

**U.S. Programs  
Criminal Justice Fund  
Summary of Recommended Grants  
Out of Docket  
October 30, 2009**

**Criminal Justice Fund**

2009 Criminal Justice Fund Grantmaking Budget (24027)	\$ 5,475,000
2009 Re-Entry Grantmaking Budget (24013)	1,415,000
2009 Gideon Grantmaking Budget (24420)	1,050,000
2009 USP Drug Policy Reform (21031)	727,500
Out of Docket Grantmaking	(1,012,500)
Docket I Grantmaking	(1,737,895)
Docket II Grantmaking	(3,079,000)
Docket III Grantmaking	(1,025,000)
Catch-Up Docket Grantmaking	(1,117,500)
<b>Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 895,605</b>

<u>Program Area/Organization</u>	<u>Grants Totals</u>	<u>Grant Term</u>
<b><u>Criminal Justice Fund Grantmaking (24027)</u></b>		
Youth Justice Coalition	\$ 25,000	1 year
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	\$ 25,000	6 months
<b>Total Recommended:</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	
<b><u>CJF Reentry (24013)</u></b>		
Columbia University (Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation)	\$ 25,000	1 year
Twenty First Century Foundation	\$ 25,000	6 months
<b>Total Recommended:</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	
<b>CJF GRANTMAKING TOTAL THIS DOCKET:</b>		
	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	

  
Approval Signature

10/30/09

# Memo

To: Ann Beeson

From: Leonard Noisette; Terrance Pitts; William Johnston; Angela Cheng

Date: 29 October 2009

Re: Criminal Justice Fund Out-of-Docket Grant Recommendations

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Criminal Justice Fund staff recommend four grants for funding, totaling \$100,000. These grant recommendations include:

**Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's Spatial Information Design Laboratory (SIDL)**, \$25,000 project grant add-on over one year (from the Criminal Justice Fund's Reentry grantmaking budget) to develop and launch the *National Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections*, an interactive, online tool for disseminating criminal justice data in ways that broaden the conversation around criminal justice and related issues. OSI funding will enable SIDL to produce software that reads data from a database prepared by the Justice Mapping Center; design and build the interface between the online version of the *Atlas* and exportable and printable versions of the *Atlas* data and analyses; and design and publish the online presentation of the *Atlas*.

**Youth Justice Coalition**, \$25,000 general support grant over one year (from the Criminal Justice Fund's general grantmaking budget). Youth Justice Coalition's mission is to build and support a youth-led movement to challenge the Los Angeles and California juvenile and criminal justice systems. Over the next year, the organization will continue its focus on strengthening and supporting local groups to engage in criminal justice reform, building membership base and mobilizing youth-led campaigns, and recruiting, developing, and supporting youth leadership in juvenile and criminal justice reform advocacy.

**Twenty-First Century Foundation (21CF)**, \$25,000 project grant over six months (from the Criminal Justice Fund's Reentry grantmaking budget) to the Twenty First Century Foundation to engage the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys National Steering Committee in a strategic policy discussion with other key allies on Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps strategies. OSI funding will enable 21CF to develop and convene Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps information sessions during its October 2025 Steering Committee convening in Washington, D.C. for the 21CF Black Men and Boys Organizing and Advocacy Coalitions. 21CF will lead and facilitate discussions designed for participants to explore and strategize how their organizations can play a role in reducing prison populations and strengthen their communities, including promoting education and green jobs training for people with criminal records. 21CF will invite leading researchers exploring the investments that state and local governments make that result in the disproportionate incarceration rates of people from poor neighborhoods of color. 21CF will also invite advocates who use this research to inform Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps projects across the country.

**Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC)**, \$25,000 project grant over six months (from the Criminal Justice Fund's general grantmaking budget) to support OJPC's Indigent Defense Reform Initiative. The Cincinnati-based nonprofit law office was founded in 1997 to promote effective evidence-based, cost effective policies to address root causes of crime, decrease recidivism, and promote successful community reentry. The Indigent Defense Reform Initiative works in the long-term to provide sustainable, high-quality indigent defense services throughout Ohio. In the short-term, the project objectives include development of Ohio's first comprehensive program for the recruitment, training, and evaluation of indigent defense service providers and promoting community-based problem-solving alternatives to reduce demand on the criminal justice system. A six-month grant will provide critically needed funding to sustain these reform efforts in anticipation of inviting a proposal for longer term funding in 2010.

