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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nineteen Social Enterprise Businesses Awarded Grants From REDF

REDF Announces 2020 Grantees, a Cohort Comprised of Social Enterprises Focused on Hiring and Training Individuals Striving to Overcome Employment Barriers

SAN FRANCISCO (January 16, 2020) — Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) announced its 2020 Project Grantees, a cohort of nineteen employment-focused social enterprises that provide paying, transitional jobs and wraparound services to men and women striving to overcome employment barriers including histories of homelessness, incarceration, addiction, mental illness, as well as young people who are not working or in school. The social enterprises, who range from early to growth-stage, are located around the country and represent a wide range of business sectors including visual media, web development, manufacturing, agriculture, and staffing.

2020 grantees include:

[Urban Alchemy](#), San Francisco, CA
[BAYCAT](#), San Francisco, CA
[Urban University](#), Oakland, CA
[Waterside Workshops](#), Berkeley, CA
[Neighborhood Industries](#), Fresno, CA
[Kitchens for Good](#), San Diego, CA
[Goodwill of Southern California](#), Los Angeles, CA
[Touch A Heart](#), Honolulu, HI
[Valeo Vocation](#), Tacoma, Washington
[Weld Works](#), Seattle, Washington
[Pioneer Industries](#), Seattle, Washington
[Unloop Studios](#), Seattle, Washington
[Bridgeways](#), Kent, Washington
[Dream Builders 4 Equity](#), St. Louis, MO
[City Startup Labs](#), Charlotte, NC
[Bonton Farms](#), Dallas, TX
[First Step Staffing](#), Atlanta, GA
[ReFoundry](#), New York, New York
[Lancaster Works at Assets](#), Lancaster, PA

Grantees were selected based on a variety of criteria including their effectiveness, their potential for growth, and their leadership in a specific sector and/or business line. By investing in social enterprises at different levels of maturity, REDF will continue to strengthen its programming and advisory services for social enterprises in all stages of growth, supporting and accelerating the sectors ability to scale. The grantee selections also represent REDF's commitment to partnering with social enterprises that are led by people from diverse backgrounds, as well as those with lived experience.

In addition to receiving capacity-building grants ranging between \$10-50K, grantees will receive business and program mentorship from REDF for one year to accomplish their specific goals and strengthen their businesses and innovative program models. From introducing a new data management system to

building out a training space and bakery, the funding will empower grantees to continue to grow their businesses, and to serve more people, more effectively. For more information on the grantees and the focus of their grants, please visit REDF's [grant page](#).

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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 – mission driven, revenue-generating businesses that empower people striving to overcome employment barriers to 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.