

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Zimmerman, U.S. Programs Staff
FROM: Campaign for a New Drug Policy
DATE: August 6, 2012
RE: C/JF/CNDP, September 20, 2012 docket

The Campaign for a New Drug Policy is considering 9 funding requests: 7 for inclusion on U.S. Programs' Docket III (scheduled for September 20, 2012) and 2 in collaboration with the International Harm Reduction Development program from IHRD administered funds. These grants would advance our three main priorities: building public support for reforming current drug policies, establishing the infrastructure for a health-based drug policy, and supporting community-level efforts to establish nonpunitive alternative drug policies.

Build, Diversify and Elevate Broad Public Support for an Alternative Paradigm to the War on Drugs

- **Cultivating support for reform within affected populations, including communities of color and other interested groups, such as parents and families, faith communities, fiscal conservatives and lower-income people**
1. Institute of the Black World, 21st Century (IBW-21), up to \$300,000 renewed project support over two years to continue the organization's "Drug Policy Reform Initiative – Declaring War on the War on Drugs." IBW-21's goal is to start a national dialogue within African American communities regarding the need to end the "War on Drugs." In place of punitive drug laws that disproportionately target people of color, IBW-21 is advocating and organizing support for adoption of safe, humane and just alternatives. The organization argues that decriminalization and regulated access to drugs are viable – and possibly necessary -- options that should be considered.

IBW is pursuing its campaign in connection with its Black Family Summit and three community Justice Collaboratives that it is establishing in Pittsburgh, the District of Columbia and Baltimore. In the first year of this initiative, IBW-21 organized town hall meetings and follow-up retreats and working sessions in these three locations. IBW-21 plans for the Justice Collaboratives to adopt local criminal justice/drug policy reform action agendas. IBW-21 will also continue its communications work to utilize the internet and media allies to educate the Black community at-large and build support beyond its three focal communities.
 2. Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV), up to \$75,000 (\$25,000 matching) renewed general support over one year to continue the group's organizing, public education and advocacy around drug policy reform issued in Texas and nationally. MATV was originally founded to

provide services to the victims of violent crime and advocate for crime prevention programs following the killing of the son of co-founder Joy Strickland in 1994. In pursuing its work, MATV concluded that the War on Drugs fuels much of the violence that the group seeks to prevent and, in 2008, it chose drug policy reform as its core mission. More recently, MATV is working with other parents groups across the U.S. that advocate for drug policy reform to form Moms United to End the War on Drugs, which presents the Campaign with an opportunity to support a potentially influential voice for drug policy reform.

3. Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) up to \$75,000 renewed project support over one year. Chicago based Protestants for the Common Good (PCG) was founded 1995 as a network of progressive clergy and lay leaders. It supports its members in applying their values and beliefs to issues of public concern, including punitive treatment of drug users and the social harm caused by punitive drug policies. This grant would support the education and organization of faith leaders and congregations in Illinois in regard to drug policy reform, support PCG's work to establish community level alternatives to punitive drug laws in the Chicago area, and help the group to continue to strengthen its ties with groups around the country that are seeking similar reforms.
4. VOCAL-NY and San Francisco Drug Users Union (SFDUU), the Campaign will work with the International Harm Reduction Program (IHRD) to recommend two separate project grants of up to \$100,000 for one year to VOCAL-NY and up to \$25,000 for 4 to 5 months for strategic planning and collaboration to SFDUU. The grant to VOCAL-NY will support the development of its NY Users Union, which is working to expand syringe access, prevent overdose, and advance other health and civil rights advocacy. The San Francisco Drug Users Union will continue to build on its organization of Bay Area drug users through its work to advance drug user access to emergency health services, to forge community partnerships that advance development of non-punitive support systems, to host public education events, and to pursue other strategies to advance the health care needs and civil rights of people who use drugs. These grants are intended to advance the Campaign's interest in supporting work to reduce the stigmatization of drug users, engage in the medical and social services professionals in meeting the needs of drug user, and build the policymaking influence of populations directly harmed by current drug policies.
 - **Increase and hone the advocacy capacity of influential actors, including law enforcement professionals, medical and treatment professionals, officials and opinion leaders**
5. Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), up to \$400,000 renewed general support over two years. LEAP was founded in 2003 by a small group of former police and corrections officers who believe that punitive drug laws, which they enforced as part of the War on Drugs, cause more harm to society than they prevent -- worsening the harms caused by drug use and escalating street violence in connection with the illegal drug trade. Today LEAP represents more than 50,000 former and current police, prosecutors, judges, federal

agents, corrections officials, military personnel and civilians. Its current leadership has strengthened its relationships within the drug policy reform community and with external communities. While the group has always been active, the Campaign expects the relocation of its current office in Medford, Massachusetts to the District of Columbia to increase its national visibility and provide it with more opportunities to collaborate effectively with other drug national reform organizations.

