



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Minnesota Credit Union Foundation supports local financial literacy initiative

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – In fulfillment of its mission to provide resources for credit unions and communities to prosper and thrive, the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation funded a grant to IOCP to provide financial literacy education for its clients. The classes are held in collaboration with West Financial Credit Union.

ICOP is a non-profit direct service organization that focuses on affordable housing, financial education and wealth accumulation for low-income individuals. IOCP aims to identify and respond to the basic unmet needs of people living in an eight-county area in the western Twin Cities, and to assist them in moving toward self-sufficiency. Each year, IOCP coordinates a high-profile “sleep out” activity where volunteers sleep outside for days to raise awareness of and funds for the housing needs of families living in their service area.

“IOCP has an excellent track record of integrating financial education into their larger goal of financial independence for low-income families,” said Kristi Mukomela, Chair of the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation. “This aligns perfectly with our Foundation, which strives to foster financial education for the greater community.”

In its two financial education sessions – slated for May and October – ICOP expects to work with more than 30 low- to moderate-income individuals in need of assistance. During the sessions, ICOP provides child care activities or funding, gas cards or bus passes, and a take-home day planner to assist participants with their personal financial organization.

These classes “will enable people to benefit from increased financial knowledge and feel empowered to make wise financial decisions in their lives, making it easier for them to move toward self-sufficiency,” said Nancy Holden, ICOP Development Officer.

In addition to financial literacy, IOCP also works to connect its clients to a variety of resources involving housing, transportation, child care, employment, medical expenses, and other basic needs. Each month, the IOCP Food Shelf distributes 64,000 supplementary food items to families and individuals.

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*The Minnesota Credit Union Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to serve as a charitable arm of the Minnesota credit union movement. For more information, visit [www.mncufoundation.org](http://www.mncufoundation.org).*

**FOUNDATION**

*Empowering people  
to achieve*

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