

Democracy Fund
Blurbs for Grant Recommendations Under Consideration
Docket I
(distributed February 28, 2012)

Note: Fourteen grant recommendations are under consideration, totaling \$5.65 million. The recommendations include one U.S. Programs anchor grantee and one co-funded recommendation with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. Recommendations are spotlighted within their relevant Democracy Fund funding strategy. This docket includes: (1) an anchor grant renewal recommendation for the Center for Community Change; (2) the Fund's final non-partisan voter engagement recommendations for the 2012 election cycle; (3) a new national bank accountability campaign to confront the financial and housing crises; and (4) several idea generation and engagement recommendations that inspire the participation of Asian American, Black, Latino, working class white, and youth constituencies in criminal justice reform, economic equity, educational access, and immigrants' rights advocacy. A demographic summary of all recommended grantees may be found at the end of this document.

USP Anchor Grantee

Center for Community Change

\$1,400,000/ 18 months; renewal, general support

To support the Center for Community Change (CCC), a U.S. Programs anchor grantee and well established resource center for grassroots social change organizations across the nation that advance economic equity, housing justice, and immigrants' rights idea generation and advocacy campaigns. The Center for Community Change, established in 1968 as a tribute to the legacy of Robert F. Kennedy, has partnerships with more than 200 local and state-based organizations across the nation, with a particular emphasis on building the capacity of, and impact from, low-income, people of color, and immigrant communities. CCC facilitates large scale organizing, coalition building, voter participation, capacity building, and policy change work from its Washington, D.C. national office and through field offices across the country. *(Note: CCC Executive Director, Deepak Bhargava, is a U.S. Programs Board member. In order to maintain a distinction between his board role and CCC's grantmaking relationship with OSI, Rudy Lopez, a CCC senior staffperson, manages the organization's grantmaking relationship with OSI.)*

Idea Generation

American Rights at Work Education Fund

\$150,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support

American Rights at Work Education Fund is a Washington, DC-based national organization that advocates for equality in the workplace through coalition-building, research, public relations, policy analysis, and organizing. American Rights at Work

investigates and exposes workplace discrimination and the inadequacy of U.S. labor law; stimulates debate about the state of workplace equality among journalists, policymakers, advocacy groups, and the public; researches policies that can lead to enhanced levels of unionization in the U.S.; and highlights public policy that protects workers from hostile employers and weak laws. As workers' rights have come increasingly under attack across the nation, American Rights at Work has pivoted its campaign assets and infrastructure in support of efforts to fight back in state defensive battles.

Economic Policy Institute, Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy
\$250,000/ 1 year; renewal, project support (possible co-fund with CBMA)

To support the Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy within longtime USP grantee, the Economic Policy Institute. The Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy provides research and advances policies that ensure racial and ethnic minorities participate have the opportunity to fully and benefit equally as workers in the U.S. economy. The program has placed a special emphasis on documenting racial disparities in employment, drawing attention to the intersection of structural inequality and our economic system. The Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy is led by Algernon Austin, a reliable media resource on race and the economy who provides in depth reports and analysis on the economic crisis within communities of color. Austin will serve as an outside expert member on the USP Economic Equity Working Group.

The New Bottom Line Campaign (Fiscal Sponsor: Alliance for a Just Society)

\$150,000/ 1year; new, project support

To support the launch of The New Bottom Line Campaign, a nationally coordinated initiative that seeks federal investigation and renewed regulation of the financial industry. The campaign has an emphasis on bank accountability and bringing to justice those institutions responsible for the financial collapse. The New Bottom Line Campaign has won recent victories, including pushing for the formation of the federal Financial Fraud Task Force to investigate big bank fraud, an effort co-chaired by New York State Attorney, General Eric Schneiderman, who is working closely with campaign leadership. The New Bottom Line is organized by a coalition of community, faith-based and labor organizing groups, including Democracy Fund and Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative grantees Main Street Alliance, National People's Action, and the PICO congregation-based grassroots advocacy network.

Young Elected Officials/Young People For (People for the American Way Foundation)

\$700,000/ 18 months; renewal, project support

To support People for the American Way's youth leadership programs, including the Young Elected Officials Network and Young People For. Young Elected Officials and Young People For work together to develop young leaders to be effective social justice advocates. Young People For, a youth leadership development program, provides training and opportunities for youth to engage in advocacy training, public speaking, and strategic campaign development. The Young Elected Officials Network is the only organization of its kind, with 535 elected leaders in its membership. All are 35 years of age or younger and serve as elected leaders in school boards, city councils, and state legislatures in all 50 states. The young leaders receive skills trainings on: how to be effective public leaders that are accountable to their constituents; establishing issue advocacy partnerships

with progressive groups and advocates; and developing model progressive policies on criminal justice reform, economic equity, educational access, housing justice, immigrants' rights, LGBT equality, and money in politics issues. The Network saw 88 percent of its members win re-election in 2011 and has had 90 percent of their members run for higher office. Young Elected Officials Network founder and director, Andrew Gillum, a City Commissioner in Tallahassee, Florida, will serve as an outside expert on the USP Public Sphere Working Group.