If you approve, kindly sign and date the attached grant summary sheet.

**Name of Organization:** Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York  
(Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's  
Spatial Information Design Laboratory)

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To develop and launch the *National Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections*, an interactive, online tool for disseminating criminal justice data in ways that broaden the conversation around criminal justice and related issues

**FPOS Grant Description:** To provide a \$25,000 project grant add-on over six months to Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York (Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's Spatial Information Design Laboratory) to develop and launch the *National Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections*, an interactive, online tool for disseminating criminal justice data in ways that broaden the conversation around criminal justice and related issues. OSI funding will enable SIDL to produce software that reads data from a database prepared by the Justice Mapping Center; design and build the interface between the online version of the *Atlas* and exportable and printable versions of the *Atlas* data and analyses; and design and publish the online presentation of the *Atlas*.

**Previous OSI Support:** \$306,041  
(\$108,041 U.S. Justice Fund-2006; \$120,000 U.S. Justice Fund-2005; \$78,000 U.S. Justice Fund-2004)

**Organizational Budget:** \$20,300,000

**Project Budget:** \$105,000

**Sources of Support:** \$70,000 Justice Mapping Center

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$25,000 (Reentry Grantmaking, T1: 24013)

**Term:** 1 year

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (GSAPP) is the hub for Geographic Information Systems research at Columbia University. GSAPP works with campus partners to plan GIS infrastructure development and, more generally, to enable spatially integrated social science research at Columbia. Central to GSAPP is a set of independent research laboratories that focus on areas of advanced materials research, urban ecology and public health, civil and human rights and the city, and visualization and applied spatial analysis. Each

laboratory takes on a limited set of sponsored research projects, while being partially integrated into the teaching programs within the school, organizing lectures, workshops, symposia, and producing publications. GSAPP's Spatial Information Design Laboratory (SIDL) works to design innovative ways to communicate spatial data with clarity, integrity, responsibility, creativity, and invention. The goal of SIDL is to forge partnerships with people and organizations whose research requires the independence and rigor of an academic setting and who thrive in an atmosphere of open inquiry, experimentation, and risk-taking, in order to expand the ways in which data is collected, used, and presented.

In 2004, OSI funded SIDL to sponsor and institutionalize "Graphical Innovation in Justice Mapping," a collaboration between Justice Mapping Center's founding director and former OSI Program Officer Eric Cadora and the Design Lab's director, architect Laura Kurgan. In 2006, OSI funded SIDL to investigate, map, and design a neighborhood-based plan to address the dual challenges of reentry and the rebuilding of housing and infrastructure destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Over the past five years, this partnership has developed new techniques to graphically communicate the negative effects of contemporary criminal justice policy on poor communities of color and promote the justice reinvestment concept.

#### **Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's Spatial Information Design Lab (SIDL) requests add-on project funding over six months to develop and launch the *National Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections* (the "Atlas"), an interactive, online tool for disseminating criminal justice data in ways that broaden the conversation around criminal justice and related issues.

Building on the prior research and collaboration with the Justice Mapping Center, the *Atlas* project will collect correctional data from approximately 25 states and produce: a web-based, interactive tool with the capacity to export and print selected maps and data summaries; and a print version of the Atlas with the graphical capacity of the web tool. SIDL will work with Justice Mapping Center to frame the online tool and printable version of the *Atlas* with unique and compelling visual presentations. Specifically, SIDL will use its professional expertise in mapping and imaging as well as architectural and urban design to produce software that reads data from a database prepared by the Justice Mapping Center; design and build the interface between the online version of the *Atlas* and exportable and printable versions of the *Atlas* data and analyses; and design and publish the online presentation of the *Atlas*.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by eliminating unreasonable barriers to successful reentry.

