

# The Co-operators Foundation

Community Economic Development Funds 2016



“As a co-operative, we’re committed to building resilient communities across the country, and are proud to support organizations that hold similar values and goals. Community economic development improves the fabric of our communities by leveraging local experts to reduce poverty, promote social integration and build resilient neighbourhoods. Through The Co-operators Foundation – Community Economic Development Funds, we fund charities, non-profit organizations, social enterprises and co-operatives whose programs provide employability training and employment opportunities for marginalized youth and persons with mental health challenges. This year, we broadened our geographic reach, funding a Nunavut-based organization, and offered a one-time Syrian refugee program.”



*Collette Robertson*

Collette Robertson, Chairperson  
CED Funds Board of Directors

In 1995, two funds were created as part of The Co-operators Foundation to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization:

- > Co-operators Fiftieth Anniversary Community Fund, which supports registered charities exclusively, and
- > Co-operators Community Economic Development Fund, which supports non-profit organizations, charities and co-operatives.

Together, these make up The Co-operators Foundation Community Economic Development (CED) Funds. We use the Funds to support community organizations in helping marginalized individuals become self-reliant. Every year, The Co-operators makes a capital contribution to the Funds, which has now reached more than \$12.2 million in contributions.

The CED Funds Board oversees the management of the Funds and makes decisions regarding their strategic direction. Operational decisions are made by The Co-operators Sustainability & Citizenship department.

Year	(Capital) Contribution	Total Capital in Funds
1995 – 1999	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
2000	\$300,000	\$2,600,000
2001	\$400,000	\$3,000,000
2002	\$127,000	\$3,127,000
2003	\$115,000	\$3,242,000
2004	\$300,000	\$3,542,000
2005	\$500,000	\$4,042,000
2006	\$600,000	\$4,642,000
2007	\$600,000	\$5,242,000
2008	\$1,015,000	\$6,257,000
2009	\$617,507	\$6,874,507
2010	\$508,720	\$7,383,227
2011	\$627,243	\$8,010,470
2012	\$684,225	\$8,694,695
2013	\$1,165,923	\$9,860,618
2014	\$490,800	\$10,351,418
2015	\$884,994	\$11,236,412
<b>2016</b>	<b>\$978,918</b>	<b>\$12,215,330</b>

## Strategic Focus

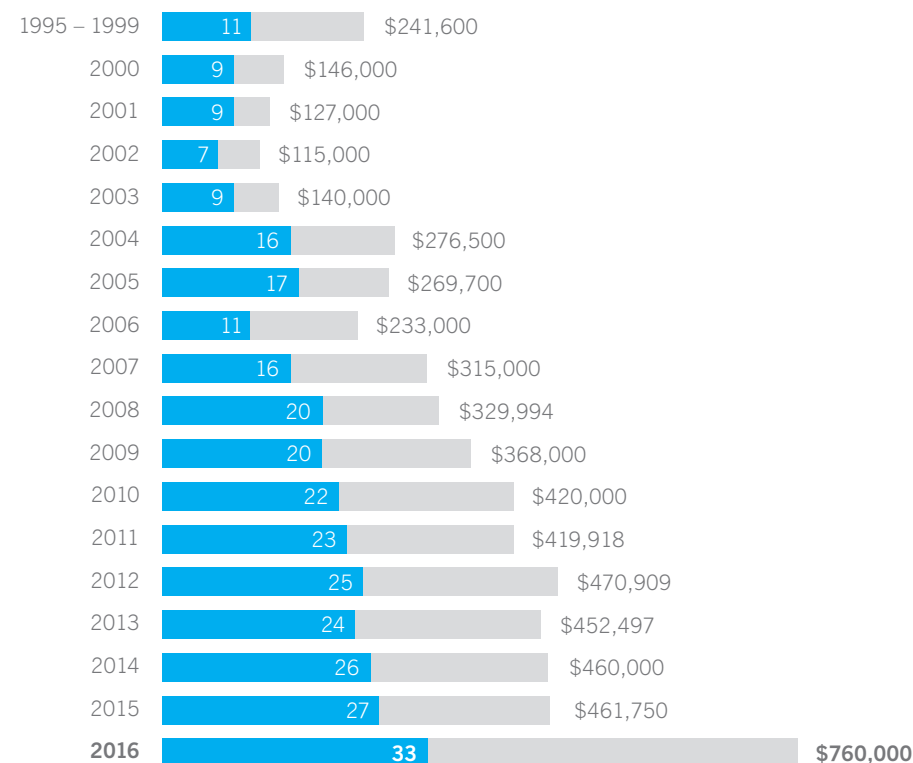
2016 marked the first year implementing our new strategy of focusing on marginalized youth (aged 16 to 34) and persons with mental health challenges. We funded 24 organizations that aim to increase employability and job creation for this target group.

