

MEMORANDUM

To: U.S. Programs Board
From: Ann Beeson; Raquiba LaBrie; Shawn Dove
Date: August 10, 2009
Re: Recommended Grant to Harlem Children's Zone

Earlier this year George Soros contacted Geoffrey Canada to commend him on the success of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) and the favorable attention it continues to receive. George also noted that since Geoffrey joined the U.S. Programs Board in 2001, he has never requested a grant from OSI. Following this conversation, George asked OSI staff to explore the possibility of funding HCZ given its relevance to OSI's mission.

At the upcoming Board meeting, staff will present for discussion the attached recommendation for a general operating support grant to HCZ in the amount of \$4,000,000 over four years. Geoffrey Canada will recuse himself from the discussion. This grant will come out of the Chairman's Office fund, not out of U.S. Programs' budget.

HCZ is comprised of many inter-connected programs and initiatives that are helping to ensure children and families in Central Harlem remain safe and healthy. Its offerings include parenting courses, the Promise Academy elementary and middle schools, health and fitness programs, a neighborhood revitalization and community organizing effort, and three Single Stop sites providing free legal services and financial counseling.

HCZ advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund's specific goal of challenging structural racism and supporting proactive efforts to demonstrate the shared stake all members of society have in racial equity and inclusion. It also advances the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's goal of supporting organizing and policy advocacy efforts in the areas of education, strengthening family structures, and increasing work opportunities for black men and boys.

HCZ has reached a critical turning point. As most major news outlets have reported, the Obama administration identified replication of the HCZ model as the White House's leading approach to alleviating urban poverty and promoting educational equity across the U.S. As it comes under intense scrutiny as a model demonstration project, HCZ requires substantial support to continue to produce high-quality services and results.

We look forward to the discussion.