





Mark your calendars!

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:
BUILDING OUR LEGACY**

COOPERATIVE LEARNING CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 4-9, 2024

More details coming soon


THISTLE



Meet Thistle's Newest Hires - Cody & Ian!

Cody Minnich joins Thistle in the role of ROC Impact and External Business Manager. In this role, he will be working to expand Thistle ROC's presence on Colorado's Western Slope, working with ROC Program Specialists to provide TA to ROCs, and building out new technical assistance services to other mobile home communities that are untraditionally owned (such as Community Land Trusts or parks owned by nonprofits or local governments). Cody is passionate about affordable housing and believes that everyone deserves to live comfortably in the communities where they work and call home.

He recently worked as an affordable housing project manager with the City of Santa Fe, managing the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Cody grew up in Durango and is excited to move back to his hometown and serve Colorado in this meaningful way. Outside of work, he enjoys snowboarding, backpacking, flyfishing, skateboarding, playing chess and hanging out with his wife and 6-month-old daughter.



Ian Kelly joined Thistle as a ROC Program Specialist in June 2024 and is committed to advancing Thistle's mission of empowering Resident Owned Communities. In the coming months, Ian will take on the role of technical assistance provider, helping newly added communities within Thistle's portfolio thrive through cooperative ownership.

Before joining Thistle, Ian worked as a wildland firefighter and ski instructor in Colorado, driven by a deep commitment to environmental justice and ensuring basic living standards in both rural and urban communities. He also founded a nonprofit focused on food access and sustainability, and has led outdoor leadership programs in Appalachia and Latin America.

Ian holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Davidson College and is a licensed EMT. When not in the woods, you can find him immersed in a good book, walking his dog, or strumming a guitar on his front porch.



Check out: [ROC USA's New Website](#)

What's New?

- User-Friendly Design:
 - The website now features an intuitive, clean, modern design that makes navigating and finding the information you need easier.
- Enhanced Resources:
 - New content has been added, including dedicated pages for impact, research, and public policy.
 - Streamlined, Responsive Experience: removed the need for users to log in and register (myROCUSA.org is gone), and the site is fully optimized for mobile and tablet devices.

ROCKET Trainings

Colorado is currently tied for first place with highest number of active ROCKET users in the ROC Network. Keep it up, ROCstars! If you are looking to build your skill base to better service your community and/or to develop your leadership skills, [ROCKET](#) is a great place to start! ROCKET features specialized training for ROC Members, and delivers the training through self-paced trainings that are available 24/7.

We recommend starting with a new training called ROC101: ROC Essentials. It is a foundational training to help ROC Members learn the business and basics of operating and governing their ROC.



Just a reminder... Each cooperative needs to have a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to prepare the annual reports and audits required by ROC USA, due by the end of April. If you already have a CPA, great! If not, please start looking for one soon, as CPAs usually start getting booked up in November and December. Feel free to reach out to your TA if you have any questions or need assistance!

Share a Story with Us

Please let us know if you have a story from your community! [Email Justin](#) some basics on the story, and he will follow up with you.