This direction for our CED Funds supports our corporate strategic focus on co-operative identity and meeting the unmet needs of youth and people with mental health challenges. This increased focus will allow us to engage more deeply with the organizations we fund and, ultimately, have a greater impact on the people they serve.

We are currently laying the groundwork for our next phase, which includes a new multiyear partnership model that offers invited organizations \$30,000 per year over three years. In addition, we have targeted key geographic areas currently underrepresented by the fund through the addition of an invitation-only fall funding round. In 2016, we funded organizations in nine provinces and, for the first time, one organization in Nunavut.

For more information on the CED Funds, including criteria and how to apply, visit our website at [www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca) or contact us at [the\\_cooperators\\_foundation@cooperators.ca](mailto:the_cooperators_foundation@cooperators.ca).

## Funds Disbursement



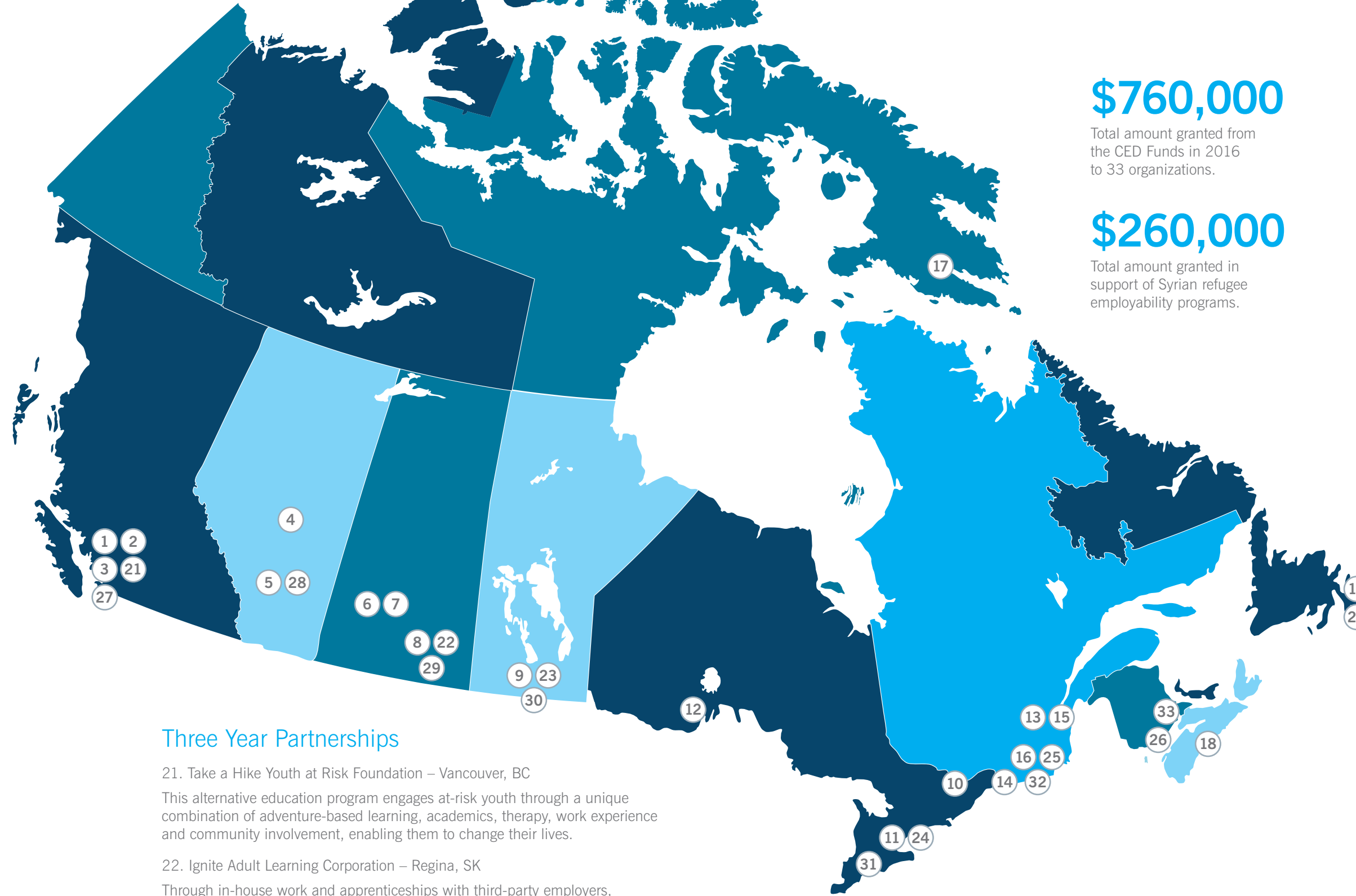
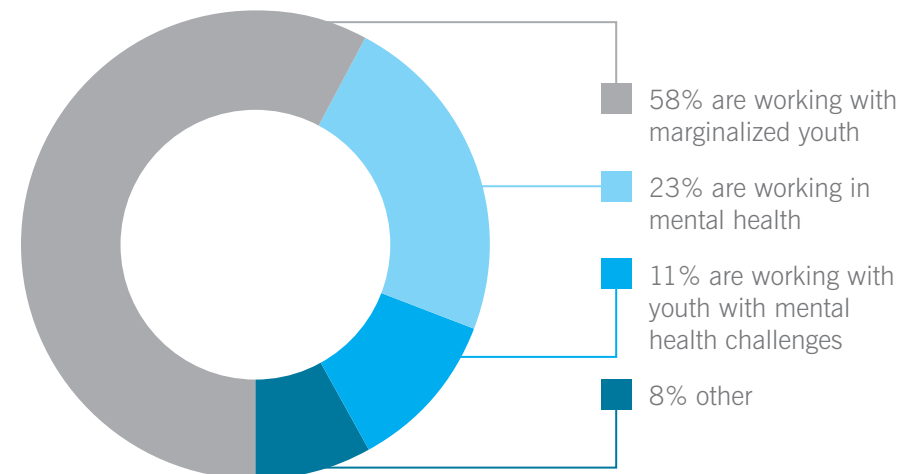
**\$6m**

Total amount The Co-operators has disbursed to 143 organizations since 1995.

