

Organizations Aligned with Our Mission

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 Tags	

We align with organizations that focus on goal attainment, access to opportunity, and resource connection for young people and adults. The following organizations reflect shared values and complementary approaches.

Upwardly Global Houston

Focus: Career access and economic mobility for skilled professionals

Upwardly Global Houston helps individuals overcome systemic barriers to employment by providing career coaching, skills training, and employer connections. Their work centers on unlocking opportunity for adults whose talents are underutilized due to structural or credentialing barriers.

Mission Alignment:

Goal-driven career advancement

Removing access barriers to opportunity

Resource navigation and workforce integration

Year Up

Focus: Closing the opportunity divide for young adults

Year Up provides intensive training, professional development, and corporate placements for young adults seeking stable career pathways. Their model

emphasizes accountability, skill-building, and access to professional networks.

Mission Alignment:

Clear goal pathways (education → employment)

Structured access to opportunity

Measurable outcomes in economic mobility

The Women's Resource of Greater Houston

Focus: Helping women move toward stability, clarity, and self-defined goals

The Women's Resource offers counseling, financial education, and career resources to support women in building sustainable, self-directed lives.

Mission Alignment:

Individual goal setting and follow-through

Access to emotional, financial, and professional resources

Dignity-first, empowerment-based support

United Way of Greater Houston

Focus: Connecting people to possibilities through systems-level impact

United Way of Greater Houston coordinates cross-sector efforts to improve education, financial stability, and long-term wellbeing across the region.

Mission Alignment:

Expanding access to resources at scale

Systems navigation and opportunity creation

Community-wide goal achievement

MENTOR

Focus: Expanding access to quality mentoring nationwide

MENTOR strengthens the mentoring ecosystem by supporting programs, research, and policy that increase access to effective mentoring relationships.

Mission Alignment:

Relationship-based access to opportunity

Goal attainment through guidance and support

Infrastructure for long-term impact

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

Focus: One-to-one mentoring to support youth success

Big Brothers Big Sisters connects young people with adult mentors who provide consistency, encouragement, and access to broader life opportunities.

Mission Alignment:

Goal-oriented mentoring

Access to social capital and support

Long-term personal and professional development

Optional Closing Line (you can include or cut)

These organizations demonstrate how access, opportunity, and goal-driven support can be operationalized across different populations and systems. Their work informs and complements our approach to helping individuals move from intention to impact..

Organizations Focused on Justice-Impacted Entrepreneurship & Recovery

New Profit - Unlocked Futures

Focus: Accelerating growth of organizations led by formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted social entrepreneurs

New Profit's Unlocked Futures provides \$100,000 in catalytic, unrestricted funding to social impact organizations with leaders directly impacted by the American legal system. Their cohort-based approach removes barriers to opportunity and supports entrepreneurship as a viable economic pathway.

Mission Alignment:

- Direct funding for justice-impacted social entrepreneurs
- Cohort-based peer support model
- Focus on systemic barrier removal

- Unrestricted funding approach

Website: newprofit.org/catalyze-unlocked-futures

REDF (Roberts Enterprise Development Fund)

Focus: Employment social enterprises for people breaking through barriers to employment

REDF provides financing, capacity building, and acceleration programs for businesses that offer jobs, training, and wraparound services to people with barriers to employment including justice system involvement, homelessness, and substance use challenges. Their Impact Investing Fund (RIIF) provides loans nationwide.

Mission Alignment:

- 74% of their portfolio serves justice-impacted individuals
- Employment + entrepreneurship pathway
- Financial support through loans and grants
- Wraparound service model
- Equity and lived experience prioritization

Website: redf.org

Restoring Virtue

Focus: Investing in entrepreneurial dreams of people with criminal records

Restoring Virtue provides Shark Tank-style investments, seed funding, and mentorship specifically for businesses started by people with criminal records. Built by and for justice-impacted individuals, they focus on dignity, equity, and reinvesting 100% of profits into more founders.

Mission Alignment:

- Justice-impacted founder focus
- Seed capital + mentorship
- Stigma-fighting advocacy

- Lived experience leadership
- Shark Tank pitch model

Website: restoringvirtue.org

R.E.P. Program (Returning Entrepreneurship Program)

Focus: Entrepreneurship incubator for returning citizens

The R.E.P. Program is an entrepreneurship incubator specifically designed for entrepreneurial-minded returning citizens, helping them understand the foundations of starting their own enterprises through interactive learning experiences.

Mission Alignment:

- Reentry-focused entrepreneurship training
- Goal setting and action planning
- Interactive curriculum model
- Corrections education partnership

Website: repprogram.com

Economic Innovation Labs

Focus: Building businesses in underserved communities without debt

Economic Innovation Labs provides debt-free, mentorship-powered programs that turn ideas into businesses through AI-powered tools, equity-based participation, and comprehensive support for underserved communities.

Mission Alignment:

- Debt-free business building
- Mentorship-driven model
- Community ecosystem approach
- Technology-enabled support

Website: economicinnovationlabs.org

Brian Hamilton Foundation

Focus: Free entrepreneurship education for all

The Brian Hamilton Foundation provides free entrepreneurship education resources through Starter U, their online course designed to help anyone start or grow a business, with a focus on accessibility and removing barriers to entrepreneurial knowledge.

Mission Alignment:

- Free education access
- Entrepreneurship for all philosophy
- Removing knowledge barriers
- Practical business training

Website: brianhamilton.org

Federal & Government Funding Opportunities

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

Recovery and Recovery Support Grants

- Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR)
- National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center
- Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grants

Mission Alignment:

- Peer-led recovery support
- Workforce development integration
- Community-based approaches
- Recovery capital building

Website: samhsa.gov/grants

U.S. Department of Labor

Workforce Development Grants

- SUPPORT Act Grants (substance use disorder workforce)
- Opioid Response Grants
- Dislocated Worker Grants

Mission Alignment:

- Recovery workforce integration
- Skills training funding
- Job placement support
- Regional economic development

Website: dol.gov/eta

Regional & Community Development Organizations

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Focus: Safety & Justice, Small Business Development, Economic Development

LISC works on safety and justice initiatives alongside small business development and income and wealth building programs across the United States.

Mission Alignment:

- Justice system involvement support
- Small business grants and loans
- Community-based economic development
- Systems-level impact approach

Website: lisc.org

Foundation of HOPE

Focus: Reentry program with pre- and post-release support

Foundation of HOPE provides intensive case management, peer support, educational programs, and material assistance for returning citizens, with a focus on building support systems that prevent recidivism.

Mission Alignment:

- Pre- and post-release continuum
- Peer support emphasis
- Community reintegration focus
- Transitional service model

Website: foundationofhope.org

Next Steps for Partnership & Funding

Priority Organizations to Contact:

1. **New Profit - Unlocked Futures** - Apply for their cohort program (check mailing list for next application cycle)
2. **REDF** - Apply for Accelerator or Impact Investing Fund
3. **Restoring Virtue** - Pitch for investment/partnership opportunities
4. **SAMHSA** - Monitor grant opportunities for peer-led recovery programs

Grant Application Strategy:

- Emphasize your shame-free, dignity-first approach as differentiator
- Highlight peer mentorship and community container model
- Present entrepreneurship as evidence-based recovery capital building
- Showcase measurable outcomes in recovery stability + venture creation