



# Cooperative Grocery Store

# A co-op grocery store is important for several reasons:

1. Community Ownership: A co-op is owned and driven by its members, who share resources and make decisions collectively. This collaboration enhances community engagement and accountability.
2. Local Economic Development: Co-ops frequently prioritize sourcing products from local farmers and suppliers, thereby boosting the local economy and supporting regional food systems.
3. Increased Food Access: Co-ops can offer affordable, healthy food options to underserved communities, tackling food deserts and advocating for food justice.
4. Sustainable Practices: Numerous co-ops prioritize environmental sustainability by minimizing waste, promoting eco-friendly products, and supporting regenerative agriculture.





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5. Education and Community Building: Co-ops often provide workshops, cooking classes, and events that foster connections within the community and increase food literacy.

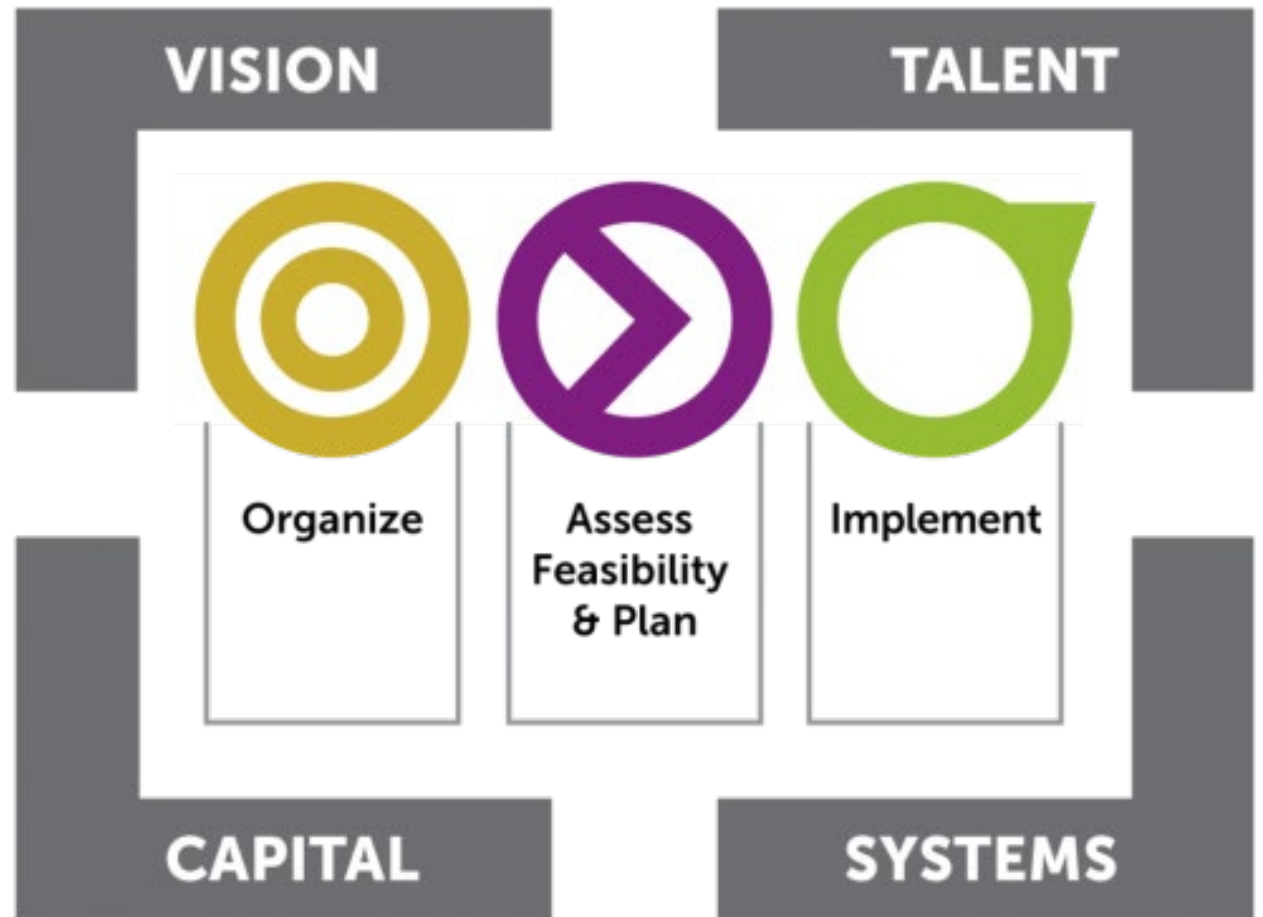
6. Democratic Governance: Co-ops operate on a democratic decision-making process, ensuring that members have a say in shaping the store's policies and future.