## Organizations we funded in 2016

1. Eastside Movement for Business and Economic Renewal Society (EMBERS) – Vancouver, BC
2. The Cleaning Solution – Vancouver, BC
3. The Kettle Society – Vancouver, BC
4. E4C Kids in the Hall – Edmonton, AB
5. Momentum – Calgary, AB
6. CHEP Good Food Inc. – Saskatoon, SK
7. Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-operative – Saskatoon, SK
8. The Regina Work Preparation Centre Inc. – Regina, SK
9. BUILD Inc. – Winnipeg, MB
10. Causeway Work Centre – Ottawa, ON
11. Eva's Initiatives for Homeless Youth – Toronto, ON
12. Roots to Harvest – Thunder Bay, ON
13. Centre résidentiel et communautaire Jacques-Cartier – Quebec City, QC
14. Comité de revitalisation urbaine intégrée de Saint-Pierre (CRUISP) – Lachine, QC
15. Le Pavois – Quebec City, QC
16. Productions Jeun'Est – Montreal, QC
17. Qanuinnirmut Ikajuqtiit / Wellness Helpers – Iqaluit, NU
18. Phoenix Youth Programs – Halifax, NS
19. Autism Society Newfoundland Labrador – St. John's, NL
20. Stella Burry Community Services (Stella's Circle) – St. John's, NL

## Areas of funding



**\$760,000**

Total amount granted from the CED Funds in 2016 to 33 organizations.

