

### IS **CLS** COOPERATIVE LEADERS & SCHOLARS?

The Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program is an opportunity to **participate in multi-sector programming and events**, and to **engage with co-op industry thought leaders**, **policymakers**, **and other stakeholders**. The experience is open to **new and emerging cooperators**: current employees or board members, postsecondary students, or others interested in working for, creating, or leading a cooperative or cooperative organization.

Designed to **deepen and broaden knowledge of cooperatives** and the role the model plays in meeting economic and social needs of communities, the program is structured to **empower participants to shape their experience for maximum value** as they connect and collaborate with peers and industry experts.



Cooperative Leaders & Scholars A Project of CDF and NCBA CLUSA

## <sup>TS</sup> ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must qualify under one of the three categories and reside in North America.

- Emerging cooperators (ages 18 35) pursuing a career in or working with cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance.
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  - Individuals new to cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance with less than 5 years of experience.
  - Post secondary students of any age with an interest in cooperatives, credit unions, or mutual insurance.

## WHAT TIMELINE?

Applicants will be notified of their status by March 1, 2024. Programming begins in April and concludes in November with in-person events in April and October and monthly webinars.

### **WHAT** YOU **EXPECT?**



Engage in an 8 month program with multiple inperson opportunities meant to maximize peer relationships

Participate in exclusive **multisector programming** and network with industry leaders



Co-create a

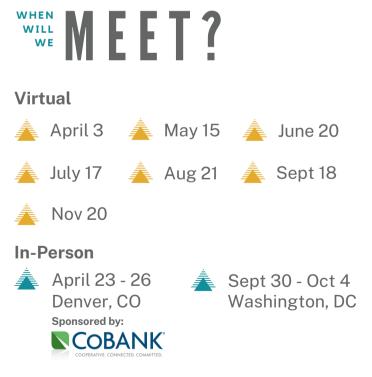
SPARK COLLABORATION

Shape your program with content relevant to your interests



# **CAPSTONES**?

The culmination of the Cooperative Leaders and Scholars (CLS) program is a capstone project that can be completed individually or in a small group. Participants select projects based on several parameters, including alignment with the NCBA CLUSA lines of work, as well as relevance to the participants' own cooperative work and personal interests. CLS staff work with the cohort to develop the capstone projects, connecting participants with cooperative information, experts, and organizations - within and outside of their sector and geography - that can provide critical insight and valuable connections to enhance project success and advance participants' networks and professional development.





## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

#### Share with your network

Help us with outreach and share the news about CLS with your network.



#### Sponsor the program

Partner with us to support the program and participants.



"The CLS program has inspired me by deepening my understanding of what co-ops are capable of, and given me a network of peers with diverse experiences that will shape my own cooperative work for years to come!"

#### Provide a scholarship



Name a participant or open up a spot to a qualified applicant. The full cost to support an attendee is \$5,500.

#### CLS participants will receive:



Registration for NCBA CLUSA's Co-op IMPACT Conference, CDF's Cooperative Hall of Fame, and a short course from the International Centre for Co-operative Management at Saint Mary's University

Travel stipend, accommodations, and meals during two in-person events

Exclusive networking events and webinars from industry experts

"Being a part of the CLS cohort has broadened my understanding of the international history of cooperatives and helped me to make connections with likeminded individuals who are doing amazing work promoting democracy, equity, and workers' rights today."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact Kirstie Boyette at kboyette@ncba.coop or visit CDF.COOP/CLS

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2024.

