

Resourcing Employment Social Enterprises Together (RESET)

Purpose

Resourcing Employment Social Enterprises Together (RESET) is a coalition advocating for capital, resources, and policy change to support employment social enterprises across the U.S.

Background

RESET is primarily composed of employment social enterprises (ESEs): evidence-based businesses with a social mission to provide jobs, income, and training to individuals overcoming high barriers to employment. Through paying jobs and supportive services—like financial literacy, housing, and counseling—ESEs help employees stabilize their lives, build skills, and develop a work history. When participants have the necessary tools and support to succeed, ESEs help their employees find, and keep, good jobs in the competitive market.

Evidence shows us that ESEs effectively and efficiently promote economic, racial, and social equity. According to a [study](#) conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, ESEs offer a 123% return on investment (\$2.23 benefit for every dollar invested) for taxpayers, government, philanthropy, and the people they serve. The ESEs in this study employed individuals with the following profile: 25% had never been employed, 70% had been convicted of a crime, and 85% had experienced housing instability. In alignment with the evidence-based model, numerous coalition members—including Center for Employment Opportunities, Per Scholas, Roca, and Year Up—consistently demonstrate their impact through rigorous experimental or quasi-experimental evaluations.

Challenge

Amid the COVID-19 public health crisis, ESEs and the populations they serve are facing severe economic disruptions. Because ESEs are often hybrids of business and social service organizations, and incorporated as nonprofits and for profits, it can be challenging for government programs to include or underwrite them.

Solution

ESEs are engines of economic growth and mobility - they offer paid job training that prevents and ends homelessness and reduces recidivism. ESE closures would eliminate community assets that play a critical role in economic recovery by rapidly offering productive employment and immediate income when people need it most. They also promote equity and help address structural inequities by connecting individuals overcoming high barriers to employment to quality jobs that can lead to long-term employment and compensation. ESEs must be included in economic stimulus and recovery packages so that they can continue serving the populations who are especially vulnerable to today's dual health and economic crises.

Members

RESET is composed of 49 organizations: Alternative Staffing Alliance, America Forward; Appetite for Change; Bridgeways; Bright Endeavors; Cara; Center for Living and Learning; Central City Concern; Center for Employment Opportunities; Chrysalis; Coalfield Development; Coalition for Responsible Community Development; Downtown Women's Center; Empowerment Plan; FareStart; Goodwill Central Texas; Goodwill of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin; Goodwill of Silicon Valley; Goodwill Southern California; Hopeworks; Housing Hope; JVS San Francisco; JVS SoCal; Juma Ventures; Kitchens for Good; LA Conservation Corps; Mile High WorkShop; More Than Words; New Avenues for Youth; New Earth; North Lawndale Employment Network; Orion; Per Scholas; Pioneer Human Services; Project Evident; Project Return; Rancho Cielo; Recycle Force; REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund); Results for America; Roca; StreetWell; Unloop; Uplift Northwest; UTEC; Valeo Vocation; Vehicles for Change; Weld Seattle; Year Up.

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