



Co-op Developments

A short monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. **Please share with your network!**

Support Co-op Development in the PNW: Donate Today!

Supporting Co-ops During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Since the Center's last newsletter, the corona virus has escalated to a pandemic. In Washington, gatherings of over 50 people are prohibited, schools and universities closes, bars and restaurants closed. This is a difficult time for any business and the co-op community is coming together to support each other. NWCDC sent out a [statement](#) on March 13 with some initial actions. Since then, we have taken the following steps:

- Created [space](#) on our website for National and Regional resources.
- Provided a hold on rent to our tenant: Capital Homecare Cooperative
- Postponed the Homecare Co-op Board training.
- Transitioned the 2020 Co-op Academy in Mt. Vernon to an on-line format.
- Delayed Marketing Symposium to August and September.
- Provided relief to borrowers from the Revolving Loan Fund. This will place a 90 freeze on payments and accruing interest.
- Working with **CoSound**, an Oylmpia based cooperative network, to convene co-op leaders in Washington to develop support and advocacy strategies.

We will continue to advocate for our cooperative community and assist in creating strategies for mutual self-help.

NWCDC Featured on The Olympia Standard



Staff members **Miles Nowlin** and **John McNamara** appeared on the podcast, The Olympia Standard, to discuss co-operatives in Olympia and the role of co-ops in creating housing security and stable economies. The Olympia Standard produces on a biweekly schedule and covers a wide range of issues affecting Washington's Capital City and the region. [Click Here](#) to listen in!

Evergreen College MPA Students Create Research on Limited Equity Housing

Over the last 3 months, a group of Evergreen MPA students teamed up to produce a study on the effects they limited equity housing co-ops play in the housing market. They also looked at the impact that Opportunity to Purchase, and Right of First Refusal law can play in persevering more housing through the co-op model. Students **Sara Develle**, **Grace Lee** and **Jennifer Sievert** conducted interviews and research into co-op housing developments

in Washington DC and Washington state. Their full report is available online at <https://megami195.wixsite.com/commonground>. The Northwest Cooperative Development Center extends a huge thank you to these students for the time, effort and skills they contributed to making this study happen!!

Save the Date! Give Big WA is May 6th

NWCDC will be participating in The Big Give for the first time this year. **GiveBIG Washington** is a day where individuals and organizations come together and make an investment in the communities we want to live in by supporting Washington-based nonprofits. When we give, we make a conscious step towards creating the society we want to live in. NWCDC will be unveiling its promotion in early April and we expect to use funds to assist Washington co-ops as they recover from the economic effects of the covid-19 pandemic.

Capital Homecare Needs Everyone's Help



The Capital Homecare Cooperative began seeing a drop in hours as people began transitioning to a work-at-home model. This meant that they didn't need home care for their loved ones. At the same time, the requirements of providing home care during a pandemic has also increased costs for the service. CHC seeks donations to assist its mission of providing quality care and dignity for its members. If you can help support them, please click their logo to make a donation. If you can't afford to support right now, please share their message on your social media! We are all in this together. NWCDC will

promote all co-op support programs as we learn about them.

WA Rural Electric Co-ops Take Steps to Fight Covid-19

The electric cooperatives in Washington are taking necessary steps to protect their members and employees. Several electric cooperatives have changed their annual meetings from in-person meetings to online streaming meetings with voting by mail or online. Many electric cooperatives have done the same with their monthly board meetings. Others have made arrangements for the majority of their employees to work from home and have closed their public meeting spaces. Cooperative members who are paying their electric bills in person are being directed to either use drive-up windows or payment drop-boxes instead of coming inside the building. All electric cooperatives are taking steps to clean their facilities so employees who do have to be in the workplace are protected.



Learn about the different options of employee ownership and transitioning to an employee-owned business. Watch the full 7 part series on converting an existing business to an employee-owned cooperative on our web site at [The Legacy Video Series](#).

DONATE TODAY!

Help us provide technical assistance to co-ops!

You don't have to wait for the end of the year to support our programs! You can provide a **tax deductible** one-time donation or monthly sustaining gift to help fund the work of co-op development! **Any amount is welcome.**

STAY CONNECTED