With OSI funding over the past five years, Justice Mapping has become an important tool in the analysis of criminal justice policy and practice by identifying and illustrating patterns of incarceration in low-income communities of color and revealing opportunities to disrupt the cycle of incarceration by making positive investments in the neighborhoods directly impacted. By revealing specific neighborhoods and community infrastructure in need of investment, Justice Mapping allows a wide audience to understand criminal justice issues in terms of long-term divestment from affected communities rather than individual acts and behaviors, and to envision and enact innovative solutions to public safety. The *National Atlas of Sentencing and*

*Corrections* project in particular will be a valuable tool for organizing, advocacy, public education, and targeted communications strategies to highlight the costly and ineffective aspects of incarceration and call for reinvestment of savings from reduced incarceration to address the needs of both high incarceration communities and localities dependent on a prison economy.

Just as the JFA Institute and the Council of State Governments have integrated Justice Mapping as an important component of the Justice Reinvestment initiative, SIDL's highly sophisticated productions have brought exciting dimensions to the Justice Mapping endeavor as well as new platforms and new voices for educating the public on criminal justice issues. Last year, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) acquired SIDL's *Architecture and Justice*, data maps of million dollar blocks across the U.S., as part of the permanent collection of the MoMA's design department. This summer, SIDL's work on New Orleans was on display at The Center for Architecture in New York City. Indeed, SIDL's director, Laura Kurgan, a renowned architect, designer, and urban planner, has become an advocate in her own right, making public presentations about the spatial patterns that link poverty, racial segregation, and incarceration.

Beyond its existing relationships with scholars, planners, and designers, SIDL has developed relationships with community groups and advocates, making SIDL well positioned to undertake the Atlas project. Building on its collaboration with the Justice Mapping Center, SIDL has already accessed and worked with extensive data on New Orleans, investigating various areas of the city as case studies and working with local groups to develop and launch rebuilding demonstration projects. In the March issue of *The Atlantic*, Ms. Kurgan published SIDL's New Orleans maps with narratives that reveal the costly spending in forms of policing and prison costs, in a few predictable neighborhoods. Displaying the New Orleans maps in a national context through the *Atlas* project will not only advance efforts by community groups and city officials in New Orleans advocating for Justice Reinvestment, it will strengthen national efforts by demonstrating that patterns of community divestment, poverty, over-investment in policing and criminal justice are common in cities across the country.

For these reasons, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends a project support add-on grant in the amount of \$25,000 over one year to Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's Spatial Information Design Laboratory.

**Name of Organization:** Youth Justice Coalition

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide general support

**FPOS Grant Description:** To provide \$25,000 general support funding over one year to Youth Justice Coalition, which works to build and support a youth-led movement to challenge the Los Angeles and California juvenile and criminal justice systems. Over the next year, the organization will continue its focus on strengthening and supporting local groups to engage in criminal justice reform, building membership base and mobilizing youth-led campaigns, and recruiting, developing, and supporting youth leadership in juvenile and criminal justice reform advocacy.

**Previous OSI Support:** \$63,150  
(\$25,000 U.S. Justice Fund-2003; \$38,150 Criminal Justice Initiative-2002)

**Organization Budget:** \$521,467

**Project Budget:** Not applicable

**Sources of Support:** \$50,000 Surdna Foundation; \$50,000 Fund for Nonviolence; \$35,000 Hill-Snowdon Foundation; \$30,000 Edward W. Hazen Foundation; \$30,000 Liberty Hill Foundation

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$25,000 (Criminal Justice Fund Grantmaking, T1: 24027)

**Term:** 1 year

**Description of Organization:**

The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) builds and unites a youth-led movement to challenge race, gender and class inequality in the Los Angeles juvenile and criminal justice systems. Its mission is to dismantle a system that has ensured the massive lock-up of people of color, widespread police brutality and corruption, regular violation of youth and communities' constitutional and human rights, and the build-up of the world's largest prison system. Through direct action organizing, advocacy, and activist arts, YJC's campaigns seek to change youth incarceration policy and practice in Los Angeles and throughout California. YJC's work centers on the following three priorities:

*Strengthening and supporting local groups to engage in criminal justice reform.* YJC is developing a low/no-cost Resource Center for grassroots organizing and social justice groups working to challenge police suppression and the over reliance on incarceration in Los Angeles. To create opportunities for networking and joint action, YJC's Resource Center provides office and meeting space, phone bank, and Internet access. YJC also maintains a shared database of

media contacts, a recording studio with the technology to produce radio spots, and equipment for making posters and t-shirts.