7. Supporting Small-Scale Farmers: Co-ops frequently collaborate with small-scale, local farmers, helping preserve agricultural diversity and promote fair trade practices.

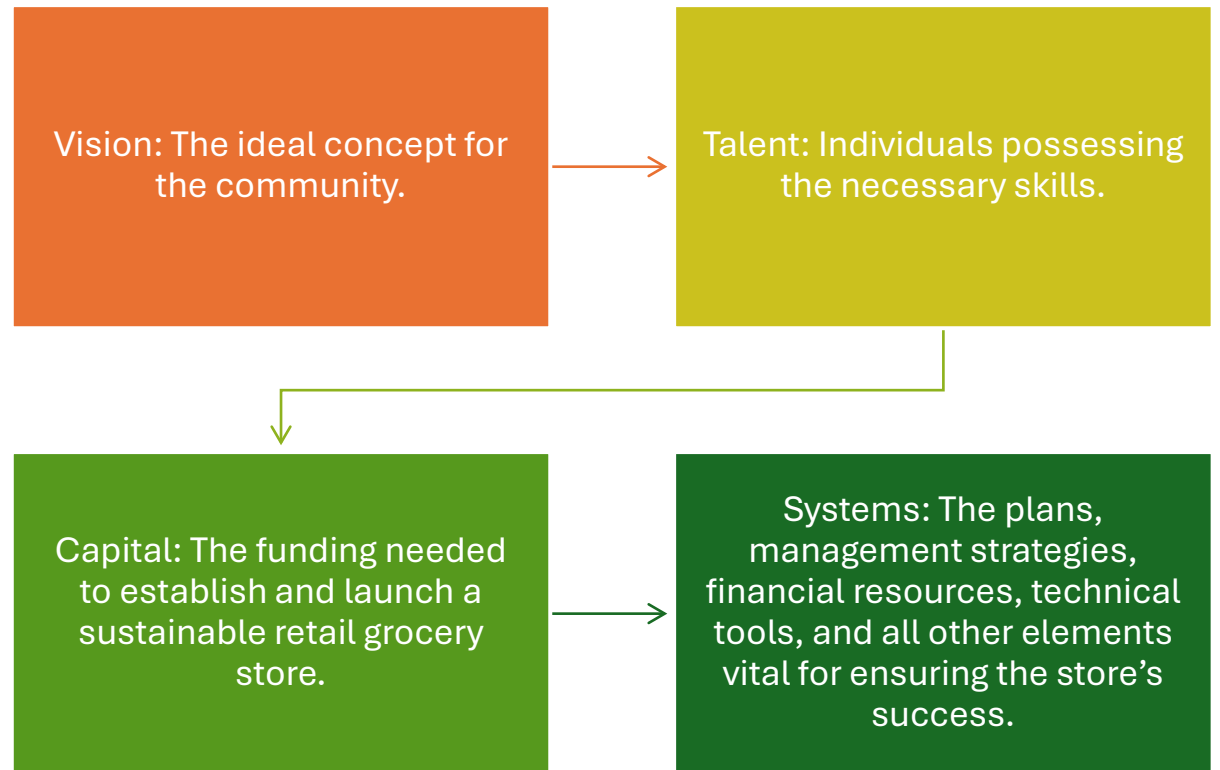
8. Promoting Food Sovereignty: By enabling community members to control their food systems, co-ops strengthen food sovereignty, allowing communities to define their own food systems.

Cooperative grocery stores play an essential role in building stronger, more resilient communities by addressing social, economic, and environmental needs.

Cooperative Development Services, along with members of the CDS Consulting Co-op, created the Four Cornerstones in Three Stages Development Model (4-in-3). This model outlines the key steps for launching a new food co-op. It applies to all types of co-ops. The Food Co-op Initiative uses the 4-in-3 model to assist new food co-op organizers in making informed decisions about learning, planning, and investment.



# Framework





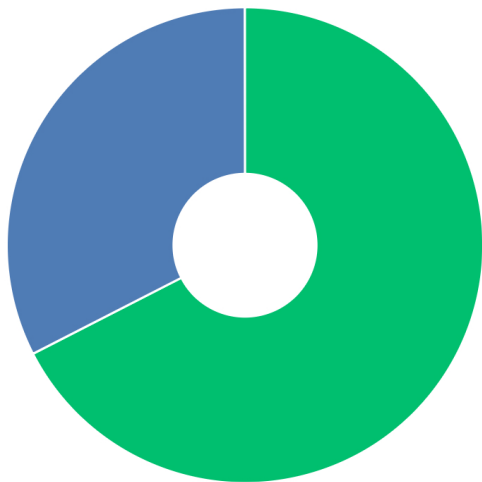
# How a Cooperative Functions

People become members of a grocery cooperative by buying one or more shares, usually investing \$100 to \$250. Some co-ops let members buy extra shares if they wish. The majority of co-ops permit the share price to be paid in installments, and some offer discounted shares or grants to assist low-income members with sharing costs.



