

## **WELLSPRING COOPERATIVE CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS**

**Mission:** The Wellspring Cooperative Corporation (WCC) is a membership organization made up of organizations and individuals who share a commitment to the organization's mission: "to create a network of mutually supportive worker-owned cooperatives to provide good jobs for people in Springfield's low-income communities and those with limited employment opportunities." Worker-owned businesses will foster prosperity in Springfield's low-income communities through asset building, career development, and the growth of sustainable businesses that are locally rooted and supported in part by purchasing from local anchor institutions.

**Organizational Structure:** Members meet at the annual General Assembly in November to elect the board of directors and make key policy decisions. The board governs the organization between membership meetings, which can be called throughout the year if necessary. Both the General Assembly and the board can create committees for carrying out the work of the organization.

**Membership Process:** To become a member, organizations and individuals submit a membership form and pay annual dues.

**Membership Classes:** To ensure participation by the diverse constituencies important for the WCC's success, five categories of members will each be represented on the WCC board. These include:

- Wellspring cooperative businesses
- Anchor institutions that are place-based by virtue of their mission and identity and are committed to purchasing from Wellspring Cooperatives as possible
- Community and labor organizations
- Development organizations including businesses and cooperatives; and economic, workforce and financial development groups
- Interested individual community members who vote together as a caucus

**Voting and Non-Voting Members:** Organizations and individuals located in Western Massachusetts are voting members, while members from outside the region participate but cannot vote.

**Member Rights and Responsibilities** - Members are expected to:

- Members participate in committees and other Wellspring initiatives, and have a voice on the direction of Wellspring's work. Members can bring proposals for consideration at the General Assembly
- Local members can vote for and run for the Board
- Sign a membership agreement that indicates support of Wellspring's vision and goals;
- Designate in writing a representative and an alternative representative (for organizations);
- Attend the annual membership meeting and other membership meetings as appropriate;
- Read and respond to correspondence as appropriate;
- Pay membership dues set on a sliding scale. Dues support the work of the organization, and members are asked to contribute as they are able.

**For Further Information:** Contact the WCC at [wellspringcoops@gmail.com](mailto:wellspringcoops@gmail.com)  
or call Emily Kawano at 413-323-7868 or Fred Rose at 413-522-2204

**WELLSPRING COOPERATIVE CORPORATION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please email to [wellspringcoops@gmail.com](mailto:wellspringcoops@gmail.com) or mail to 143 Main St., Springfield, MA 01105

**Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the Wellspring Cooperative Corporation, my organization will actively support its mission and goals as stated below:

*The Wellspring Cooperative Corporation's mission is to create a network of mutually supportive worker-owned cooperatives to provide good jobs for people in Springfield's low-income communities and those with limited employment opportunities. Worker-owned businesses will foster prosperity in Springfield's low-income communities through asset building, career development, and the growth of sustainable businesses that are locally rooted and supported in part by purchasing from local anchor institutions.*

**Organizational Membership Category:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wellspring Cooperative          | <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor Institution                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor or Community Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development Organization                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Massachusetts (voting)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Non Western Mass. (participating/non-voting) |

**Representatives:** The following person and/or alternate will represent our organization at the annual membership meeting and other membership meetings throughout the year:

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Representative \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues/Sustaining Investment:**

Annual dues are along a sliding scale of \$50-500. Please support Wellspring as generously as possible.

My organization will pledge annual dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

In lieu of annual dues, if your organization is able to provide a more substantial sustaining investment in WCC, please indicate below:

- My organization will pledge a sustaining investment of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to discuss the possibility of making a sustaining investment in WCC

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_