

# Coop Examples

Provide these examples one by one verbally and have people discuss and decide as a group what type of co-op each is, both in ownership structure and economic sphere.

Example	Type – economic	Type – ownership
Child care and preschool cooperatives offer parents quality and affordable child care. Parents have input in the operation of the program as well a chance to meet with other parents. As members of the co-op they get to elect a board of directors who in turn will hire management to oversee day-to-day operations of the co-op. Childcare cooperatives may be structured in several ways, but for this example, we will say the parents own it. Parent members contribute in the form of membership fees and elect a board of directors. (Example adapted from the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives)	Education	Consumer
With over 82 million Americans as members, Credit Unions are cooperative financial institutions and like any other financial institution, are closely regulated. CUNA (Credit Union National Association) was formed in 1934 as a federation of state leagues. A credit union is different from a bank or savings & loan in the sense that the latter are in business to make a profit. Banks and savings & loans are owned by groups of stockholders whose interests include earning a healthy return on their investments. (Example adapted from the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives)	Financial	Consumer
Come As You Are is the world’s only worker-owned co-operative sex shop, and has a fundamentally anti-capitalist and feminist approach to sexual pleasure, health, and education. The shop is proudly worker owned and operated by Annanda DeSilva, Noah Kloeze, and Jack Lamont through the co-operative CAYA Co-operative Ltd. The store offers workshops, toys, books and hosts special events. (Adapted from their website <a href="http://www.comeasyouare.com/">http://www.comeasyouare.com/</a> )	Retail	Worker
The nation’s member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops constitute a unique sector of the electric utility industry – and face a unique set of challenges. Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity to 42 million co-op consumer-members. Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of distribution members. Whether it’s a co-op serving a remote fishing village above the Arctic Circle or a co-op serving a marine research lab in the Florida Keys, electric co-ops share a single purpose: providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to their consumer-members. (from the NRECA website <a href="http://www.nreca.coop/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Electric-Co-op-101.pdf">http://www.nreca.coop/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Electric-Co-op-101.pdf</a> )	Service	Producer
Nickel City Housing Cooperative	Housing	Consumer (Consumer cooperatives are enterprises owned by consumers)

		and managed democratically which aim at fulfilling the needs and aspirations of their members – Euro Co-op)
Insert your own example if you would like (like Brooklyn B&B which is an example of a blended type or another you know of)		



(Compiled by Erin Hancock, Summer 2016)