*Building membership base and mobilizing youth-led campaigns.* YJC hosts and engages youth members and individual and organizational allies and hosts monthly countywide meetings where participants raise issues to explore. YJC works with its membership and allies to establish a research agenda, campaign planning, public education, and mobilization and advocacy strategies. To build its membership and gain insights from the experiences of the community, YJC sponsors annual cross-county marches to meet youth, their families, and other leaders. YJC communicates frequently with and mobilizes its current base of more than 2,000 youth members by disseminating electronically timely news and alerts through its newly redesigned website, social networking tools, and email listserv. Over the next year, YJC will continue to improve and expand its communications to its allies through street outreach and community, and will convene and expand mobilization of parents and family members of youth who are facing or serving life without parole or other harsh sentences.

*Recruiting, developing, and supporting youth leadership.* YJC offers Street University, a 60-hour course to for youth to understand policy formation, government structure, organizing tactics, advocacy strategies, and develop skills in public speaking, research, and writing. Its Free L.A. High School provides a full high school education program and a juvenile justice system alternative for 80 youth who are returning home after being detained or incarcerated, are on probation or parole, or who have been pushed out of their schools or school districts. The school helps students earn high school diplomas, connect to activist arts and organizing apprenticeships, and earn college credits. Each year, YJC recruits, trains, and supports at least 13 youth for its organizing apprenticeship LOBOS (Leading our Brothers and Sisters Out of the System), which works with two fulltime organizers to implement the day-to-day work of YJC, including research, community assessment, legal education, court support, and constituency mobilization. YJC also recruits and supports young people in juvenile centers and probation camps and students who attend schools with high rates of arrests and police lock-downs, and conducts workshops to train young people about their legal rights to enable them to advocate for themselves and increase the use of community-based alternatives to arrest, detention, and incarceration.

**Description of Project for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Youth Justice Coalition requests general support funding over one year.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant would advance: the Criminal Justice Fund’s interests in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by challenging punitive school disciplinary policies, treating children as adults in prosecution and sentencing, and sentencing juveniles to life without parole; the Campaign for Black Male Achievement’s interest in dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline and supporting youth organizing and leadership; the Democracy and Power Fund’s interest in strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations that collaborate frequently with other organizations and build partnerships across communities, sectors, and issues and that employ long-term social change strategies that emphasize policy reform, systems change, and shifting public debate; and U.S. Programs’ interest in using arts and culture to advance social change.

Although northern California consistently produces high quality, innovative criminal justice reform advocacy, southern California’s advocacy infrastructure is relatively weak. Given that California is a bellwether state whose statewide reforms generate powerful ripple effects for the

rest of the country, there is an obvious need to coordinate and strengthen the work of northern *and* southern California advocates. Staff has devoted considerable time and thought to identify southern California criminal justice groups capable of building and nurturing advocacy infrastructure there. YJC stands out as a critical player dedicated to seeding the juvenile and criminal justice movement in Los Angeles. YJC has created and coordinates the Deon Whitfield Work Group, an effort to bring system decision makers, advocates, youth and parents together on a monthly basis to address key juvenile justice issues. In addition to community based organizations, members of the work group include Human Rights Watch, the ACLU, the Advancement Project, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department, the Los Angeles County Department of Health, Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, and the Los Angeles City Counsel.

Since YJC first began its work in 2001, LA's juvenile hall population has decreased by 24%; the probation camp population has decreased by 19%; and the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population decreased by 50%. YJC cannot take full credit for these decreases, but it has played a notable role in challenging the state's juvenile justice policies and exposing the harmful effects of youth incarceration in Los Angeles. More recently, YJC's core campaigns include: challenging gang suppression tactics, including gang injunctions; building support against harsh confinement conditions and sentencing for youth, including life without parole; and promoting community-based alternatives to incarceration.

In addition to YJC's unwavering commitment to youth and its resourceful advocacy efforts, its commitment to movement-building—which is apparent in the most basic aspects of its operation—is particularly compelling. From its inception, YJC decided that its office would serve as a community center that provides office and meeting space and telephone and internet access for other groups challenging incarceration policies in Los Angeles.

