2025 IMPACT REPORT

Brooklyn Coop Federal Credit Union
la cooperativa de ahorro y crédito

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Honestly, I'm ready for 2026. The year 2025 was rough. Right from the start anxiety spiked for staff and members as the US federal government suddenly went from a neutral/sometimes helpful partner to a malign adversary. No one knows when this will get better; much of the damage done can never be undone. Yet, because what other choice is there, we focused on the work and on protecting our members' wealth – the 'Springing' Power of Attorney & Declaration we developed ensures access to their account by a member who could no longer transact in person.

I'm most proud of the Achievements framework we unveiled in September. Brooklyn Coop's account services and affordable consumer, business and mortgage credit are solid. However, the connection between those services and our mission to build wealth and resilience was always a little hazy. "Achievements" solidifies that connection. This simple framework relates specific targets on a member's checking account, loan balance, or regular account deposits to wealth-building goals. By asking members to reach the targets, Brooklyn Coop puts them on a path towards economic security.

Speaking of milestones, Jan 2 2026 is our anniversary! Back in January 2001, with a bit of grant money and a ton of optimism, Jack, Cynthia, Ingrid, Mildred and Johanna asked Bushwick residents to take a chance on not-for-profit, community banking. No one could imagine that 25 years later, the seeds planted by that tiny group of people would have grown into such a sturdy tree. 😊

Stay tuned for details of our 25th Anniversary celebration by following us on Instagram or via our newsletter.

Warmly,

Samira Rajan,
Chief Executive Officer

AT A GLANCE

25
Years operating as a CDFI

6590
Total members

1405
New accounts opened in 2024

$6,574
Average member account balance

$54.9M
Total assets

$41M
Total loan portfolio

86%
Total loan-to-deposit ratio

Bk Coop team making pottery at our 2025 staff outing.

MEETING DEMAND

Brooklyn Coop's mission is to further **wealth-building**, **opportunity**, and **resilience** in our communities by offering just and affordable financial services. This report highlights the ways we have brought that mission to life over the past year.

WHY OUR MEMBERS CHOOSE US

43% are referred by someone they trust

31% find us on social media

32% do not speak English at home

24% want to support a local credit union

18% are in need of a loan

16% had no bank account at the time of opening

2025 LENDING

$8M New dollars lent out in 2025

857 Loan applications we received

72% Percentage of loans we approved or counter offered

14% Percentage of our members with a loan

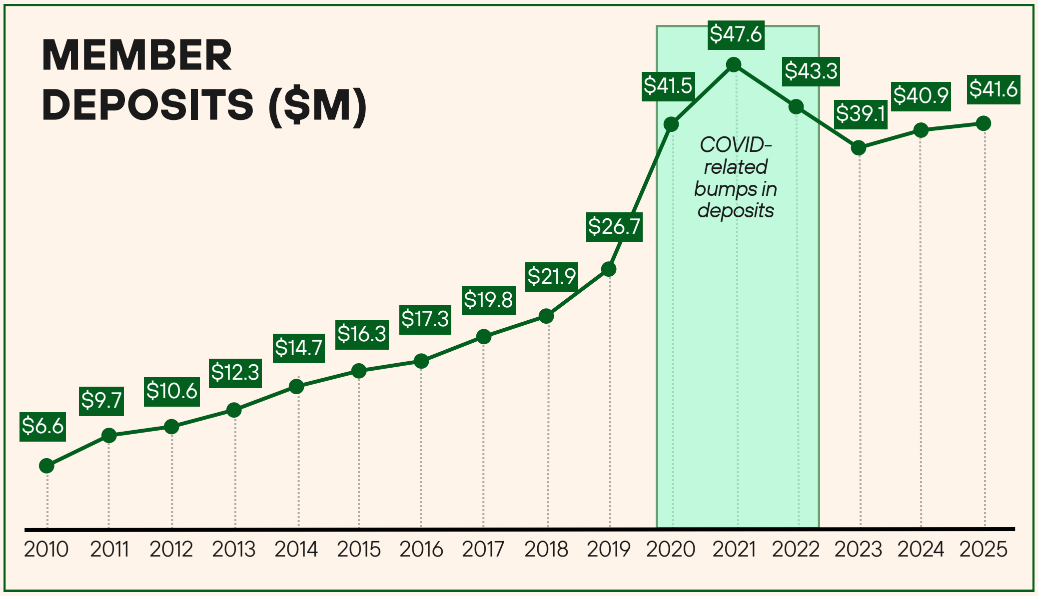
117 Members receiving credit builder loans

105 Personal loans issued to cover expenses related to debt, bills & emergencies

78 Loans issued to ITIN holders, including 15 business loans

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Deposits are fundamental for any financial institution. This chart shows that Brooklyn Coop deposits have risen consistently in the last couple of years, supported by steady growth in High Yield and Friends of Bk Coop deposits.



