

Criminal Justice Fund

Anticipated Grant Recommendations

March 3, 2009

Criminal Justice Fund staff is recommending to the U.S. Programs Board, at its upcoming meeting in March, one renewal grant in the amount of \$4,000,000 for funding from the Drug Policy Reform Grantmaking budget. Staff also anticipates recommending thirteen grants on the Criminal Justice Fund's March docket for funding from the Criminal Justice Fund's various grantmaking budgets and the JEHT Response Grantmaking budget, in the amount of \$2,225,673.

The total anticipated amount recommended for funding on these dockets is \$6,225,673, and includes:

U.S. Board Meeting Recommendation

Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), \$4,000,000 over one year to renew general support. Following the drug policy field assessment OSI commissioned last year and in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Fund's ongoing program evaluation, over the next year, staff will continue to assess and develop U.S. Programs' drug policy priorities and strategies. Renewed funding at this time will enable Drug Policy Alliance to continue its leadership role in: promoting a just society in which the use and regulation of drugs are grounded in science, compassion, health, and human rights; challenging the racially disparate impact of the current "war on drugs" law enforcement policies; and advocating for an approach to drug use in which people are no longer criminalized and punished for what they put into their own bodies, and the fears, prejudices, and punitive prohibitions of today are eliminated. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's goals of ending the over-reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment in the United States by decriminalizing vulnerable populations and downsizing prisons and strengthening civil society investments and infrastructure; it would also support Equality and Opportunity Fund's interest in prohibiting arbitrary and discriminatory government action and lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life.

Criminal Justice Fund March Docket Recommendations

Council of State Governments (CSG), \$625,000 project grant over one year (\$425,000 from the CJF and \$200,000 from JEHT Emergency Fund grantmaking budgets) to inform the crime policy agenda of the U.S. Congress and Administration; analyze the impact of school discipline policies on the criminal justice system in Texas; and to provide general support to sustain capacity building anticipated to be furthered with JEHT Foundation funding. These funds will enable CSG to provide non-partisan research, technical assistance, and education to policymakers and advocacy organizations to inform the policy discussion around efforts to fund, implement, and reauthorize the *Second Chance Act*; prepare the ground for the *Mentally Ill Treatment and Crime Reduction Act*; support efforts to make Justice Reinvestment a signature initiative of the Obama administration; and to inform policymakers on the issues affecting children with incarcerated parents. Funding will also support the publication and dissemination of research on the impacts of school discipline policies on juvenile and adult justice system involvement in Texas. Finally, OSI funding will help replace capacity-building funding for the organization's Justice Center, which was lost with the closure of the JEHT Foundation, this past December. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reorienting the mission and resources of criminal justice systems to maximize successful reentry and minimize incarceration, fostering cross-sector and multi-

agency government collaboration and accountability for reentry, promoting the rights and well-being of children whose parents are or were incarcerated.

WGBH Educational Foundation (WGBH), \$50,000 project grant over one year to conduct outreach and develop a supplemental website to promote the April broadcast of *The Released*, a new Frontline documentary that follows the experiences of people with mental illness after release from prison and demonstrates how the lack of support services often contribute to their returning to prison. Funding will provide timely support for WGBH Frontline's broad-based educational outreach campaign, promotion strategies, and companion website—which contains extensive informational resources and opportunities for further viewer involvement—will enhance policy debates on the nation's treatment of the mentally ill. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's commitment to decriminalizing vulnerable populations and maximizing and reducing barriers to reentry.

Tides Center/Justice Strategies (Justice Strategies), \$20,673 project grant over one year to finalize research for, edit, and publish five policy briefs that examine the impact on policy and practice brought about by the emergence of community reentry as a frame for criminal justice reform. Funding would enable Justice Strategies to continue work that began under an OSI grant awarded to Justice Strategies in 2006, when Women's Prison Association and Home was its fiscal sponsor. Specifically, OSI funding will enable Justice Strategies to update, edit, and publish five policy briefs that examine the impact on policy and practice brought about by the emergence of community reentry as a frame for criminal justice reform. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in rethinking crime and punishment for the 21st century through fostering connections between theory and practice and encouraging discussion and debate among a broad range of stakeholders, from scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to advocates and community activists.

Noisette Foundation (Noisette), \$50,000 project grant over one year to continue providing programmatic and technical assistance to the Lowcountry Civic Justice Corps (LCJC) in North Charleston, South Carolina, which has made significant headway in promoting smart reentry policies in the state and locally. OSI funding will enable Noisette and LCJC to continue its Civic Justice Corps programming, which provides formerly incarcerated people in North Charleston with training and service opportunities in green construction. This grant advances the Criminal Justice Fund's strategy of promoting public service and education and in and after prison to enhance democracy and support the civic participation of people with criminal records in justice policy reform.

