



Redesigning Work for a Cooperative, Regenerative Economy

What would it look like if everyone were doing the work they loved, what they felt called to do? What if everyone had the opportunity to build their skills to their maximum capabilities and then apply them to making their communities whole and beautiful?

Let's find out!

Communities around the world have long practiced successful models for economic self-sufficiency. Among these mechanisms are:

- **Timebanking** which contributes to community building through the mutually beneficial exchange of services among neighbors
- **Price-based mutual credit** which creates liquidity within networks of local businesses
- **Cooperative savings and lending** which pools resources, builds capacity, and extends community wealth
- **Cooperative ownership** which provides collective use of resources that are difficult to access individually

While each strategy has been effective in limited local contexts, each can only go so far toward addressing shortcomings in the formal money-based economy.

Mutual Aid Networks (MANs) represents a new and unique way to connect these mechanisms into a system that maximizes the strengths of each one. The mission of MANs is **“To create means for everyone to discover and succeed in work they want to do, with the support of their community.”** MANs grow out of the 10-year experience of the Dane County TimeBank (DCTB). Together, MANs provide a powerful new economic platform for redesigning how resources are pooled and allocated to support meaningful work and for filling unmet community needs.

MANs consists of an umbrella cooperative (the Main MAN), incorporated in Wisconsin, to serve as a global network hub and numerous pilot sites interested in combining more than one complementary economic mechanism in a local context. Eight MAN pilot sites are emerging in such diverse locations as: Lansing, MI; St. Louis, MO; Allentown, PA; and Providence, RI. Various international venues are also participating in this emerging network, including Hull, England, and Bergnek, South Africa.

Together we aim to create a highly adaptable and replicable framework to bring cooperative economic life to scale from the bottom up. Finally, we'll be able to do great work and have our dream job working for the MAN!

Join and help shape it at mutualaidnetwork.org. For more information, contact info@mutualaidnetwork.org

Mutual Aid Networks (MANS):

Mission: To create means for everyone to discover and succeed in work they want to do, with the support of their community.

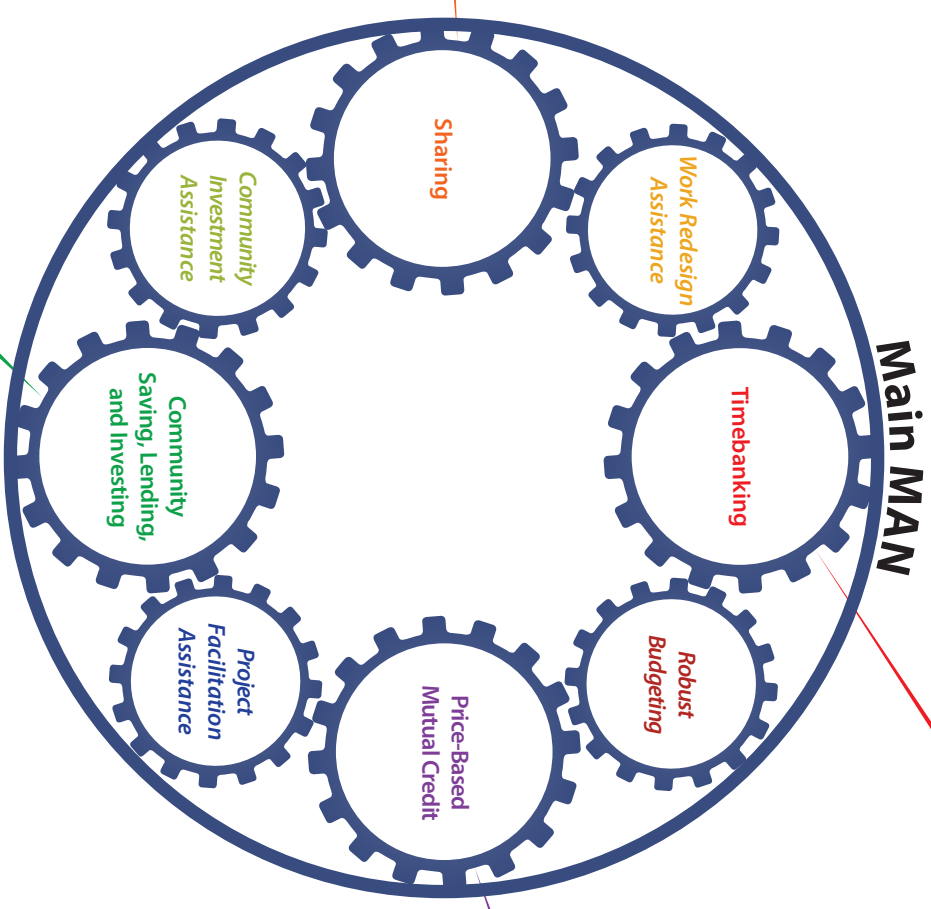
Main MAN: Network of resources, knowledge sharing, and exchange among mutual aid networks and their supporters. Incorporated as a geographically-borderless cooperative and comprising organizations and individuals as members, with clear rights and responsibilities. Capitalizes on shared momentum and creates avenues for mutual support, learning, and technical assistance.

- Method for people to exchange services using time as a currency instead of money
- Everyone's time is valued equally no matter the task
- Enables services and skills that are not valued by the market economy to be valued
- Allows everyone to contribute to the community

• Assistance designing a work life that includes a variety of types of work: art, learning, professional services, community contribution, etc.

- Provides a mechanism for people to share material resources
- Allows people to have access to resources together that may otherwise be unavailable to them individually
- Examples would be tool libraries, makerspaces, shared equipment, and supplies

• Assistance mobilizing, stewarding, and allocating the resources for initiatives in the community



• Assistance exploring, designing, and utilizing the variety of compensation options available to replace monetary needs

- Mutual credit denominated in national currency
- Taxable for businesses, goods, and professional services

• Assistance designing, developing, and carrying out projects

• Assistance with decisionmaking and governance structure

- Provides a mechanism for people to invest in a shared resource pool
- Allows people to have a say over what projects get funded in their community
- Enables people to access seed capital when starting new initiatives
- Enables people to have a safety net if an unexpected occurrence arises

For more context and updates, visit www.mutualaidnetwork.org