Visit our website for our complete ***Financial Report***

BUILDING WEALTH

MEMBER REWARDS, LOWER FEES, & AFFORDABLE BANKING

42% of our members earned lowered fees & increased savings rates in 2025

1001 Reached 2 achievements

756 Reached 3+ achievements

This year we restructured our products and services to **reward and to incentivize member engagement**. Traditional banking privileges account-holders who already have high balances, whereas Brooklyn Coop wants to recognize the progress that members are making towards building up their savings. Our Achievements framework connects everyday banking to a larger path toward economic security and makes our mission visible in our products.

In September, Brooklyn Coop began tracking members' progress toward five milestones—like building savings, establishing credit, and creating consistent financial habits—and recognizing that effort through reduced fees, higher CD dividends, and lower loan rates. Members are already using Achievements to set goals, to unlock fee waivers, or to lower loan costs. All these benefits directly improve their financial lives.

By making progress tangible, **Achievements frames banking as a pathway to wealth and resiliency**, affirming what has always been true at Brooklyn Coop: our success is tied to our members' success.

NEW WAYS FOR MEMBERS TO INVEST

As part of these rewards, and to promote wealth-building, **we increased our High Yield club account to 4% and kept it there** even as rates nationally began to fall. Members responded favorably, adding $3.6 million in deposits to High Yield accounts in 2025.

For a long time, members have also asked us for a trusted way to invest and access higher returns, often because they are not comfortable entering the stock market elsewhere. Last year, we found Eko Investments, a partner that felt both accessible and aligned with our values around risk. Through a simple interface integrated into our online and mobile banking, members can now invest starting with as little as $10. The credit union does not charge any fees, and the platform charges a flat 0.30% fee.

In the first 10 weeks after launch, 47 members opened accounts and we awarded $2,000 in matching funds to support their first investments.

$3.6M Deposited by our members into High Yield accounts

$64.7K Invested through the Eko Investments app

$2K Awarded in matching funds to 47 members

BUILDING RESILIENCE

A PERMANENT HOME

This year marked a major turning point in Brooklyn Coop's physical footprint and long-term stability. After being priced out of our long-time Bed-Stuy branch, we looked for over a year for a new spot before reopening in historic Restoration Plaza—a return to a space rooted in Black history, culture, and community ownership. **Thank you to Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation for making this happen**!

We also reached a goal we had been working toward since 2017: owning our own space. In Dec 2024, Brooklyn Coop purchased a 6000 sq foot commercial space on Myrtle Avenue in Bushwick, securing a permanent home, set to open in early 2026. After years of costly instability from renting, ownership means we will no longer face displacement. The credit union can build long-term equity and resilience, just as we support our members in doing the same.

Diana Reyna, founding Bk Coop Board Member; Blondel Pinnock, CEO of Bed-Stuy Restoration Corp.; and Denise Michaux, President & CEO of Concord FCU, celebrating our Restoration Grand Opening .

Each of our branches are now either owned by Bk Coop or rented to us by trusted community partners, deepening our local roots.

INCREASED SAFETY FOR ITIN HOLDERS

As increased ICE activity spread uncertainty and fear through our neighborhoods, Brooklyn Coop sought ways to reassure both staff and members. With an attorney we created a "Springing" Power of Attorney template so those facing the risk of detention or deportation could plan ahead and ensure their savings were protected. We reinforced our internal procedures around secure access to members' personal and banking information through multiple staff trainings. In a moment of deep uncertainty, we acted quickly to affirm members' rights over their savings, and our role in safeguarding both their data and access to their funds.

WHY RELATIONSHIP-BASED LENDING MATTERS

*"I came to Brooklyn Coop looking for a loan to expand my 24-hour childcare program. My credit wasn't perfect, but **Brooklyn Coop gave me the space to advocate for myself** and prove I was ready. The biggest moment for me was hearing that first "yes" from a lender. What sets Brooklyn Coop apart is the personal attention, I felt like they truly cared. **Brooklyn Coop creates real opportunities for low-income communities and people** who are often overlooked."*

Tifany Thomas, Owner of Around the Clock Tots & Bk Coop Member

BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

PROGRAMMING THAT CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

Emergent City film screening at our Chestnut branch in East New York.

