



Economic well-being

Idea 3	Promote and strengthen social economy organizations
Proposal 3a	Incubate cooperatives generally, with an emphasis on healthcare and family care cooperatives
Description	<p>Incubate cooperatives generally with an emphasis on healthcare and family care cooperatives. Support an understanding and incubation of healthcare models using existing models outside the U.S. and partner with organizations such as the National Cooperative Business Association. Support an understanding of family care (children, people with disabilities, older adults) cooperative models in other countries. Create regional workgroups to develop cooperative business solutions in healthcare and other fields, focused on solving specific community problems. Create new policies and incentives that would help cooperative businesses take root and thrive.</p>
How will the proposed action advance equitable health and well-being?	<p>The objective of cooperatives is to meet the needs and aspirations of their members; they are controlled democratically. Workers in a cooperative tend to have better working conditions, including health, safety, and social protections. Research shows that the cooperative model increases the economic and social well-being of members and the community as a whole. The economic benefit stays in the community and is not appropriated by a small subset of the community. Places that have cooperatives tend to be more resilient to fluctuations in the larger community.</p>
Is there work we can build on?	<p>National Cooperative Business Association International Health Cooperative Organization International Labor Organization Cooperative Unit International Organisation of Industrial and Service Cooperatives HomeCareAssociates https://phinational.org/wp-content/uploads/legacy/clearinghouse/homecarecooperatives_work_ownership.pdf Homecare Cooperative Initiative at the Cooperative Development Foundation Commonwealth Fund</p>
Who would have to act? Who would be key partners?	<p>U.S. cooperative groups Regional stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, users, local governments Foundations</p>



<p>A few high-level action steps</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify existing health care and care cooperatives in the U.S. Develop case studies. Learn from other industries that have succeeded in developing cooperative business models.2. Explore the opportunity to develop cooperatives for family care—including care for children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Care cooperatives are being developed in several countries around the world to address growing aging populations and improve women’s economic empowerment.3. Begin popular education about the value of cooperatives to show the possibility of cooperatives to improve worker health and well-being.
<p>Other comments or guidance</p>	<p>Cooperative and union relationships/tensions; in some countries they work together.</p>