YJC's lead organizer and founding partner, Kim McGillicuddy, has distinguished herself as a thoughtful and energetic leader with a strong understanding of power and its connection to policy. She has been an impressive participant of larger strategy meetings on zero tolerance school disciplinary policies and field building for juvenile justice advocates hosted by OSI in the past. Under Kim's guidance, YJC's work to engage young people of color is helping to shape future advocates and leaders of color around criminal justice issues. She has also led YJC to establish positive relationships with other juvenile justice advocacy efforts in the state and will continue developing relationships with youth-led advocacy efforts—particularly in the Bay Area—to improve coordination of information, tactics, and activities.

This grant would honor the funding commitment OSI made to Youth Justice Coalition in 2008, in anticipation of the organization's 501(c)(3) public charity determination, which it did not receive until this past July. It would also give Criminal Justice Fund staff time to monitor the organization's development and to assess the possibility for renewing funding to the organization on a multi-year basis in 2010.

For these reasons, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends general support funding to Youth Justice Coalition in the amount of \$25,000 over one year.



**Name of Organization:** Twenty First Century Foundation

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To develop for and convene a Justice Reinvestment session during the 2025 Steering Committee convening in Washington, DC, in October 2009

**FPOS Grant Description:** To provide \$25,000 project grant over six months to the Twenty First Century Foundation to engage the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys National Steering Committee in a strategic policy discussion with other key allies on Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps strategies. OSI funding will enable 21CF to develop and convene Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps information sessions during its October 2025 Steering Committee convening in Washington, D.C., for the 21CF Black Men and Boys Organizing and Advocacy Coalitions.

**Previous OSI Support:** \$925,000  
\$575,000 Campaign for Black Male Achievement-2009;  
\$250,000 Campaign for Black Male Achievement-2008;  
\$100,000 Strategic Opportunities Fund-2006

**Organization Budget:** \$8,301,000

**Project Budget:** \$51,000

**Sources of Support:** \$26,000 To Be Raised

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$25,000 (Reentry Grantmaking, T1: 24013)

**Term:** 6 months

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in 1971 as a small public foundation, the Twenty-First Century Foundation (21CF) seeks to lead, innovate, and influence black community change through strategic philanthropy. Since its founding by economist Robert S. Browne, it has worked with donors to invest in institutions and leaders committed to addressing the persistence of poverty and inequality in the U.S. As one of the few endowed African American foundations in the U.S., 21CF has developed a range of giving vehicles through which donors can support leaders and institutions that are working to solve problems locally and nationally. Beyond financials support, 21CF provides technical assistance to build the capacity of community-based organizations. It seeds local, regional and national coalitions that link efforts across issues and connect place-based initiatives with larger campaigns. Finally, it identifies and invests in new tools for communication to strengthen movement building within the black community.

21CF's 2025 Campaign serves as the national face of Black Men and Boys (BMB) Initiative, designed to pull together the various local efforts around black men and boys through a nationwide information clearinghouse and coalition-building vehicle for local, regional, and national organizations working toward positive outcomes for black men and boys. The 2025 Campaign's mission is to develop, implement, support and sustain a movement for the educational, social, emotional, physical, political and economic development and empowerment of black men and boys in the U.S. The Campaign has identified five areas for better outcomes: Educational Opportunity; Engaged Fatherhood and Parenting; Justice, Rights & Responsibilities: addressing disparities in the criminal justice system; Health (Physical and Mental); and Economic Opportunity. The Steering Committee for the 2025 Campaign consists of 25 national, regional, and local leaders. At the core of the committee are five local BMB Coalitions around the country (New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Oakland, Los Angeles, with Atlanta slated to be added as a sixth in 2010). Seeded by 21CF, the coalitions are consist of four or five 21CF partner grantees, organizations with which 21CF has developed ongoing relationships and which have been identified as leaders in organizing and advocacy for black men and boys in their local areas.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Twenty-First Century Foundation requests project funding to engage the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys National Steering Committee in a strategic policy discussion with other key allies on Justice Reinvestment and Civic Justice Corps strategies. Specifically, OSI funding will enable 21CF to develop and convene information and advocacy strategy sessions during its 2025 Steering Committee convening in Washington, D.C., in October, for the 21CF Black Men and Boys Organizing and Advocacy Coalitions (BMB Coalitions) to discuss Justice Reinvestment strategies. The goal of the sessions is to create an effective framework for 21CF BMB Coalitions to address the need in their respective communities to redirect public resources away from incarceration and to re-invest in social and educational systems.

