



## About the Accelerator

For more than 25 years, REDF has been laser-focused on advancing the employment social enterprise (ESE) field by providing capital, capacity, and community to amplify the success of these businesses and the people they employ. Key to that success is the REDF Accelerator, described as a “mini-MBA” for ESE leaders.

During this 5-month, hands-on program, you’ll work in community alongside peers to learn and put into practice the methods, skills, and tools you need to define and reach key goals in your business. At the end of the program, your organization will receive an unrestricted grant of \$20,000 to help implement your learning.

## Our Curriculum

You will improve your enterprise’s investment-readiness with tools that drive strategy, grow revenue, and increase impact in the following areas:

- **Business Model Development**
- **Employment Model Design**
- **Financial Management**
- **Leadership Development**
- **Organizational Management**



## What to Expect

Your cohort of 18 ESE leaders will convene on three separate occasions—twice in person, and once virtually—for a week at a time. Each convening includes 30 hours of programming (see an example schedule [here](#)). In between convenings, you’ll participate in ~2-5 hours of weekly virtual gatherings consisting of post-session assignments and office hours. Our unique approach includes:



### Experiment Design

Learn & practice applying an experimental approach to navigating challenges and opportunities in your business and employment program.



### Networking Events

Connect & socialize with our alumni and other stakeholders in the social enterprise community.



### Peer Feedback Group Sessions

Give and receive feedback from peers on projects and goals.



### Tactical & Leadership Coaching

Get free coaching from sector experts, consultants, and REDF staff.



### Office Hours

Connect with facilitators and presenters one-on-one to ask questions and explore key areas of interest.

**Travel Logistics:** REDF pays for lodging and most meals. ESE Leader pays for transportation. Travel stipends available upon request.

## Who We Work With

Mission-driven, revenue-generating businesses that serve individuals striving to build a better life and overcome employment barriers, including:



**Justice System  
Involvement**



**Homelessness/  
Unstable Housing**



**Mental Health/  
Substance Use  
Challenge**



**Refugee or  
Asylee Status**



**Domestic  
Violence /Trafficking**



**Opportunity Youth/  
Emerging Adult**

## Program Eligibility

### Applicant Eligibility

Leaders in the REDF Accelerator must:

- Have strategic decision-making authority within an employment social enterprise business and employment program.
- Commit to attending all programming and engage in peer collaboration in-between sessions.
- Be able to step away from day-to-day duties without closing the enterprise.
- Have capacity and willingness to complete curriculum assignments.
- Be willing to comply with REDF's COVID policy.

Read the full details [here](#).

### Enterprise Eligibility

Businesses in the REDF Accelerator must:

- Provide employment that includes wraparound services AND wages at or above local minimum wage.
- Have an estimated earned revenue of \$100K-\$2M for the current year via sales of goods and/or services.
- Have been in operation and employing individuals in a REDF focus population for at least 12 months.
- Have a team/staff of at least two people that help operate the employment social enterprise.
- Be able to commit to providing 2 years of key data to REDF during and after the Accelerator program.



**The REDF Accelerator was the best experience I have had in my professional career. I found new concepts, models, and approaches that were so inspirational—things that I took home and implemented immediately."**

– Anthony Armour,  
CEO, Neighborhood Industries



**This experience with REDF is exactly what my organization needs to get the next level. I have learned so much. I appreciate the educational tools and realness among the cohort. The wisdom has been RICH! "**

– Sable Barber, Program Director,  
Project Real Life Youth Occupational  
Training CORPS, Inc.