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Central City Concern Receives Funding from Federal Government's Social Innovation Fund and the Venture Philanthropy Organization REDF

Portland, OR, Feb. 10, 2016 – Following a rigorous national competition, Central City Concern (CCC) has been selected for the new portfolio of California-based venture philanthropy organization REDF, joining a national initiative to scale up the social enterprise field across the U.S. supported by the federal Social Innovation Fund. CCC will receive multi-year grant funding and business advisory services, contributing to its social enterprises that includes Central City Coffee and On-Call Staffing. As a result, CCC will add approximately 60 new trainee and staff positions in 2016.

Also selected was Portland non-profit New Avenues for Youth with three social purpose enterprises: Ben & Jerry's PartnerShops, New Avenues INK and New Avenues thru Soup.

REDF's grants are at least \$100,000 annually for up to five years. More than 200 social enterprises from across 36 states submitted proposals but only 22 were selected. REDF has more than 18 years of experience providing funding and capacity building to employment-focused social enterprises in California. This is the first year the organization is expanding nationally to serve seven new cities, while growing the strong base of social enterprises in California.

The selected organizations will employ thousands of people nationally by investing these new resources for business growth. At the same time, REDF will foster deeper collaborations with small, medium and large employers, philanthropy and government to catalyze and accelerate the growth of social enterprises in order to catalyze thousands of additional job opportunities.

"The Social Innovation Fund provides new pathways for people who have faced significant barriers to employment, said Damian Thorman, Director of the Social Innovation Fund. "We are excited this award to Central City Concern, a sub grantee of REDF, will transform people's lives by creating jobs using social enterprise solutions with funding from us."

"CCC has a history of entrepreneurial type ventures," said Executive Director Ed Blackburn. "We are thrilled to have attracted national attention for our current work that not only fills a need in the marketplace but doubles as viable employment for people working to permanently leave homelessness behind."

Portland's Mayor Charlie Hales said, "As Mayor, I have prioritized access and opportunity to living wage jobs. That's exactly what the Social Innovation Fund grant will do, allowing Central City Concern to provide skill and job training for an additional 60 people this year through their social enterprise businesses — extending opportunity for even more Portlanders who face significant barriers to employment find a good paying job and a pathway to permanently leave homelessness."

"REDF is investing in social enterprise growth because we believe right now is the game-changing moment when we can and must open up new opportunities to people who want to work and just need the chance to do so," said REDF President Carla Javits. "We aim to catalyze the business community, philanthropy, government and nonprofits to work together to create job opportunities and hire people

who need them, while developing an even more rigorous evidence base so that we can all do more of ‘what works best’ while developing a vibrant ecosystem that will have long lasting impact. We are grateful to the Congress and the Administration for supporting the Social Innovation Fund, to private donors and foundations that are stepping up to match this support, to the nonprofits that are taking the risk to create new business models, and most of all to the courageous men and women who are overcoming the odds, going to work and transforming their lives.”

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Background:

Central City Concern employs nearly 800 people and serves approximately 13,000 individuals with affordable housing, healthcare, employment and peer support. It owns or manages 23 buildings in the metro area and also operates as a Federally Qualified Health Center with ten sites.

Last year, an independent study by Mathematica Policy Research of seven social enterprises funded by REDF showed the impact of these businesses:

- Every \$1 social enterprises spend returns \$2.23 in benefits to society.
- One year after starting work in a social enterprise, the income of people employed increased 268%, income from government benefits dropped from 71% to 24%, and housing stability tripled.
- Before being hired by the social enterprise, 25% of participants had never had a job and 85% did not have stable housing the year prior; 70% had been convicted of a crime.
- Six months after transitioning out of social enterprise employment, two-thirds were still gainfully employed.



The [Social Innovation Fund](#) is a program of the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

The **Social Innovation Fund** (SIF) is a powerful approach to transforming lives and communities, an approach that positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact – mobilizing private resources to find and grow community solutions with evidence of results. As part of the SIF program, REDF must match the federal funds dollar-for-dollar and again by the organizations they select to receive grants. To date, REDF has received Social Innovation Fund matching investments from private funders including Bank of America, the Kresge, Weingart, Annie E. Casey, Woodcock, California Wellness, F.B. Heron, Kellogg, San Francisco and California Community Foundations, The California Endowment, JP Morgan Chase, and many other foundations and individual donors.

REDF creates jobs and employment opportunities for people facing the greatest barriers to work – like young people who are disconnected from school or work, people who’ve been homeless or in prison, and people with mental health disabilities. Founded in 1997 by George R. Roberts (KKR), REDF provides funding and business expertise to mission-driven organizations to launch and grow social enterprises,



which are businesses with a “double bottom line” that make money in order to employ people with multiple barriers to employment. REDF has helped over 10,000 people in California get jobs and find hope. Now REDF is taking best practices learned from 18 years of experience to grow their impact nationally and help thousands more people work, advance, and create a more stable future. For more information, visit <http://redf.org/>. To learn more about REDF’s portfolio organizations visit <http://redf.org/what-we-do/invest/>.