

# Support Cooperative Leadership Education



**Support cooperative leadership education** by donating to NASCO's Low-Income Scholarship Fund. The Fund supports low-income youth to travel and attend NASCO's Annual Cooperative Education and Training Institute, a 3-day training and networking event with diverse programming covering topics such as:

- Financial and organizational planning
- Cooperative food systems
- Dynamic meeting facilitation
- And so much more

I know that as an advocate for the cooperative movement, you understand the importance of building an economically and geographically diverse demographic of youth cooperators and leaders.

# NASCO Low-Income Scholarship Fund

## Who we are

North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO) is an association of cooperatives in Canada and the United States, which serves students and youth. NASCO provides its member cooperatives with operational assistance, encourages the development of new cooperatives, and serves as an advocate for cooperatives. NASCO teaches leadership skills, provides information, and serves as the central link facilitating the fruition of the cooperative vision for housing and businesses in campus areas. By strengthening our part of the co-op movement, we believe we can strengthen the future of cooperatives generally.

## The purpose

The Cooperative Education and Training Institute offers a proven program to help empower and educate young people about cooperatives. For most participants the conference is a first introduction to cooperative sectors beyond their local co-op; this weekend immersion gives them a sense of the broader cooperative movement.

## The need

Many cooperatives are unable to obtain proper training for lack of adequate resources. Over the years, the Institute has been an important vehicle for providing education and training for both newcomers and experienced leaders. NASCO's vision, a socially and financially responsible North American cooperative sector, challenges us to generate the resources necessary to make this essential training available to cooperatives and cooperators of modest and low-income.

## The criteria

NASCO has established the following criteria for selecting scholarship recipients:

**Financial need:** If a co-op cannot afford to sponsor anyone, NASCO will try to support at least one member from that co-op.

**Geographic location:** NASCO seeks representation from a variety of regions and both urban and rural communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**Travel costs:** Individuals traveling longer distances receive commensurate assistance through registration scholarships.

**Diversity:** NASCO actively encourages delegations that represent the diversity of their own communities.

**Crisis resolution:** Members at co-ops facing crisis situations are encouraged to attend. Our experience has been that participation in the Institute can have a strong impact when members have the opportunity to learn best practices in a peer-to-peer environment.

**Developing co-ops:** NASCO reserves scholarship funds for groups working to form new cooperatives.

## Our goal

Last year, NASCO distributed \$6500 from the Low-Income Scholarship Fund, helping 16 participants attend the conference out of a pool of 45 applicants. This year, NASCO plans to raise \$10,000 in order to meet the needs of Institute participants. One-hundred percent of funds raised are distributed as scholarships that provide sliding scale assistance to members and non-members for registration costs (\$280) and travel assistance (\$50 - \$400).



**"NASCO Institute has been such a regenerative space of learning, sharing, and inspiring. I will take many lessons with me to my housing co-op, and look forward to applying concepts and strategies to my house."**

**- Shining Li, 2018 NASCO Scholarship Recipient**

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

**By Check:** payable to NASCO, write "LISF" in the memo and mail to:

NASCO  
P.O. Box 166140  
Chicago, IL 60616 USA

**Online:**  
[www.nasco.coop/LISF](http://www.nasco.coop/LISF)

**PayPal:** [info@nasco.coop](mailto:info@nasco.coop)

**Venmo:** @nascocoop

NASCO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association dedicated to providing cooperative education and training. Contributions to NASCO and its Low-Income Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**For more information contact:**  
Syd Burke, Director of  
Community Engagement  
[Syd@nasco.coop](mailto:Syd@nasco.coop)