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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REDF Receives Grants Totaling \$1.45 Million to Advance Employment
Social Enterprise and Inclusive Workforce Development**

Grants from the Allstate Foundation, Citi Foundation, and Deloitte will drive investment in the power and potential of people overcoming barriers to work.

SAN FRANCISCO (March 17, 2022) — With upward of 10 million Americans excluded from gainful employment, new grants to REDF will support the growing movement of employment social enterprises dedicated to helping people access economic opportunity, expand their skill sets, and build better lives. These grants have been awarded by three funders who recognize the value of this vast but largely overlooked population of resilient Americans, investing in purpose-driven organizations and strategies that support economic inclusion and mobility for people who are overcoming workforce barriers.

Homelessness, incarceration, disconnection from school — people who experience these and other all-too-common challenges face immense barriers to securing the opportunities they need to achieve stability and success. Employment social enterprises (ESEs) are mission-driven businesses that provide jobs that allow employees to build their skills while they earn a paycheck, and a range of supportive services that ensure that people striving to overcome employment barriers can chart a new course.

Major grants from [The Allstate Foundation](#), [Citi Foundation](#), and [Deloitte](#) will support REDF's ongoing efforts to invest in ESEs and their visionary leaders, and build their capacity so they can expand their extraordinary impact on the lives of their employees, their families, and communities.

A new partner to REDF, The Allstate Foundation granted \$1,000,000 in general operating support as part of its commitment to workforce development, to help apply a racial equity lens when building the capacity and impact of ESEs and their leaders.

“Increasing access to careers with living wages is one of the keys to closing the racial wealth gap, so we look to experts like REDF, who have already laid the foundation of change,” said Francie Schnipke Richards, vice president of Allstate social responsibility and The Allstate Foundation. “Through this partnership, we’re learning from the expertise that REDF has built over 25 years and joining them in accelerating racial equity in the social enterprise movement.”

A \$250,000 grant from Citi Foundation, a long-time REDF funder, will support REDF's 2022 [Growth Portfolio](#), 2022 [Accelerator](#) cohorts and [REDF Community](#) activities, all helping to nurture, connect, and grow the ESE sector as a vital driver of economic inclusion and mobility.

“Employment social enterprises offer transformational economic opportunities for people of color, specifically youth,” said Philip Fitzgerald, Senior Program Officer at the Citi Foundation.

“The Citi Foundation is proud to continue our longtime support of REDF to extend these life-changing activities and networks as part of Pathways to Progress, our jobs skills-building initiative that equips future leaders with the skills and resources they need to succeed.”

Also looking to the future, Deloitte has made a long term-commitment to REDF with a five-year, \$200,000 grant in general operating support, to cover the full term of REDF’s 2021-2025 strategy.

“We are excited to support REDF’s mission at a critical time for the ESE movement and the U.S. economy in transition,” said Jeffrey Baxter, partner at Deloitte Tax LLP. “ESEs offer a leading model of workforce development and economic inclusion that is good for business, good for workers, and good for communities. Investing in their success is essential in helping to build a better, more equitable economy.”

For nearly 25 years, REDF has partnered with employment social enterprises nationwide by providing capital and capacity-building support to propel this evidence-based model and create a more inclusive economy. REDF informs and influences policymakers to invest in ESEs to create change at a systems-level, and mobilizes ESE leaders as advocates on policy issues.

Supported by these and other funders, REDF aims to increase investment in ESEs led by people of color and those who share the lived experience of the people they employ, provide specialized capacity-building consulting, deepen focus on job quality, and catalyze demand from the public sector and philanthropy.

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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 – businesses achieving transformative social impact by investing 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.