

COOPERATION TOWN

Title: Cooperation Town Camden & Islington Organiser

Rate: £15 per hour

Hours: 20 hours per week, flexible (with some evenings and weekends)

Contract length: Twelve months

Based: Cooperation Town Hub in Camden with travel across Camden and Islington

Application deadline: 9pm on Tuesday 28 June 2022

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 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 their 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 Camden & Islington Organiser role

Cooperation Town has been successfully working across Camden and Islington for some years. In 2022 we secured funding from Camden Council and from Cooperate Islington to expand and strengthen our network of food co-ops in the two boroughs, building on the extensive work already done locally.

We are looking to recruit a local Organiser to continue working on the establishment, development and ongoing support of Cooperation Town food co-ops in the area.

You will work with local community partners (for example: voluntary and faith organisations, schools, tenants and residents associations and the 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, find organising spaces and help groups establish new community food co-ops. You will provide ongoing support as co-ops develop and grow.

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

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

You will be responsible for self managing resources, including a small budget (with support from colleagues) and for regular information sharing with funders and the team.

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 (mostly based in London). As a workers cooperative, we operate a non hierarchical structure (with no line management) and you will be expected to take active part in the cooperative's sessions and meetings.

The position would be based from home, with regular visits to community spaces across the two boroughs. 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 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 good knowledge of communities across Camden and Islington, including local groups and organisations
- A strong interest in building grassroots community power through collaborative organising
- A passion for tackling the integrated issues of food justice, social exclusion, poverty and food waste
- Being able to be empathetic, personable, friendly and approachable
- Confidence in engaging with people from various backgrounds, abilities and ages and in different roles and positions
- Being highly organised, proactive and a self-starter, able to work on your own initiative
- An ability to efficiently and effectively self-manage time and resources
- Excellent communication skills across different media
- Confidence using standard office software, including spreadsheets and online tools
- Commitment to challenging inequality, racism and all forms of social injustice
- A willingness and openness to learn, share knowledge and self-educate

Desirable

- Experience in setting up or working in a cooperative, especially a workers or food co-op
- Experience working in a social or economic 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)
- Experience using design tools (e.g. InDesign and Illustrator) to produce comms

How to apply

Email a CV and a cover letter (no longer than two sides of A4) to jobs@cooperation.town by 9pm on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

Please include your name and 'Camden & Islington Organiser application' in the subject line.

We recommend that you include details of 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 do 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 jobs@cooperation.town.

We look forward to hearing from you!