The Cooperative Fund of New England (CFNE) was founded in 1975 by co-op activists and social investors to provide financial and technical assistance to food cooperatives. Since then, the organization has expanded its focus, offering development loans and technical assistance to a wide range of co-ops and nonprofit groups that share CFNE’s vision of equality, justice, and social responsibility. A “virtual” organization, CFNE serves the New England region through an administrative office in North Carolina and four outreach offices in New England.

Financial and Social Impact

- Loans made: 750, totaling almost $40 million
- Loan Loss Rate: Less than 0.9%
- Jobs created or retained: 9,914
- Housing units created or retained: 5,459

Success Story: A Yard and A Half, Waltham, MA

A Yard and A Half is a minority and immigrant worker-cooperative landscaping company; it converted to a co-op upon the retirement of the founder. A $450,000 loan from CFNE enabled the employees of this long-standing business to become worker-owners, preserving 20 quality jobs and maintaining high standards of social and environmental justice. As Carolyn Edsell-Vetter, a member of the A Yard and A Half Landscaping Cooperative said, “CFNE’s line of credit allowed us to stabilize cash flow and have an amazingly strong first year post-conversion – our biggest in the company’s 27 year history!”