FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REDF Awards $150K to Five Employment Social Enterprises in Second Round of COVID-19 Relief Grants
Grant funds totaling $850,000 will support the work of 25 employment social enterprises across 11 states

SAN FRANCISCO (June 1, 2020) – Today, REDF awarded a second round of COVID-19 Relief Grants to five social enterprise businesses that provide jobs and wraparound services to people who are vulnerable to both the health and economic challenges of the pandemic. In total, during the COVID-19 pandemic REDF has awarded $850,000 in grants to 25 social enterprises across the United States.

The $30,000 general operating grants, awarded to partners experiencing a sharp decline in business or fundraising income due to the pandemic, will provide immediate financial support paired with advisory services from REDF's experienced team. The resources will enable social enterprises to cover immediate expenses so that they can implement strategies to maintain operations and employee supports in this challenging environment.

"With over 38 million people unemployed, the competition for jobs will be fierce as the economy reopens. People with histories of homelessness, incarceration, addiction, and other formidable barriers to employment will need the jobs and support provided by employment social enterprises more than ever," said REDF President & CEO Carla Javits. "Demonstrating a combination of business acumen, innovation, and commitment to their employees, our employment social enterprise partners are keeping their employees safe, working, and earning. REDF is committed to ensuring these purpose-driven businesses can continue their vital work."

Awarded businesses include:
- Appetite for Change, Minneapolis, MN
- EMERGE Connecticut, Hartford, CT
- Farming Hope, San Francisco, CA
- The Knowledge House, New York, NY
- Waterside Workshops, Berkeley, CA

"We've reopened our bike shop in order to provide affordable refurbished used bikes and repair services to the community. In addition, we are partnering with a local organization to donate bikes, locks, lights, and helmets to immigrant workers and their families," said Neil Larsen, Assistant Director of Waterside Workshops. "This grant from REDF will give us the resources to continue to adapt our social enterprises and job training programs to the new normal."

These social enterprise businesses employ hundreds of young people and adults who face significant barriers to employment, like histories of homelessness or incarceration. Among the awarded businesses, forty percent are led by people of color or individuals with lived experience who bring personal and business expertise to the work at hand.

In addition to $600,000 in COVID-19 Relief Grants, REDF has awarded $250,000 in Front Line Matching Grants to five social enterprises and partnered with the County of Los Angeles to award $500,000 in Employer Assistance Grants to 59 social enterprises and small businesses.

As part of REDF's crisis relief support, all partners have access to specialized technical assistance, advice from practitioners on how to take advantage of federal relief programs, curated resources, and virtual convenings with their peers through REDFworkshop.org. To learn more about how REDF is supporting our employment social enterprise partners during this crisis, click here.

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ABOUT REDF
REDF (the Roberts Enterprise Development Fund) is a pioneering venture philanthropy accelerating 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. Independent research shows this approach works. It leads to greater economic security and mobility and a significant rate of return to society—$2.23 in benefits for every $1 invested.

For more information, visit www.redf.org.