

Grantmaking Policy of the Howard Bowers Fund for Consumer Cooperatives

The purposes of the Bowers Fund are:

1. To promote and develop consumer-owned food cooperatives and consumer cooperative education in the United States.
2. To encourage and train people to pursue careers in the management of consumer-owned food cooperatives
3. To provide education programs for staff, board, and managers of consumer cooperatives.

To achieve these purposes, the Bowers Fund gives grants to individuals and organizations in the consumer cooperative sector for, but not limited to, conference and training registrations and scholarships, development of training materials, and leadership training.

Recipients are selected on the merits of how their activity or project will fulfill the purposes of the Fund. In addition, the trustees reserve the right to consider these criteria:

1. Location of applicant or of those to benefit from the grant, in the interest of supporting programs that have a regional or national impact
2. Whether the applicant is an individual or an organization, in the interest of spreading a small fund to benefit a greater number of people
3. Size, financial situation, and potential resources of the applicant's co-op or organization

The Fund is governed by a board of trustees which meets quarterly, usually in late January, late April, late July, and late October. Grant applications are considered at these meetings. Grant applications may be submitted on paper or electronically. All applications received after the 15th of one quarter ("quarter one" as defined by the months mentioned above) and before the 15th of the next quarter ("quarter two" as defined by the months mentioned above) will be considered at the trustee meeting at the end of "quarter two." Applicants will be informed within a week of the meeting. Please submit applications to Trustees of the Bowers Fund, c/o Cooperative Development Foundation, 1401 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005 or to Trustees of the Bowers Fund at equinn@cdf.coop. For scholarships to CCMA, contact Ann Hoyt at aahoyt@facstaff.wisc.edu.

A conflict of interest may exist when a trustee or their organization would benefit from a grant. In this situation, the trustee will bring the situation to the attention of the other trustees and will not vote on the application.

As the Bowers Fund is administered by a 501(c)(3) organization, activities supported by the Fund must be charitable, educational, or scientific as defined under the appropriate provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations.

The Fund does not discriminate on the basis of race or gender.

Application to the Howard Bowers Fund for Consumer Cooperatives

Date _____

Name _____ Title _____
(Must be organization's general manager or board member.)

Co-op or Organization and Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Total Budget for the Project _____ Amount Requested from the Bowers Fund _____

Purpose of Grant _____

What geographic area will benefit? _____

Co-op's annual sales from last fiscal year \$_____

What skills will you learn or teach with the help of this grant and why is this important? _____

How will you, your co-op, and the consumer co-op sector benefit from this grant, directly and indirectly?
Please include numbers if possible.

