RESULTS

IN 2017, REDF-SUPPORTED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES:

9,954
PEOPLE

GENERATED
$178M
IN REVENUE TO REINVEST IN PEOPLE AND JOBS

AMPLIFIED REDF’S INVESTMENT BY A FACTOR OF
39x

Social enterprises are mission-driven businesses that provide paying jobs and supportive services to people overcoming serious employment barriers. REDF is the only venture philanthropy in the U.S. that invests exclusively in the growth of these businesses. Together, we aim to achieve results at the scale the problem demands, with a sustainable approach that returns $2.23 to society for every dollar invested.1


An investment that works.

2017 IMPACT REPORT

CHALLENGE

Despite a national economic recovery and the lowest unemployment levels in years, many people are still excluded from that prosperity.

SOLUTION

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NATIONAL REACH

REDF makes grants and loans to some of the most effective and innovative social enterprises around the country. We provide specialized, hands-on advisory services to help their businesses grow and their employees thrive.

SUCCESS STORY

Tiffany

Tiffany experienced homelessness after losing her apartment. She enrolled in FareStart’s Adult Culinary Program, which equipped her with both job experience and skills needed to stabilize her life and set her on a positive career path. Today, Tiffany is a cook at Operation Frontline, a Seattle nonprofit that provides free meals to people experiencing homelessness. She also works as an on-call cook for TASTE Café and Kream, an eatery located in the Seattle Art Museum.

SUCCESS STORY

Ernie

Seven years sober and recently released from prison, Ernie joined Chrysalis’ job preparation program. His goal: to become a substance abuse counselor to help others who lost their sense of direction. With Chrysalis’ support, Ernie renewed his driver’s license, strengthened his interview skills, and applied for jobs online. He also enrolled in school and received a certification in substance abuse counseling. After volunteering and working as an intern, he was hired as Positive Image’s, a drug and alcohol treatment center. Ernie is working toward his associate’s degree and reconnecting with family and friends.

SUCCESS STORY

Clarynda

Clarynda, Los Angeles, CA

An investment that works.

FareStart, Seattle, WA

Chrysalis, Los Angeles, CA

Amplified REDF’s investment by a factor of 39x
HOW WE HELPED

EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS:
- INCARCERATION: 71%
- UNHABITABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS: 47%
- OPPORTUNITY YOUTH: 37%
- MENTAL ILLNESS: 28%
- OPPORTUNITY YOUTH: 37%
- UNSTABLE HOUSING AND INCARCERATION: 71%
- HOMELESSNESS: 47%
- INCARCERATION: 71%
- UNSTABLE HOUSING AND INCARCERATION: 71%
- HOMELESSNESS: 47%

RACE AND ETHNICITY:
- WHITE: 22%
- BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN: 44%
- HISPANIC: 24%
- ASIAN: 2%
- AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE: 2%
- HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 1%
- OTHER/DON’T SAY: 3%

GENDER:
- 72% GENDER MALE
- 27.5% GENDER FEMALE
- 0.5% TRANSGENDER

WHO WE HELPED

PEOPLE EMPLOYED
- 400

TESTIMONIALS

Andrea, a More than Words (MTW) graduate, is a student at Springfield College in Massachusetts where she is majoring in psychology.

At MTW, Andrea received the support she needed to navigate mental health challenges, and she gained valuable leadership skills through their on-the-job training program.

Andrea hopes to attend graduate school and help young people who’ve experienced similar challenges.

SUCCESS STORY

ANDREA

More than Words, Boston, MA

2017 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

400 PEOPLE EMPLOYED
REDF manages LA:RISE, a pioneering public-private collaboration of social enterprises, workforce agencies, service providers, and employers. In 2017, 150 social enterprises, which were employed over 400 men and women, nearly 50% of whom had experienced homelessness at the time of enrollment. L.A. County Housing joined the City of L.A. in funding this initiative, which is being used as a prototype for efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area and Seattle.

1,500 MEMBERS IN 45 STATES
REDFworkshop is an online platform that informs and connects social enterprise practitioners and their partners, working together to help more people overcoming employment barriers get jobs, keep jobs, and build a better life. In 2017, REDFworkshop membership grew by 27% to over 1,500 members in 45 states.

65% OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYEES WERE IN PAID EMPLOYMENT 1 YEAR LATER
On average, employed people made more than $100 of minimum wage in their first job after social enterprise.

18 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE LEADERS TRAINED
REDF Accelerator provides intensive training to start-up and growth-phase social enterprises. In 2017, REDF launched the second Accelerator cohort, helping 18 of the field’s most promising leaders strengthen their businesses, support their employees, and develop a powerful peer network.

100% OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYED HAD HARD, SOFT, AND TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING
REDF champions public policy that supports social enterprises’ growth and economic mobility for those they serve. Along with Assemblymember David Chiu and Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes, REDF co-sponsored the Transitional Jobs Support Act, a law that connects social enterprises to public dollars to re-engage those they serve in the economy, improving them as employers and training providers that can help their clients overcome barriers to employment.

AB 415 LEGISLATION PASSED

Legislation passed that supports the growth of social enterprises and provides funding to advance employment opportunities, strengthening REDF’s work to help people overcome challenges and build a better life.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COLLECTIVELY EARNED $39.5M IN WAGES
Maryland is home to 45 states. In 2017, REDFworkshop members collectively earned $39.5M in wages.

65% OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYEES COLLECTIVELY WORKED 1.76M LABOR HOURS

100% OF ENTERPRISE EMPLOYEES IN WAGES
Maryland is home to 45 states. In 2017, REDFworkshop members collectively earned $39.5M in wages.