



**CONTACT:**

Lori Warren  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
[lwarren@redf.org](mailto:lwarren@redf.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**REDF's Greg Ericksen Selected as Obama Foundation United States Leader**

**LOS ANGELES (August 1, 2023)** – The Obama Foundation announced that [Greg Ericksen](#), REDF's Director of Government Partnerships and Policy, is among the first cohort of 100 emerging changemakers selected to participate in the Obama Foundation's Leaders USA program.

The [Obama Leaders program](#) is a six-month program that supports and connects emerging leaders in the United States, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe through a values-based leadership framework inspired by the ideals and legacy of President and Mrs. Obama. Chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants, Ericksen was selected to join the program for his impactful work to strengthen the national field of employment social enterprises, and for his long-standing passion to advance AmeriCorps and national service.

The [inaugural cohort](#) of United States "Obama Leaders" is composed of values-driven changemakers from every corner of the country who are united by their passion for building a stronger, more sustainable, and more inclusive world.

At REDF, Ericksen plays a key role in developing impactful public-private partnerships and influencing policy at the federal and state levels to promote public investment in employment social enterprises (ESEs) and increase economic mobility for underserved communities and people historically left out of the workforce. REDF is a venture philanthropy that invests exclusively in ESEs—businesses achieving transformative social impact by providing jobs, training, and support to people breaking through barriers to employment.

"We are excited to welcome these 100 changemakers from across the United States into the Obama Foundation family," Valerie Jarrett, CEO of the Obama Foundation said. "Our newest Obama Leaders are already making a difference in their communities and are ready to take their work to the next level. They embody the values of President and Mrs. Obama, and their impactful work will create positive change in communities across the country."



Bringing a tremendous range of experience across a variety of social issue areas, the 100 chosen leaders hail from 37 states, Washington, D.C., American Samoa, Guam, and five tribal nations.

“I am truly honored to be selected for this prestigious program alongside an extraordinary group of people dedicated to bringing positive change to their communities,” Ericksen said. “I look forward to connecting with and learning from the other Obama Leaders and leveraging this tremendous opportunity to expand the impact of our collective work across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

The Leaders USA program offers participants a unique and comprehensive experience, including a values-driven leadership curriculum, action labs focused on strengthening democratic institutions and culture in the U.S., community groups for fostering constructive dialogue in a polarized environment, and focused support to help tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time. As part of the six-month program, the cohort will convene virtually each week for interactive sessions designed to help them drive change by honing their leadership skills, building deep relationships with their peers, and engaging with thought leaders and members of the Obama Foundation community.

Ericksen will also have an opportunity to engage with President Obama and participate in various virtual experiences and special events, including one-on-one conversations with experienced mentors in the Foundation's global network.

To learn more about the program and the individuals who make up the inaugural cohort, visit [obama.org/programs/leaders/usa/](http://obama.org/programs/leaders/usa/).

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#### ABOUT REDF

REDF invests in employment social enterprises (ESEs) – businesses that provide jobs, training, and support to people breaking through barriers to employment. REDF partners with these businesses and the entrepreneurs who lead them – providing capital, capacity, and community – to amplify their transformative impact. Since 1997, REDF has invested in more than 280 ESEs in 38 states and DC. Collectively these partnerships have helped 100,000 people enter the workforce and generate more than \$2 billion in revenue that is reinvested in employee success—creating a ripple effect that strengthens families and communities and helps build an economy that works. For everyone.

For more information, visit [www.redf.org](http://www.redf.org).