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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Eleven Social Enterprise Businesses Awarded Strategic Grants From REDF**

*REDF Announces 2018 Grantees, a Cohort Comprised of Social Enterprises Focused on Hiring and Training Individuals with the Greatest Barriers to Employment*

**SAN FRANCISCO** (January 17, 2018) —Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) announced its first round of Strategic Grantees for 2018, a cohort of eleven employment-focused social enterprises from four states, representing a wide range of business sectors including food service, energy efficiency, landscaping, youth job training, conservation services, and a retail nursery. Grantees, which range from start-up to mature, were selected based on their alignment with REDF's strategic goals, their potential for growth and scale, and their innovative program models that provide wraparound services and paying jobs to help employees stabilize their lives, build their skills, and succeed. Grantees will receive flexible capital paired with business and program mentorship for one year to accomplish specific goals.

The 2018 grantees include:

- [Breaking Bread](#) – Minneapolis, MN
- [Good Soil Industries](#) – Bellflower, CA (Los Angeles County)
- [Goodwill of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin](#) – San Francisco, CA
- [Grow Good](#) – Bell, CA (Los Angeles County)
- [Mamacitas Cafe](#) – Oakland, CA
- [Planting Justice](#) – Oakland, CA
- [Rising Sun Energy Center](#) – Stockton, CA
- [San Francisco Conversation Corps](#) – San Francisco, CA
- [T-Town Tacos](#) – Tulsa, OK
- [Verde](#) – Portland, OR
- [Youth Employment Partnership](#) – Oakland, CA

San Francisco Bay Area grantees were also selected for their alignment to a larger Bay Area Regional Partnership initiative led by REDF. The public-private partnership initiative seeks to connect social enterprises, businesses, philanthropies, non-profits, government agencies, and educational institutions with the goal of creating job opportunities for people overcoming barriers to employment. Five grantees: Breaking Bread, Good Soil Industries, Mamacitas Café, T-Town Tacos and Verde, are past fellows of the [REDF Accelerator](#), a unique program designed to provide employment-focused social enterprise leaders with best practices, strategic guidance, and a collaborative peer network. Fellows were invited by invitation only to apply for REDF's Strategic Grant program at the conclusion of the Accelerator.

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**ABOUT REDF**

REDF (the Roberts Enterprise Development Fund) is a pioneering venture philanthropy that creates jobs and transforms lives like no other organization in America. We are leading a national movement of employment social enterprises—revenue-generating businesses that invest the money they make into helping people striving to overcome employment barriers get jobs, keep jobs, and build a better life.