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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressmember Karen Bass (D-CA) Tours Employment Social Enterprise and Sees Promise of the Model to Support Reentry Success and Economic Inclusion

During visit with Rep. Bass, the Coalition for Responsible Community Development showcased how the combination of jobs, training, and support has equipped hundreds of Angelenos to reenter and thrive in the workforce.

LOS ANGELES, CA (February 1, 2022) - A leader in advocating for successful reentry, Congressmember Karen Bass (D-CA) toured Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) to see firsthand the impact that its employment social enterprise has on Angelenos returning home from incarceration and overcoming barriers to employment.

CRCD operates a purpose-driven business, CRCD Enterprises, that provides transitional employment and on-the-job training in construction, facilities maintenance, and urban infrastructure across South Los Angeles. At CRCD, young people who are disconnected from work and school and adults who have experienced incarceration receive support to launch careers and build long-term success.

"I was excited to visit CRCD yesterday and see the incredible work they are doing in our district to make sure that people returning from jail or prison, and those experiencing homelessness, get the support they need to stay free, productive and off the streets. By combining jobs, training, and services, they are helping to ensure that all Angelenos have access to economic opportunity, housing, and safe communities. All of which reduces crime rates and recidivism. Thank you for the work you do," said Congressmember Karen Bass (D-CA).

Leading venture philanthropy REDF has proudly supported the work of CRCD for 10 years through grant and loan funding as well as tailored business and programmatic capacity building support. CRCD is part of REDF's nationwide community of over 200 employment social enterprises and a member of the national [Resourcing Social Enterprises Together \(RESET\)](#) coalition led by REDF.

"As policymakers navigate the nation's economic recovery, they have an opportunity to build an economy that works for everyone," said REDF Head of Policy Manie Grewal. "Employment social enterprises like CRCD play a vital role in their communities by providing career pathways to individuals not served by other workforce systems. ESEs are engines of economic growth and mobility — and public investments in their success will help us build a more inclusive workforce."

To support public investment in the proven approach of employment social enterprise, REDF leads the national RESET coalition. RESET advocates for ESE inclusion in economic recovery packages at the state and federal level so that even more people have access to jobs, training, and support.

“For over 16 years, CRCD has been committed to transforming neighborhoods and lives through the power of employment. Public support for our mission to employ and support Angelenos overcoming steep barriers to employment is vital to our continued success across South Los Angeles,” said Mark Wilson, President and CEO of Coalition for Responsible Community Development. “We were proud to host Congressmember Karen Bass and provide her with a firsthand look at CRCD Enterprise’s work, introduce her to our dedicated employees, and demonstrate the impact of the employment social enterprise model.”

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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 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.