Non-partisan Voter Engagement

Asian American Pacific Islander Online Civic Engagement Project, at Citizen Engagement Laboratory

\$100,000/ 1 year; new, project support

To support a new project, housed at Citizen Engagement Laboratory, an OSF grantee, that is designed to stimulate long-term civic engagement in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The project will launch an online hub, similar to Color of Change for the Black community or Presenté for the Latino community, that will serve pan-Asian communities nationally in facilitating non-partisan voter participation and protection, as well as engagement in issue advocacy campaigns. This effort will work in close connection with local AAPI organizing groups to identify thousands of new members, activists, and potential donors for these local partners to translate the online advocacy work of this project into on-the-ground engagement. The 2010 U.S. Census revealed that the AAPI community was the fastest growing racial group in the nation, with a 46% increase from 2000 to 2010 and a population now approaching 15 million people. With 80% of AAPI households online, this project will capture the energy of this fast growing community to increase voter participation and build a social justice voice to shift the balance on important debates such as immigration, jobs, healthcare, and racial equity.

National Council of La Raza, Democracia-USA

\$500,000/1 year; renewal, general support

To support the National Council of La Raza's civic engagement program, including the ongoing integration of the Democracia-USA project. The National Council of La Raza is a leader in the civic engagement of Latino communities and conducts non-partisan voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization work, at large scale, across the nation. It also conducts leadership academies to train and educate local leaders to promote sustained civic engagement to keep Latinos engaged on issues and the political process beyond elections. Democracia-USA has registered and inspired the voter turnout of more than 100,000 new voters in each of the last two election cycles, in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Previously a fiscally sponsored project of the National Council of La Raza, Democracia-USA has undergone recent transition and has now been integrated into NCLR's broader civic engagement work. This integration unites two models – NCLR's 300 largely direct service-based community affiliates and Democracia's field-based approach to engaging voters – and offers great potential to reach large scale impact while reaching deeper into communities across the nation.

Service Provider and Civic Engagement Project

\$100,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support

To support the Denver, Colorado-based Service Providers and Civic Engagement Project (SPaCE), an innovative pilot project to conduct state-based experiments and develop best practices for voter engagement among direct service providers and their clients. The SPaCE project will work in five geographically and demographically diverse states to build service provider voter participation tables and enhance the capacity of providers to reach their community clients with voter education materials and non-partisan voter mobilization. If successful, via its partnership with another Democracy Fund grantee, the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, this project will serve to awaken the civic engagement “sleeping giant,” direct service organizations. Such service providers reach millions of Americans from diverse backgrounds each year, including large numbers of low-income people, people of color, and immigrants, and often have a more direct and close connection with their clients than do typical advocacy or voter groups. Within the voter participation field this is a vastly underdeveloped audience for engagement and impact and SPaCE project findings will help to inform the broader voter participation field and its funders.

Working America

\$400,000/1 year; renewal, general support

To support the Working America Education Fund, a Washington, DC-based national civic engagement network with more than three million online, non-dues paying members in 22 states who take strategic action on economic issues, including tax policy, jobs and wages, and public investment. Working America has developed a particularly effective model for reaching working class white people, who are typically more conservative in their worldviews, with messages and advocacy priorities consistent with open society values. This recommendation would complement the Democracy Fund’s efforts to better understand the white working class in order to help to make it a more constructive force for the advancement of a wide range of open society priorities.

Youth Engagement Fund (fiscal sponsor: Tides Foundation)

\$400,000 / 1 year; renewal, general support

To support the Youth Engagement Fund, a Washington, DC-based national, non-partisan collaborative table of youth civic engagement organizations that exists to provide technical assistance and re-granting to increase youth voter registration, protection, and mobilization goals. In 2012, the Youth Engagement Fund will develop a coordinated get out the vote plan for regions across the nation; provide objective and scientific evaluation of the work of the youth sector; and raise significant funding to re-grant to partner organizations for the upcoming election cycle. Participating organizations include key youth mobilization organizations in diverse communities, including USP youth grantees such as the Bus Federation, Democracia-USA, Hip Hop Caucus, League of Young Voters, and United States Students Association. (*Note: Democracy Fund director, Bill Vandenberg, serves on the Youth Engagement Fund’s steering committee.*)