Comedy show fundraiser in Bushwick.

The year 2025 saw Brooklyn Coop expand how people engage with our branches. We've always opened our doors to community groups, but this year more partners made use of the space than ever before. We added Cash IRL topics that our community was asking for, like Cryptocurrency 101, and hosted more virtual events, while opening our lobby space in response to the lack of free spaces for local organizations to gather.

In partnership with Kendall Allison, we hosted quarterly comedy shows that benefit solidarity economy partners like the New Economy Project. We also co-hosted a screening of *Emergent City* with the East New York Community Land Trust and Coalition for Community Advancement.

Making space for partners is about creating a place for connection. It is important enough that we made sure to include a bright and comfortable built-in community meeting space in our new Myrtle branch.

ACCESSIBLE LOANS FOR NON-PROFITS & WORKER COOPS

In 2025, we issued our first Step Up Loans to Brooklyn Packers and Game Devs of Color. This **loan grew directly out of community feedback** from worker cooperatives and non-profits who shared their frustrations in accessing working capital due to requirements like personal guarantees or secure collateral.

The Step Up Loan is different because we do not collect personal financial information or pull personal credit—everything is based on the business itself. While this is a higher-risk product, we've chosen to meet that risk with intention by setting aside loan loss reserves and redesigning our process to serve businesses that cannot rely on personal guarantees. Loan amounts range from $15,000 for startups to $100,000 for established businesses.

Special thanks to The Working World, the Cooperative Economic Alliance of NYC, Center for Family Life, and Brooklyn Packers for their expertise and feedback.

Photo by Brooklyn Packers.

*Read more about our Step Up loan in **Next City** and about Brooklyn Packers in their **CNote feature**!*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jose Rolando Guzmán, Board Chair

Rita Sahu, Treasurer

Samira Rajan, Secretary

Douglas E. Jones
Luis Booth
Margot Brandenburg
Gregory E. Louis
Laboni Rahman
Matt Bethell

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Paula Lee Poy
Colin Brennan
Emma Broderick

STAFF

Ariel Arteaga
Christian Avila
Michele Baptiste
Asta Cummings
Lilibette Duarte
Hector Feliz
Claudia Fernández
Jesus Flores
Yenylka Francis
Daniel González
Roberto González
Shardée Grey
Javier Hernández Reyes
Lavonshia Long
John Martin
Cathie Nieves
Marcelo Paredes
Rebecca Pear
Samira Rajan
Analexa Rios
Erika Salcedo
Amanda Trainor
Frederick Wadibia

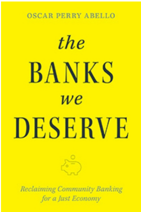
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FRIENDS OF BK COOP

Deposits from members fuel our lending and we rely on values-driven community organizations, both local and national, to supplement member deposits and strengthen our impact. **In 2025, our Friends of Bk Coop collectively deposited $3.1M.**

Shout-out to CNote and Inclusiv! These mission-aligned intermediaries connect institutional investors to Brooklyn Coop, ensuring we have the liquidity to meet loan demand. By allowing us to keep our cost of funds low, we keep interest rates to our members low.

THANK YOU TO OSCAR PERRY ABELLO



Special thanks to Oscar Perry Abello for his years of dedication as an advocate and reporter for CDFIs. His new book, ***The Banks We Deserve***, highlights the power of local CDFIs, and we are honored to have Brooklyn Coop included.

CONGRATULATIONS LAVONSHIA LONG!

Huge congratulations to Lavonshia Long who was promoted this year as Brooklyn Coop's first-ever Chief Financial Officer.

Want regular updates about what we're up to?

Check out Bk Coop's blog!

GET IN TOUCH WITH BK COOP

PARTNER WITH US
outreach@brooklyn.coop

OPEN AN ACCOUNT
membership@brooklyn.coop

RECEIVE UPDATES
Sign up for our newsletter

APPLY FOR A LOAN
loans@brooklyn.coop

brooklyn.coop
718-418-8232
info@brooklyn.coop
/brooklyncoopfcu
@brooklyncoopfcu