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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### REDF Announces Nine New Strategic Grantees

*REDF Announces 2017 Grantees, a Cohort Comprised of Nine Social Enterprises Focused on Hiring and Training Individuals with the Greatest Barriers to Employment*

SAN FRANCISCO (August 17, 2017) —Today, [Roberts Enterprise Development Fund](#) (REDF) announced its first round of 2017 [Strategic Grantees](#), a cohort of nine employment social enterprises from seven states, ranging from early stage start-ups to more mature organizations. This group of grantees were selected based on their alignment to REDF's strategic goals, their potential for growth and scale, and their innovative program models that provide wraparound services and transitional, paying jobs to help employees stabilize their lives, build their skills, and succeed. Grantees will receive flexible capital alongside business and program mentorship for one year to accomplish specific goals, and their partnership will help inform REDF on how to best scale the social enterprise movement.

The 2017-2018 grantees include:

- [Better Futures Minnesota](#) – Minneapolis, MN
- [Billings Forge Community Works – The Kitchen](#) – Hartford, CT
- [CUPs Coffeehouse](#) – Baltimore, MD
- [Daybreak, Inc. – Lindy & Company](#) – Dayton, OH
- [Greyston Foundation, Inc.](#) – Yonkers, NY
- [Project Return, Inc. – PROe](#) – Nashville, TN
- [The Town Kitchen](#) – Oakland, CA
- [Transitions – Mental Health Association – Growing Grounds](#) – San Luis Obispo, CA
- [University of Maryland Baltimore County – Flying Fruit Stands](#) – Baltimore, MD

A majority of the current cohort participated in the [REDF Accelerator](#), a three-part in-person program designed to provide employment social enterprise leaders with best practices, strategic guidance, and a collaborative peer network. The application for REDF's Strategic Grants Program is by invitation only, and fellows were invited to apply at the conclusion of the Accelerator.

Since 2013, REDF has provided grants to employment-focused social enterprises, the successful brand of businesses that transform lives through the power of employment, and reinvest the money they make so they can help more people get jobs, keep jobs and build a better life. Created to cultivate partnerships and test different ideas beyond its [national portfolio](#), over the last three years REDF has provided \$1.18M in strategic grants to 32 different organizations, with an estimated 1,940 people employed.

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## ABOUT REDF

REDF (the Roberts Enterprise Development Fund) is a pioneering venture philanthropy that creates jobs and transforms lives like no other organization in America. We are leading a national movement of employment social enterprises—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.