- **Fund strategic communications to disseminate accurate information and organize forums for debate, exploit opportunities to publicize negative outcomes of punitive drug policies, and promote viable alternatives to the War on Drugs**

6. The Eisenhower Project, Inc. up to \$300,000 project support, (\$200,000 CNDP and \$100,000 Criminal Justice Fund), over one year. The Eisenhower Project will support drug policy and criminal justice reform efforts around the country using the drug war documentary *The House I Live In*. The project will support specific reform efforts and more generally raise public awareness of the damage caused by the War on drugs and mass-incarceration -- and the need to rethink current policies at both the state and federal levels.

Directed and produced by Soros Justice Fellow Eugene Jarecki and his colleagues at Charlotte Street Films, *The House I Live In* won the Sundance Film Festival's Grant Jury Prize in January 2012. Even before its theatrical release (expected in October 2012), the film has attracted substantial attention. Eisenhower Project (a 501(c)(3) affiliate of Charlotte Street Films) will support reform advocacy effort through theatrical screenings of the documentary and reproduction of material gathered during filming for internet, television and other public education efforts.

**Establish Access to Comprehensive Health Care for All Drug Users,
Including Treatment and Harm Reduction Services, As An
Alternative to Punitive, Coercive and "Zero Tolerance" Policies**

- **Narrow the treatment gap by taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by national health care reform and by providing a safety net for drug users who remain uninsured**
7. Community Catalyst Community Catalyst, Inc., up to \$700,000 project support over two years for Community Catalyst to ensure access to meaningful addiction treatment and other medical services for people who use drugs through implement national health care reform under the Affordable Care Act. Community Catalyst is a national health care advocacy organization with over 30 state networks that works to establish high quality, universal and patient centered care. It will provide materials and technical assistance to all its state level affiliates and will work more intensely in 2-3 targeted states.

Achieving the fullest possible implementation of national health care reform is critically important to the Campaign's objective of establishing the infrastructure for a health-based, nonpunitive drug policy. Advocacy within this extremely complex policy area was made more complex by the manner in which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld key provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Now, in addition to advocacy regarding the essential health benefit, insurance exchange and health home advocacy provisions, the Supreme Court ruling will necessitate advocacy to ensure that states implement the law's expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to all adults up to 133% of the federal poverty level. Each of these pieces is essential in ensuring healthcare coverage for most Americans, which in turn will determine who has access to addiction health services – and who will be more likely to be pulled into the criminal justice system.

**Support Community-Level Approaches That Demonstrate
The Feasibility of Practical Alternatives to Punitive Drug Policy
And Advance Related Policy Reform**

- 8. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)**, \$400,000 renewed project support over two years. LEAD is a consortium of Seattle/King County law enforcement leaders, public officials, and criminal justice reform advocates formed in 2010. This Seattle pilot project is a component of the Campaign's efforts to establish community-level alternatives to punitive drug policies that address local political and fiscal realities, while ensuring that the needs of individuals are met. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the community partners¹ have committed to an effort to reduce the harmful impacts of both low-level drug activity neighborhoods and punitive drug policies on individuals by making a pilot street-level diversion option available to frontline police officers. LEAD will continue its community-based, pre-booking diversion approach to low-level drug activity (both possession and sales) in the Belltown section of Seattle and expand into the Skyway neighborhood of King County. This grant, together with substantial support from the Ford Foundation, funds the services component of LEAD, which became operational in the fall of 2011 and is on track for an in-depth evaluation of outcomes in the short-term (<1 year), intermediate term (2-3 years) and long-term (4-5 years).

¹ The LEAD Policy Coordinating Group members signed on to the MOU include the Mayor of the City of Seattle, the Seattle Police Department, the Seattle City Attorney's Office, the King County Prosecutor, the King County Sheriff, the King County Executive, The Defender Association's Racial Disparity Project (TDA), and the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington Foundation (ACLU-WA). The Policy Coordinating Group also includes representatives of the Seattle City Council, the King County Council, The Belltown Community Council, the Downtown Seattle Association, and active community organizations from the Belltown and Skyway neighborhoods.