The Co-op Difference:

Facts and information to inspire home care co-op members.

**What’s a co-op?** -- A cooperative is a business owned and democratically controlled by the people who used its goods and services. Co-ops are businesses that are member-owned, member-controlled, and member-benefitted.

**Co-op Members Earn More** -- Did you know that homecare co-op workers earn more than workers at traditional agencies? A recent survey showed that among more than 2,600 homecare cooperative workers in the U.S., co-op members earn $1.84/hour more than their counterparts at other agencies.

**You’re the owner:** Being a co-owner equals empowerment, mutual support and professional development.

**When you’re an owner you:**

• Have a say in how the business is operated.

• Elect the board of directors and have an opportunity to serve.

• Have a voice in how care is delivered and how work is scheduled.

• Experience greater job satisfaction from better wages, benefits, and training.

• Enjoy the support and camaraderie of fellow caregivers.

**The Co-op Difference**

What makes a homecare cooperative different than an agency is that the homecare workers own the business themselves. They elect a board of directors from amongst themselves, and that board sets policy. The benefits go back to the caregivers themselves rather than to outside investors or corporate owners.

**Said another way…**

A homecare worker cooperative is owned by the caretakers themselves and they control it democratically. The benefits of the cooperative go back to the caregivers themselves.

**Gain Business Skills**

“By co-business owner with your fellow caregivers, you are going to develop business skills and abilities that you’ll be able to use in your personal life. It’s wonderful to see members become leaders.” Margaret Bau, USDA Rural Development