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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Eight Social Enterprise Businesses Awarded Strategic Grants From REDF**

*REDF Announces 2019 Grantees, a Cohort Comprised of Social Enterprises Focused on Hiring and Training Individuals with the Greatest Barriers to Employment*

**SAN FRANCISCO** (August 28, 2018) — Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) announced its 2018-2019 Strategic Grantees, a cohort of eight employment-focused social enterprises that provide paying jobs and wraparound services to men and women striving to overcome employment barriers and build a better life. The social enterprises are located around the country, and represent a wide range of business sectors including food manufacturing, home improvement services, reclaimed building materials, and a retail pet store. This year's cohort of strategic grantees are all alumni of the [REDF Accelerator](#), a unique program providing training, support, and a collaborative peer network for leaders of growth-stage, employment-focused social enterprises.

2019 grantees include:

- [CivicWorks, Inc.](#) – Baltimore, MD
- [Beautiful Day](#) – Rhode Island
- [The Monkey & The Elephant](#) – Philadelphia, PA
- [Rebel Nell](#) – Detroit, MI
- [Crossroads Pets](#) – Nashville, TN
- [ReBuilding Exchange](#) – Chicago, IL
- [Neighborhood Industries](#) – Fresno, CA
- [Downtown Women's Center](#) – Los Angeles, CA

Grantees were selected based on their demonstrated growth and ability to effectively put key learnings from the Accelerator experience into practice at their social enterprise. In addition to receiving between \$10-30K in flexible capital, grantees will also receive business and program mentorship from REDF for one year to accomplish their specific goals and strengthen their innovative program models. From building an e-commerce infrastructure to piloting a new bakery, the funding will enable grantees to continue to grow their businesses, and to serve more people, more effectively. Accelerator alumni were invited 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 galvanizing 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.