Osborne Association (Osborne), \$300,000 project grant renewal over two years for its *New York City Initiative for Children with Incarcerated Parents* and *Long-termers Project*. OSI funding will enable Osborne to continue efforts in New York to protect the rights of children with parents in prison and to improve the experiences of and policymaking around people serving long prison sentences and preparing for parole. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's strategy of promoting the rights and well-being of children whose parents are or were incarcerated and the Criminal Justice Fund's goal of reducing the over-reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment.

Fortune Society (Fortune), \$280,000 project grant over two years to support its David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy's public education and policy analysis, development, and advocacy to support successful reentry from prisons, promote alternatives to incarceration, and strengthen high incarceration communities. OSI funds will enable Fortune to focus its efforts on increasing the availability of and access to Alternatives To Incarceration (ATI) programs, removing unreasonable employment and financial barriers faced by people with criminal records, and expanding the right to vote for people not in a correctional setting but serving time for a felony conviction in New York State. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interests in reducing the reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment by promoting alternatives to incarceration that emphasize rehabilitation and treatment and by

promoting civic and political re-enfranchisement and economic inclusion by restoring voting rights and increasing access to employment for people with criminal records.

Louisville Jefferson County Metro (Louisville), \$50,000 project grant renewal over one year to continue implementation, in Louisville's Newburg neighborhood, of its justice reinvestment pilot project focusing on the ongoing development of a functioning network of service providers and marshalling support for neighborhood projects to redress structural impediments to successful resettlement after jail and prison. OSI funding will enable Louisville to refine program policies and procedures, improve participant selection criteria, and increase the number of pilot participants from 45 to the minimum of 100 required to complete the program evaluation being conducted by JFA Associates (an OSI grantee). This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reorienting the mission and resources of criminal justice systems to maximize successful reentry and minimize incarceration and fostering cross-sector and multi-agency government collaboration and accountability for reentry.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), \$400,000 over two years (co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund). Renewal of project support for the Defending Immigrants Partnership, a collaboration between four non-profit legal organizations to prevent the needless deportation of low-income non-citizens accused of crimes by providing defense counsel with the training and assistance needed to protect such persons against the immigration law consequences of conviction.

New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty (NYADP), \$150,000 over two years. Renewal of general support to maintain the New York state's current de jure abolition of the death penalty while expanding public opposition to capital punishment, developing coalitions, and fostering a sustainable movement towards legislative abolition.

The Defender Association (WA), \$100,000 over two years. Renewal of project support to support the Racial Disparity Project, led by Lisa Daugaard, as it works to reduce racial bias on the part of law enforcement agencies in King County, Washington, particularly as it relates to arrests in low level drug activity and prosecution of trespass offenses.

Southern Public Defender Training Center (Jon Rapping), \$150,000 over two years. Project support to fund the Southern Public Defender Training Center, which, in partnership with, public defender offices across the region, provides training to entry level and inexperienced public defenders in order to build a community of zealous, committed public defenders and raise the standards of representation for indigent defendants in the southeastern United States. The program was developed through a Soros Justice Fellowship to Jon Rapping, who continues to manage the program.

USF Center for Law and Global Justice (End JLWOP Program), \$120,000 over two years. Project support to allow attorney Michelle Leighton to target domestic litigation with the potential to end the sentencing of Juveniles to Life Without Parole (JLWOP), by challenging JLWOP legislation at the state and federal levels. Project seeks to build on successful strategy to challenge juvenile death penalty in the U.S. by assisting litigators and juvenile defenders to craft legal challenges that incorporate international human rights arguments in key JLWOP cases on trial and on appeal; facilitate the dissemination of this knowledge and use of human rights law through a brief bank for the exchange of successful legal strategies within a nationally recognized network of juvenile defenders; and undertake human rights education and training of legal advocates at local and national law conferences and symposia. The program also works with the UN to maintain international pressure on the U.S. regarding JLWOP policy.

Seattle University - The Defender Initiative (Bob Boruchowitz), \$50,000 over 5 months. Project support to implement the right to counsel in misdemeanor cases by creating targeted litigation to be applied in three focus courts, followed by two regional conferences and two national conferences to

discuss and disseminate the work. Project leader Bob Boruchowitz received a 2003 Soros Justice Fellowship in this area, and was the lead consultant of a project CJF funded through the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to examine the growing problems of misdemeanor prosecutions throughout the country.