**\$260,000**

Total amount granted in support of Syrian refugee employability programs.

## Three Year Partnerships

21. Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation – Vancouver, BC

This alternative education program engages at-risk youth through a unique combination of adventure-based learning, academics, therapy, work experience and community involvement, enabling them to change their lives.

22. Ignite Adult Learning Corporation – Regina, SK

Through in-house work and apprenticeships with third-party employers, Ignite helps at risk adults, aged 19 to 30, gain the education, experience and skills needed for employment and/or further post-secondary training.

23. FortWhyte Alive – Winnipeg, MB

This organization operates FortWhyte Farms, a social enterprise dedicated to using sustainable urban agriculture to build skills and increase job readiness for inner-city youth.

24. Working for Change – Toronto, ON

Working for Change has developed five social enterprises that provide employment and training for people with mental health issues, including the College Street Café and Russell Street Cafeteria.

25. Spectre de rue inc. – Montreal, QC

Spectre de rue offers paid daily work for insufficiently housed people, aged 18 to 35. Over time, the program transitions participants from daily work to more in-depth work experience to ensure social and economic re-integration.

26. Open Sky Co-operative – Sackville, NB

Open Sky provides residential support, vocational training and personal skills support to young adults facing barriers due to social or mental health challenges.



Featuring:  
Megaphone (Street Corner Media Foundation)

Megaphone is a magazine that homeless and low income people sell on the streets of Vancouver and Victoria. The Co-operators proudly supported Megaphone through our CED Funds in 2015, and highlighted them in a 2016 video feature. To see this video, visit <https://youtu.be/ZR8hPxAcCM>.

## Syrian Refugee Program

When it was announced that 25,000 Syrian refugees would settle in Canada by the end of February 2016, The Co-operators Foundation immediately sought to meet unmet needs through the CED Funds. A special one-time grant program was created for organizations that provide programming to prepare Syrian refugees for employability in Canada. Seven organizations received a total of \$260,000 in support of employability programming including language skills, self-employment readiness, Canadian workplace culture, and other pre-employment and skill building workshops:

27. DIVERSEcity – Surrey, BC

28. Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) – Calgary, AB

29. Regina Open Door Society Inc. – Regina, SK

30. Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba (IRCOM) – Winnipeg, MB

31. Immigrant Services – Guelph Wellington – Guelph, ON

32. Centre d'Appui aux Communautés immigrantes (CACI) – Montreal, QC

33. Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area – Moncton, NB

## Impact Investing

In addition to the grants we distribute, we can make positive community impact through our investment portfolio. Impact Investments contribute capital to address environmental and social challenges and are expected to generate risk-adjusted financial returns at least as good as traditional alternatives. The Foundation looks forward to making investments in alignment with The Co-operators Corporate Impact Investing Strategy, which aims to invest six to ten per cent of its invested assets by the end of 2018. We will be further developing this initiative in early 2017.

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Mission Statement

The Co-operators: financial security for Canadians and their communities.

## Our Vision

The Co-operators aspires to be valued by Canadians as...

- > a champion of their prosperity and peace of mind,
- > a leader in the financial services industry, distinct in its co-operative character, and
- > a catalyst for a sustainable society.

## Statement of Values

At The Co-operators we...

- > strive for the highest level of integrity
- > foster open and transparent communication
- > give life to co-operative principles and values
- > carefully temper our economic goals with consideration for the environment and the well-being of society at large
- > anticipate and surpass client expectations through innovative solutions supported by mutually beneficial partnerships.



For more information, read  
The Co-operators 2016  
Integrated Annual Report,  
available at [www.cooperators.ca](http://www.cooperators.ca).



## SUSTAINABILITY

Taking care of tomorrow today—  
the co-operative way

Imagine  Caring Company  
Une entreprise  
généreuse