21CF will lead and facilitate discussions designed for participants to explore and strategize how their organizations can play a role in reducing prison populations and strengthening their communities, including promoting education and green jobs training for people with criminal records. 21CF will invite Laura Kurgan and Eric Cadora to discuss their Million Dollar Block research, which explores the investments state and local governments make that result in the disproportionate incarceration rates of people from poor neighborhoods of color. 21CF will also invite representatives from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center to share their insights in connection with Justice Reinvestment projects in Kansas, Texas, and Vermont.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's goals in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration, and by eliminating unreasonable barriers to successful reentry. The grant would also advance the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's interest in advancing educational equity and promoting economic opportunity.

The pragmatic strategy embedded in the Justice Reinvestment model of criminal justice reform has begun to attract widespread interest in states across the country and at the federal level. By offering concrete and innovative strategies for safely reducing prison and parole and probation populations to generate savings of public dollars for reinvestment in the infrastructure of the poorest neighborhoods directly affected by criminal justice policy, Justice Reinvestment

addresses core challenges to criminal justice reform and holds out the potential for expanding constituencies for such reform.

By introducing Justice Reinvestment concepts and strategies to its membership, 21CF's convening would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's effort to broaden coalitions for support of reducing incarceration. 21CF-seeded BMB coalitions in target cities gather the strengths of 21CF grantees and local allies to build power to influence decision-makers and the public around the critical intersecting issues affecting black males. BMB coalitions include organizations that are not traditional criminal justice reform advocates, such as a youth mentoring organization, a library, churches, and neighborhood associations. Some coalitions have achieved large memberships, coordinated plans, and active partnerships. In New Orleans, a loose group of several organizations concerned about juvenile justice issues, has become, within the past year, a 25-organization, multi-issue coalition with a leadership structure, a fiscal sponsor, and staff support. In Chicago, BMB organizations once characterized by mutual mistrust and isolation are sharing organizing staff to support one another in campaigns across the city and states. In Atlanta, a coalition is emerging out of the *Bring you're a Game* community engagement campaign.

This grant would strengthen the leveraging effect of OSI's investment in Justice Reinvestment and place-based funding strategies. CSG's efforts on a state level would be bolstered by the local organizing and advocacy efforts of the 2025 Campaign's membership in local coalitions and through the works of the statewide taskforces focused on black men and boys. Justice Reinvestment and 21CF leadership see this October meeting as the launch pad for a strategic partnership between 21CF's local BMB coalitions, the 2025 Campaign, and the CSG Justice Center, which directs the national Justice Reinvestment Initiative. We believe the small investment will go a long way in creating this potentially powerful partnership.

For these reasons, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends a project grant to the Twenty First Century Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 over six months.

**Name of Organization:** Ohio Justice & Policy Center

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** to provide bridge funding to continue OJPC’s Indigent Defense Reform Initiative

**FPOS Grant Description:** To provide \$25,000 project grant over six months to the Ohio Justice & Policy Center to support OJPC’s Indigent Defense Reform Initiative, which works in the long-term to provide sustainable, high-quality indigent defense services throughout Ohio. In the short-term, the project goals include development of Ohio’s first comprehensive program for the recruitment, training, and evaluation of indigent defense service providers, and promoting community-based problem-solving alternatives to reduce demand on the criminal justice system.

**Previous OSI Support:** None

**Organizational Budget:** \$805,828

**Project Budget:** \$40,000

**Sources of Support:** \$15,000 Ohio State Bar Association

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$25,000 (Criminal Justice Fund Grantmaking, T1: 24027)

**Term:** 6 months

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in 1997, the Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC) is a Cincinnati-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit law office that promotes evidence-based, cost-effective policies to address root causes of crime, decrease recidivism, and promote successful reentry. OJPC seeks to empower people with criminal records; remedy unconstitutional and dangerous conditions of confinement in Ohio prisons; and reduce racial disparities throughout our criminal justice system. It pursues these goals through direct client services, impact litigation, public education, policy research and advocacy, and leadership development programs.

