

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** U.S. Programs Staff  
**FROM:** Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff  
**DATE:** September 16, 2011  
**RE:** Prospective Criminal Justice Fund Catch-Up Docket Grant Recommendations

---

The Criminal Justice Fund is considering the following 9 funding requests, totaling up to \$2,532,500, for inclusion on U.S. Programs' Docket IV scheduled for October 24, 2011. These grants would advance our core goals of reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment, and eliminating racial disparities and securing an equitable system of justice. (Some of these descriptions were included in our pipeline memo for the September 19, 2011, docket but were delayed to the final docket.)

### REDUCING MASS INCARCERATION

We are considering recommending two grants, totaling \$312,500, that advance the Criminal Justice Fund's programmatic goal of reducing mass incarceration. We propose to support longtime grantee, the **Sentencing Project** in using its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to propose a bold agenda for reforms aimed at reducing mass incarceration over the next quarter century. Our proposed grant to the **Woman's Prison Association** will support its work highlighting the particular impact of mass incarceration practices on women, and supporting the leadership of women with prior criminal justice involvement in policy reform activities.

**The Sentencing Project**, \$112,500 project support over nine months to plan *Criminal Justice 2036*, a national campaign to examine the social issues and economic costs of mass incarceration and to promote solutions to cut prison populations to 1970s levels by the year 2036. OSF funding would enable the Sentencing Project to convene leaders in criminal justice reform and related fields to develop and begin to implement a public education, policy development and advocacy, and grassroots mobilization campaign to support a national agenda for downsizing the United States prison population. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's goal of reducing mass incarceration by exposing the social and economic costs of incarceration and challenging harsh and unjust sentencing practices. The grant would also advance our goal of eliminating harsh punishment by challenging the collateral consequences of criminal convictions.

**Women's Prison Association and Home (WPA)**, \$200,000 project support renewal over two years to support the Institute on Women and Criminal Justice. OSF funding will enable WPA to continue conducting research, public education, and advocacy to challenge the overreliance on incarceration and promote alternative approaches; serve as a much-needed, authoritative national voice and resource on issues impacting women in the criminal justice system; and to promote and support the participation of formerly incarcerated women in public debate about incarceration policies. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's goal of reducing mass incarceration by exposing the social and economic costs of incarceration, fostering reform efforts affecting vulnerable populations such as women and children. It would also advance our goal of eliminating harsh punishment by challenging the collateral consequences of criminal convictions.

### ELIMINATING HARSH PUNISHMENT

We are considering recommending three grants, totaling \$720,000, that advance the Criminal Justice Fund's programmatic goal of eliminating harsh punishment. Two of these grants would support efforts to challenge the collateral consequences of criminal convictions faced by individuals with criminal records that impede their ability pursue educational opportunities, secure gainful employment and exercise the

right to vote. A third grant will support activities to address the negative impact on entire communities of “prison gerrymandering,” the census practice of counting incarcerated people as residents the counties in which the prison is located rather than as residents of the communities where they lived prior to being incarcerated and to which they will presumably return upon release.

A final grant would advance the Fund’s goal priorities of abolishing the death penalty and eliminating race and class disparities in sentencing by challenging lethal injection practices throughout the country.

### **Challenging Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions**

**Voice Of The Ex-offender (Innocence Project of New Orleans as fiscal sponsor—VOTE)**, \$100,000 project support renewal over two years to conduct public education and to organize and mobilize people with criminal records around their right to vote and unreasonable barriers to education and employment in New Orleans. VOTE organizes and mobilizes people with criminal records around their right to vote, and its electoral organizing and legal training programs are focused on increasing the civic participation of people with criminal records in New Orleans.

**The College and Community Fellowship (CCF)**, \$200,000 project support renewal over two years to engage in public education, policy analysis and development, grassroots and grasstops organizing, and advocacy to expand the availability of quality, publicly funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison. OSF funding will enable CCF to continue directing a national campaign to: 1) educate the public and policymakers about the importance of making higher education available to people in and after prison; 2) remove barriers that limit access to higher education for people with criminal records; and 3) promote the expansion of higher education programs and financial assistance for people in and after prison.

**Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action (Demos)**, \$300,000 project support renewal over one year to conduct public education and advocacy to end the districting bias created by the Census Bureau’s policy of counting incarcerated people as permanent residents of prison districts rather than their home communities. OSF funding would enable Demos to partner with the Prison Policy Initiative to lead public education to shape the debate on this issue and to mobilize key stakeholders and constituencies to advocate for Census reform

### **Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty by 2025**

**University of California, Berkeley**, \$120,000 renewal grant over one year to allow the Lethal Injection Project at U.C. Berkeley School of Law to continue providing vital assistance to death-sentenced individuals, litigators, and abolitionist organizations fighting lethal injection procedures nationwide. The Clinic provides full-time legal consultation on lethal injection issues to litigators, policy-makers, activists, and journalists around the country and participates in state-based advocacy challenging lethal injection through litigation and administrative proceedings.

## **ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES AND SECURING AN EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE**

### **Police Accountability and Transparency**

Three grants, totaling up to \$1.5 million, advance the Criminal Justice Fund’s interest in eliminating race-based policing practices by providing the capacity and infrastructure to support the newly launched

Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City and creating a donor-advised Fund to support activities of organizations working to advance the goals of the campaign.

**Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City** (North Star Fund as fiscal sponsor), up to \$180,000 project support over six months to build the start-up of the newly initiated Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City. Bridge grant funding will enable the Campaign to hire staff, develop the Campaign governance and structure, and coordinate Campaign activities.

**Make the Road New York** (*out-of-docket*), up to \$18,000 project support over three months to address the negative consequences and racially disparate impact of the New York Police Department's stop-and-frisk practices by convening and coordinating with advocates to refine the goals and implementation strategy of the newly launched Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City.

**Tides Foundation**, up to \$1.4 million project support over one year to support the Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City (the "Campaign"). In the fall of 2010 and the summer of 2011, the Criminal Justice Fund, in collaboration with The Atlantic Philanthropies, convened an array of organizations engaged in promoting fair and just policing in New York City. The series of convenings generated a campaign plan with three goals: 1) substantially decrease bias-based encounters with police; 2) increase the ability of the most affected communities to hold the police accountable and prevent abusive policing; and 3) build the political will in New York City among the public and policymakers to advance a more just and humane policing paradigm in New York City. Through the Fund for Fair and Just Policing in New York City, the Tides Foundation will re-grant to organizations that advance the goals and objectives of the Campaign.