

COOPERATION TOWN

Title: Cooperation Town Regional Organiser

Rate: £12.60 per hour

Hours: 16 hours per week, flexible (with some evenings and weekends)

Contract length: Twelve months

Based: Outside of London. Working remotely with regular regional travel.

Application deadline: 9pm on 7 November 2021

About Cooperation Town

Cooperation Town was set up in 2019 to develop a new network of community-led food co-ops, organising on streets and estates across the country.

Cooperation Town co-ops are small buying groups, providing their members with free and affordable groceries, sourced in bulk and distributed at a very low price. Our co-ops are owned by their members and run according to local needs. Members decide collectively on how to organise and are responsible for the day to day running of the co-op.

While each Cooperation Town co-op is independent, the network is designed to share resources and support across the movement.

Our vision is for a food co-op on every street in every town!

Cooperation Town food co-ops and organisers are currently predominantly concentrated in London. We are now looking to support groups outside of this region.

The organisation is a worker co-op, run by its member-workers. It operates a flat wage system (adjusted to location), where all workers are paid the same per hour, regardless of role or experience. We are currently looking into adapting to a social wage system.

Website: www.cooperation.town

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CooperationTown

Twitter: [@CooperationTown](https://twitter.com/CooperationTown)

About the Regional Organiser role

We are looking to recruit a Regional Organiser to work outside of London. We are particularly looking for applicants in Greater Manchester, Middlesbrough and surrounding areas and Birmingham and surrounding areas. The Regional Organiser will lead on the establishment, development and ongoing support of Cooperation Town food co-ops.

You will work with local community partners, for example community and faith organisations, school staff, tenants organisations and local authorities to identify and reach out to potential members and organise partnership events.

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You will work directly with members of the community across different locations to share information, recruit members, and establish community food co-ops. You will provide ongoing support as they develop and grow.

You will help the co-ops to link up with local food suppliers and work with them to establish a smooth logistics operation.

You will be expected to be available for in-person and online sessions, meetings and workshops. Working days are flexible, responding to members' and partners' needs and availability (within reason). You will be self managing your time to suit the project best.

Our Organisers are actively listening to their community's needs, providing support and encouragement, building social connections and resources to overcome challenges. Your role will be to bring people together and facilitate a space for collaboration, mutual support, experimentation and solidarity.

You will be part of the Cooperation Town team of organisers (currently based in London). Cooperation Town is a workers cooperative, operating a non hierarchical structure (with no line management). You will be expected to take active part in the cooperative sessions and meetings.

The position would be based from home, with quarterly visits to London. Some work is likely to take place over evenings and weekends.

Community Food Co-ops Organiser Roles & Responsibilities

- Establish and maintain good working relationships with members and partners.
- Support local organisers to develop and run community events.
- Identify 'community anchors' and support them in their initial role.
- Facilitate an inclusive space where members of the community can build relationships with each other and work collaboratively.
- Organise introductory workshops and meetings.
- Build relationships with local food suppliers, including wholesalers and food surplus distributors.
- Identify local organising spaces and help members to negotiate their use.
- Support food coops with practical and operational aspects, such as ordering stock and financial planning.
- Support residents to address barriers to participating in the food coops.
- Maintain a database of all groups
- Take active part in planning and strategy with support from the Cooperation Town team

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About you

Essential

- Experience of community organising, event planning and facilitation
- A strong interest in building grassroots community power through collaborative organising
- A passion for tackling the integrated issues of food justice, social isolation and food waste.
- Empathetic, personable, friendly and approachable
- Highly organised, good communication skills, proactive and a self-starter
- Able to manage your own time and resources
- Confident using software, including spreadsheets
- Committed to challenging inequality, racism and injustice. A willingness and openness to learn, knowledge-share and self-educate.

Desirable

- Experience in setting up or working in a cooperative, especially a food co-op.
- Experience working in a social justice organisation.
- Experience of working or organising in a sociocratic organisation.
- Enhanced DBS check (if you do not have one we will apply for one on your behalf)

How to apply

Email a CV and cover letter to info@cooperation.town by 9pm on 7 November 2021.

Please send a cover letter no longer than two sides of A4. Let us know if you would like to use other formats.

We recommend that you detail the following in the cover letter:

- Why would you like to work on this project?
- What skills and experiences do you bring to the project?
- How you relate to the social and cooperative principles that guide and inform our work.

We aim to make this application process as accessible as possible; if you have any questions or requests that will support your application please contact info@cooperation.town..

We look forward to hearing from you!