



MEDIA ADVISORY

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For immediate release

The Workers Lab Congratulates 2018 Fall Innovation Fund Winners
The Staffing Cooperative, San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment and the National Domestic Workers Alliance each win \$150,000 for groundbreaking programs that shift power and resources to working people

(Oakland, CA) The Workers Lab announced its Fall 2018 Innovation Fund winners today. Winners receive \$150,000 in grants or loans, as well as mentorship, training, and convening support.

"The finalists this year were incredibly inspiring," said The Workers Lab CEO, Carmen Rojas. "All of the finalists, and in particular these winning projects, are disrupting the status quo with public sector solutions to address automation; job training that increases wages and worker power; and, tools to help working people meet financial needs."

The winners of the fall innovation fund include Baltimore-based the Staffing Cooperative, the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment's SFO Worker Fund, and the National Domestic Workers Alliance's Alia platform.

"We believe the current system of employment is broken in this country," said the team at the Staffing Cooperative, a worker-owned temp agency for people with barriers to employment. "We are incredibly excited to use this opportunity to do something about it!"

José Cisneros, Treasurer of the City and County of San Francisco, added "We're thrilled to be recognized by The Workers Lab for our partnership with the San Francisco International Airport to pilot a Workers Fund for SFO's 40,000 private sectors workers. With this award, the Office of Financial Empowerment will equip workers to manage unexpected financial emergencies—a broken-down car or a trip to the hospital—that can send hardworking families down a dangerous spiral. Ultimately, we hope this financial innovation will not only strengthen economic security locally, but also offer a model for replication nationally."

And Palak Shah, Social Innovations Director at The National Domestic Workers Alliance said their organization is "thrilled to receive the Innovation Fund grant from The Workers Lab. NDWA's flagship innovation product, Alia, is providing access to benefits to one of the most vulnerable workforces in the

country, house cleaners, and is a solution for domestic workers that came from the domestic worker movement itself. We know that if we can make access to benefits work for house cleaners, we can make it work for every worker, and we are proud to be recognized by the Workers Lab.”

This year, The Workers Lab received over 450 submissions, from across six countries and 30 states; 78 percent of these applicants were led by women and/or people of color. The top ten finalists gathered in New York on October 4-5 to present their projects at the Fall Showcase. Learn more at <http://theworkerslab.com/innovationfund/>.

The Workers Lab funds experimentation and innovation to build power for working people.

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