Engaging Key Constituencies in Open Society Advocacy

Center for Rural Affairs

\$100,000/1 year; new, project support

To support the Center for Rural Affairs, a non-partisan, non-profit based in rural Nebraska that represents rural interests in predominantly rural states. The Center for Rural Affairs engages in grassroots advocacy with rural people on issues that range from economic and fiscal policies to farm, health, and immigration issues. The Center for Rural Affairs has a national grassroots base of 30,000 individuals, and plans to add 30,000 new individuals to their national grassroots action network by 2017. It works to deepen the engagement of rural leaders in 12 target states so that they are able to affect changes and engage in policy debates that advance social and economic justice for rural people. The Center will place a special emphasis on engaging youth and new immigrants, and its work will also serve as a unique, field-based research opportunity to complement a research project on the white working class, which the Democracy Fund has launched in partnership with Jewish Funds for Justice and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

Color of Change

\$600,000/ (\$300,000 general support from Democracy Fund, 1 year; renewal; \$300,000 project support from CBMA; 2 year; new)

To support Color of Change, an online organizing group that advocates within and for the African American community for issues that impact the community, including criminal justice, media representation, racial justice, and internet freedom. With over 900,000 internet, non-dues paying members, Color Of Change is the largest online political advocacy group representing African American issues. Its campaigns have creatively and effectively elevated the plight of African Americans, such as with the Jena Six case and the Oakland based murder of Oscar Grant by law enforcement and it has holds media companies accountable for derogatory actions, including successful campaigns to oust Glen Beck from Fox Network and Pat Buchanan from MSNBC. CBMA funds will support CoC's Black Men and Boys Culture Project, to promote fair, accurate, and positive portrayals of Black men and boys in mainstream news and entertainment media.

Gamaliel Foundation

\$200,000/ 1 year; renewal, project support

To support the Chicago-based Gamaliel Foundation's "Faith of Fire: Rekindling Democracy" program, which engages 50 congregation-based grassroots organizing affiliates in 18 U.S. states, South Africa and the United Kingdom in civic engagement, policy advocacy and faith-based organizing. Gamaliel's grassroots network of faith-based organizations and congregations apply their faith and values to the pursuit of equal opportunity, shared abundance, and stronger more prosperous communities, including advocacy for economic equity, educational access, housing justice, and immigrants' rights. Gamaliel also houses the Transportation Equity Network, a USP grantee that advocates for public transportation policies that benefit urban communities' access to jobs and schools, high quality jobs for women and people of color, and more environmentally sensitive alternatives for transportation dollars.

United States Student Association Foundation
\$600,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support

To support the United States Student Association Foundation, the tax exempt arm of the United States Student Association, the nation's oldest, largest, and most inclusive student organization. Via its national network of students from public and private universities, community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic serving institutions, the United States Student Association organizes leadership development trainings and coalition building workshops for thousands of progressive students and organizations through on-campus and summer gatherings. The United States Student Association is the only student-led national organization that represents students on higher education issues and advances successful advocacy on issues relevant to students, including economic equity, college access and affordability, and immigrant student education.

Democracy Fund Docket I Recommended Grants and Grantees

Grant Recommendation Analysis, Demography, and Equity

Total number of grants recommended:	14
Total general support:	8
Total funding recommended:	\$5.65 million
Number of multi-year grants recommended:	3
Number of co-funded grant recommendations:	1
Number of tie-off recommendations:	0
Number of newly recommended grantees:	3 (21% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as Exec. Director*:	8 (57%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for people of color led organizations:	\$4,250,000 (75% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with women as Exec. Director*:	6 (43% of total)
Number of grant dollars recommended for women led organizations:	\$1,400,000 (25% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with openly LGBTQ person as Exec. Director*:	5 (36% of total)
Number of grant dollars recommended for LGBTQ led organizations:	\$2,650,000 (47% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as Exec. Director*:	4 (29%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for immigrant led organizations:	2,100,000 (37%)

Geographic Diversity

The following is where the 14 recommended grantees have their base of operations. Many of the recommended organizations have local and state affiliates, partners, or chapters that enable them to reach far beyond the cities where their offices are located.

Washington, DC:	8
New York:	2 (all in New York City)
Illinois:	2 (both in Chicago)
Colorado:	1 (Denver)
Nebraska:	1 (Lyons)

* The background or identity of an executive director is only one measure, among many, for identifying an organization's authentic commitment to diversity. Via due diligence in our grant recommendation process, the Democracy Fund uses this and other measures of assessment to monitor our performance from docket to docket. Through this, we seek to improve our track record of funding high impact organizations that are rooted in, led by, and sensitive to the interests of communities that have faced and often continue to face the greatest challenges to achieving a more open society.

Circulated by the Democracy Fund on February 28, 2012. For further information on the recommended grantees, please contact program director, Bill Vandenberg; program officers, Patricia Jerido or Nora Ranney; or program associates, Nashay Jones and Heddy Nam.