

## **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 small businesses with a social mission to provide jobs, income, and training to people with 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 employees are ready, social enterprises help them find, and keep, good jobs in the competitive market.

Evidence tells us that employment social enterprises are an effective and efficient model to promote 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 had a legitimate job, 70% had been convicted of a crime, and 85% had experienced housing instability. The approaches of numerous coalition members—including Center for Employment Opportunities, Per Scholas, Roca, and Year Up—are backed by rigorous experimental or quasi-experimental evaluations.

### **Challenge**

During the COVID-19 public health crisis, the ESE community, like the broader small business community, is facing severe economic disruptions. Because ESEs are often 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 the most. They also promote equity by assisting individuals with high barriers to employment in acquiring jobs that can lead to long-term employment and compensation. ESEs must be included in economic stimulus and recovery packages to continue serving a population especially vulnerable to the twin health and economic crises facing the country.

### **Members**

RESET is composed of 39 organizations: 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; FareStart; Goodwill Central Texas; Goodwill of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin; Goodwill of Silicon Valley; Goodwill Southern California; Hopeworks; Housing Hope; Juma Ventures; LA Conservation Corps; Mile High WorkShop; Millionair Club Charity; More Than Words; New Avenues for Youth; New Earth; North Lawndale Employment Network; Orion; Per Scholas; Project Evident; Project Return; Recycle Force; REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund); Results for America; Roca; Unloop; UTEC; Valeo Vocation; Weld Seattle; Year Up.

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