

The Co-op Principles for Housing Co-ops

1 Voluntary and Open Membership

Membership in a housing co-op is open to all who can use the co-op's services and accept the responsibilities of being a member, without discrimination.

4 Autonomy and Independence

Housing co-ops are independent associations. They follow the laws that apply to them and their agreements with governments or other organizations. But the members control the co-op.

2 Democratic Member Control

Housing co-ops are controlled by their members. Each member has one vote. Housing co-ops give members the information they need to make good decisions and take part in the life of the co-op.

5 Education, Training and Information

Housing co-ops offer education and training to the members, directors and staff so that everyone can play a full role in the life of the co-op. Housing co-ops find ways to tell the public what they are and what they do

3 Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute financially to the co-op and share in the benefits of membership. The co-op does not pay a return on the members' shares or deposits. Instead it sets aside reserves for the future and charges the members only what it needs to operate soundly.

6 Co-operation among Co-operatives

By organizing together in federations, housing co-ops grow stronger and help to build a healthy co-op movement. Where they can, housing co-ops use the services of co-op businesses to meet their needs.

7 Concern for Community

Housing co-ops work to build strong communities inside and outside the co-op. They help to improve the quality of life for others and they take care to protect the environment.

