, ranchers, consumers, environmentalists and industry members involved in organic agriculture. NCG pays annual dues to the organization and in 2025, continued to invest in NOC's efforts to [improve racial equity](#) in the organic sector. NCG also offered matching funds to raise money to bring organic farmers to Washington, D.C., and other organic events.

## **Native Forward Scholars Fund**

For over 50 years, [Native Forward Scholars Fund](#) has empowered students from over 500 Tribes in all 50 states by providing scholarship dollars and support for services for undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. NCG made a donation in honor of the land acknowledgment that was given at Spring Meeting.

## **Neighboring Food Co-op Association**

The [Neighboring Food Co-op Association](#) (NFCA) is a regional federation of food co-ops working together toward a shared vision of a thriving regional economy rooted in a healthy, just and sustainable food system and a vibrant community of cooperative enterprises. NCG contributed sponsorship funds to NFCA's annual membership meeting.

## **Network for Developing Conscious Communities**

[Network for Developing Conscious Communities](#) is a national network organization committed to strengthening Black governed community development organizations. In 2025, NCG contributed sponsorship funds to support their [National Conference on the Black Cooperative Agenda](#).

## **North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems**

NCG coordinated a national fundraiser to benefit [North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems](#) (NATIFS), tied to sales of Field Day brand products promoted through Co+op Deals from Nov. 5 through Dec. 2. NCG pledged to donate \$.05 for every Field Day product sold at a member food co-op during the promotion, which resulted in a total donation of more than \$134,000. NATIFS is a nonprofit with a mission to promote Indigenous foodways education and facilitate Indigenous food access. NATIFS operates the Indigenous Food Lab, a professional Indigenous kitchen and training center that reintegrates Native foods and Indigenous-focused education into tribal communities across North America.

## **Organic Trade Association**

NCG is a member of the [Organic Trade Association](#) (OTA), supplying an organic industry retailer perspective on behalf of its food co-ops and the communities they serve. OTA is a membership-based organization focused on representing organic manufacturers and producers



through advocacy work in Washington, D.C. In addition to paying annual dues, in 2025 NCG contributed to OTA's [Small Business Access Program](#) (formerly Diversity and Entrepreneurship Fund) as well as provided scholarship funds for qualifying members to attend OTA's annual Organic Week and Hill Day advocacy activities.

## **Project Potluck**

As the largest professional community run by and for People of Color (POC) working in the consumer packaged goods industry, [Project Potluck](#) works to expand networks, increase access to mentorship and provide critical funding to help POC build successful companies and careers. NCG raised money for Project Potluck from brand and industry partners through our Focus on Fresh and Co+vergence tradeshow to provide Project Potluck with a [collective donation](#).

## **Red Feather Development Group**

Of the more than one million Tribal members residing on American Indian reservations, 40% live in homes that do not meet the federal standard for "adequate housing." [Red Feather Development Group](#) partners with Indigenous communities to develop and implement lasting and impactful housing solutions. NCG donated in honor of a land acknowledgment given at Fall Meeting.

## **Shared Capital Cooperative**

[Shared Capital Cooperative](#) (SCC) is a national Community Development Financial Institution loan fund that connects co-ops with capital to build economic democracy. Working with capital invested by the cooperative sector and its allies, SCC provides financing for the expansion and startup of cooperatively owned businesses and housing throughout the United States. NCG was a sponsor of SCC's 2025 annual meeting.

## **The Organic Center**

[The Organic Center](#) is a nonprofit research and education organization whose mission is to conduct and assemble credible, evidence-based science on the environmental and health effects of organic food and farming and communicate the findings to the public. In 2025, NCG contributed funds to the Center's research budget.

## **Up and Coming Conference (Indiana Cooperative Development Center)**

The [Up and Coming Conference](#) is an annual event designed to provide technical and networking support for startup food co-op groups. It is co-sponsored by the [Indiana Cooperative Development Center](#) and [Food Co-op Initiative](#). In 2025, NCG was a sponsor of this event.