# What have we learned

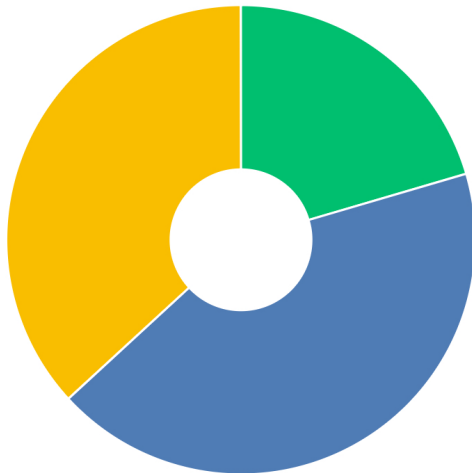
8. Would you be interested in participating in a meeting to learn more about the food cooperative?



Answered: 169      Skipped: 2

Yes	67.46%	114
No	32.54%	55

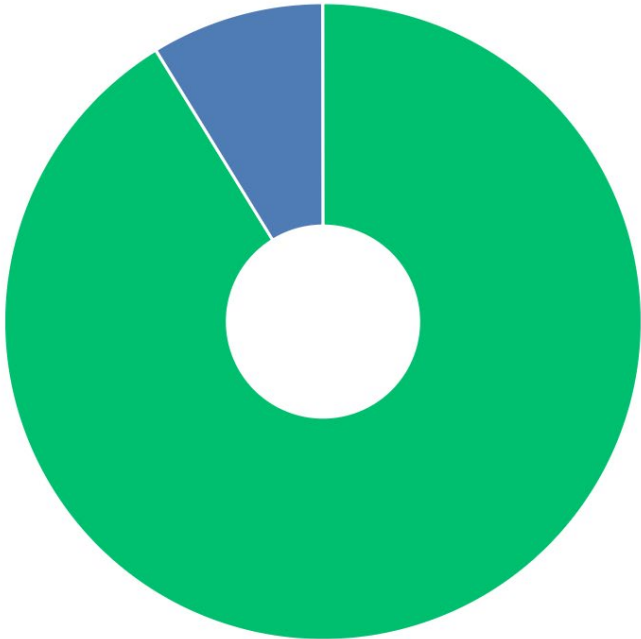
9. How involved would you like to be in co-op decision-making (e.g., voting on board members or policies)?



Answered: 171      Skipped: 0

Very involved	20.47%	35
somewhat involved	42.69%	73
not at all	36.84%	63

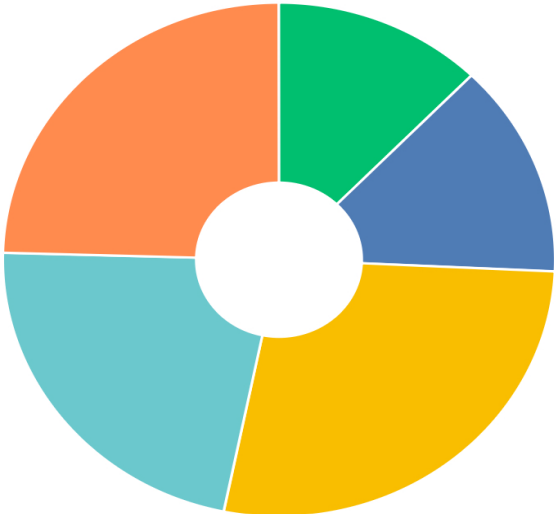
2. Would you support the creation of a cooperative grocery store in North Killeen?



Answered: 171      Skipped: 0

Yes	91.23%	156
No	8.77%	15

1. Describe your familiarity with a cooperative grocery store



Answered: 171      Skipped: 0

Extremely familiar	12.28%	21
Very familiar	13.45%	23
Somewhat familiar	27.49%	47
Not so familiar	22.22%	38
Not at all familiar	24.56%	42



# Concerns and Potential Partnerships

## Concerns

Improving awareness and understanding of what a food cooperative is

Foster a willingness to support actively

Identify both perceived and actual barriers that impede the establishment of a cooperative.

## Potential Partnerships

Culinary School

School of Social Work

Local farmers and ranchers

City of Killeen

Future Farmers of America

Hospitality Programs

Senior Programs

Research interns -Central  
Texas, Texas A&M