

RESET

Resourcing Employment Social Enterprises Together

Purpose

Resourcing Employment Social Enterprises Together (RESET) is a coalition advocating for capital, resources, and policy change to support the almost 900 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 breaking through 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 and RecycleForce—consistently demonstrate their impact through rigorous experimental or quasi-experimental evaluations.

Challenge

ESEs can play a central role in ensuring an economy that works for everyone. Despite their proven ability to advance equitable economic opportunity, ESEs are often not included in government programs because they are structured as hybrids of business and social service organizations and incorporated as nonprofits and for profits.

Solution

ESEs are engines of economic growth, equity, and mobility; they offer paid job training that prevents and ends homelessness and reduces recidivism. These businesses also promote equity and help address structural inequities by connecting individuals breaking through barriers to employment to quality jobs that lead to long-term employment and compensation. By leveraging the ESE model and including these entities in workforce, reentry, and small business packages, we can catalyze social change and build an economy in which *all* Americans can find quality employment and cultivate self-sufficiency.

Members

RESET is composed of 79 organizations: Alternative Staffing Alliance, America Forward; Appetite for Change; Breaktime; Bridgeways; Bright Endeavors; Cara; Center for Living and Learning; Central City Concern; Center for Employment Opportunities; Chrysalis; Coalfield Development; Coalition for Responsible Community Development; Community Kitchen Pittsburg, The Doe Fund; Downtown Streets Team, Downtown Women’s Center; EMERGE; Empowerment Plan; FareStart; Farming Hope; First Step Staffing; General Assembly; Gleaners Food Bank Indiana; Goodwill Central Texas; Goodwill of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin; Goodwill of Silicon Valley; Goodwill Southern California; Ground Up; Homeboy Industries; Homeward Bound of Marin; Hopeworks; Housing Hope; JVS San Francisco; JVS SoCal; Juma Ventures; Kitchens for Good; LA Conservation Corps; Landforce; ManieWorks; Mile High WorkShop; More Than Words; Neighborhood Industries; New Avenues for Youth; New Earth; North Lawndale Employment Network; Northern Valley Industries; OIC of South Florida; OPA Medical Staffing; Orion; Osborne Association; PAR-Recycle Works; Per Scholas; Pioneer Human Services; Positive Resource Center; Project Evident; Project Real Life; Project Return; Rancho Cielo; Recycle Force; Rebuilding Exchange; REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund); Refugee Artisan Initiative; Repowered; Results for America; Roca; San Francisco Conservation Corps; StreetWell; Touch A Heart; Unloop; Uplift Northwest; UTEC; Valeo Vocation; Vehicles for Change; Vested Solutions; Weld Seattle; Wild Flyer Coffee; Working Fields; Worksystems; Year Up.

RESET Contacts

Manie Grewal, REDF Head of Policy

mgrewal@redf.org

Revised on May 5, 2025