OJPC’s Second Chance Project provides free legal services to adults and young people with criminal records to support successful reentry. The project provides individual representation in a number of areas, including school enrollment, child support, criminal record expungement, and probation and parole matters and offers classes throughout the community to facilitate successful reentry. OJPC’s Human Rights in Prison Project brings impact lawsuits to achieve humane conditions of confinement for Ohio’s more than 50,000 adult and juvenile prisoners. Its Student Practice Clinics train third-year law students in best-practice litigation strategies for indigent defense representation and civil rights cases in federal and state court, and its Indigent Defense

Reform Initiative works to improve Ohio's public defense system, providing high-quality indigent defense services, particularly to low-income and communities of color. Finally, OJPC's Race and Justice Project works to identify and eliminate racial disparity in the criminal justice system focusing on racial disparities in arrest, charging, and sentencing practices. The project also works to identify and eliminate patterns of education system failure that disproportionately funnel children of color into a school-to-prison pipeline.

### **Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Ohio Justice & Policy Center requests project funding over six months to continue its Indigent Defense Reform Initiative, which is working to improve Ohio's public defense system and provide high-quality indigent defense services, particularly to low-income and communities of color. OSI funding will enable OJPC to continue to implement the following seven goals and strategies:

1. Develop Ohio's first state-wide, strategically integrated recruitment, training, and performance evaluation program for indigent defense service providers;
2. Assist with public education through local bar associations and community groups regarding the need for indigent defense reform;
3. Research and promote reform policies through OJPC's presence on the Ohio Public Defender Commission, including refinement and implementation of a "Client Bill of Rights" information program and client satisfaction survey;
4. Refine and expand OJPC's Indigent Defense Clinic model as a training and recruitment tool for indigent defense service providers;
5. Support grassroots organizing and coalition-building at the local, state, and national levels to support indigent defense reform; and
6. Identify and advocate for strategies, such as expanded access to mediation services, to reduce demand on the criminal justice system.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant advances the Criminal Justice Fund's priority of eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable system of justice by improving indigent defense systems.

When OJPC founded its Indigent Defense Initiative, indigent defense reform in Ohio was significantly behind efforts in reform-oriented jurisdictions like Kentucky and North Carolina. Since that period, the Indigent Defense Reform Initiative has successfully responded to the crisis in Ohio's public defense system through a multi-pronged strategy including public education, clinical legal education, research and fact investigation, policy advocacy, and stakeholder coalition building.

OJPC's recent accomplishments are numerous and impressive. The organization persuaded Hamilton County, Ohio, to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the local public defense system. The resulting report demonstrated that the system violates the Sixth Amendment and energized a statewide reform coalition to identify and advocate for opportunities to increase funding, reduce demand on the system, and obtain structural reforms consistent with the American Bar Association's *Ten Principles of a Public Defense System*. OJPC successfully advocated the state Supreme Court to appoint Soros Justice Fellow and OJPC senior attorney Janet Moore to the state Public Defender Commission and to amend the Court's student practice rule, allowing supervised third-year law students to handle felony cases for the first time. Through its work in the state, OJPC has helped reverse a defense culture that led 50 percent of

Hamilton County indigent defendants to plead guilty to the top charge against them—only 15 percent of OJPC’s Clinic cases pled to a top charge, and every Clinic trial resulted in acquittal.

OJPC has implemented its successful strategies with the support and collaboration of several partners including incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and their families; state and local bar associations of criminal defense lawyers; state and local Public Defenders; the state Judicial Conference; the state Association of County Boards of Commissioners; faith communities, and several national organizations, many OSI grantees, such as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational fund (LDF). OJPC helped to create a coalition of stakeholders, including prosecutors, law enforcement, and community groups seeking to expand access to mediation services as an alternative to funneling low-level misdemeanor cases through the criminal justice system. The organization also succeeded in convincing the state Bar Foundation to support the development of Ohio’s first strategically planned program for the recruitment, training, and performance evaluation of indigent defense service providers, which the state Public Defender has approved for state-wide implementation.

A six-month bridge grant will provide critically needed funding to sustain its successful Indigent Defense Reform Initiative and allow Criminal Justice Fund staff time to assess the organization’s progress in anticipation of inviting a proposal for multi-year funding in 2010.

For these reasons, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends a bridge grant to the Ohio Justice & Policy Center in the amount of \$25,000 over six months.