



The [COWOP coalition](#) is a growing statewide network that aims to bring together worker co-ops and developers, grassroots organizations and labor unions, and funders and investors to resource and coordinate the advancement of a worker ownership movement across Massachusetts.

We aim to grow infrastructure statewide to advance worker ownership by reducing barriers for marginalized constituencies, and by increasing efficiencies and supports for those seeking assistance and community among like-minded partners.

2023-2024 Policy Platform:

Grants & Loan Guarantees

- Access to finance is a critical challenge to worker owned cooperatives, particularly those in working class and communities of color, that grants and loan guarantees can solve.
- We wish to develop a mechanism whereby several providers are able to access the pool of funding for cooperative grants and loan guarantees, with lots of clarity on the process.

Technical Assistance

- We want to join hands with the Coalition for an Equitable Economy and others working with the Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA) program in MA to continue to ensure that SBTA funds (\$500,000) can go specifically to support of worker owned cooperatives.
- We would also access alternative TA funding that would support co-op development needs that the SBTA cannot meet, e.g. ideation phase (startup) TA and TA for co-ops with over 20 employees.
- Let's work together to increase our pool of referrals for co-op business development, good TA providers who work well with BIPOC entrepreneurs, democratically worker owned TA providers, and providers meeting industry-specific needs.

Coalition member organizations and allies are contributing resources needed to advance this platform, including media capacity, legislative mobilization, technical resources and so on. We welcome all those who share our goal of increasing workers' agency over their economic lives to help democratic workplaces flourish across our commonwealth.

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