

Democracy and Power Fund
Catch-all docket recommendations:
For consideration at October 27, 2009 Docket

Note: Ann Beeson will be asked to approve the first two of these recommendations – due to recommended grant size – and the third recommendation will need to be approved by Aryeh Neier.

Piton Foundation – project support

\$4,500/ term to be determined

To underwrite a portion of travel costs related to an OSI and Ford Foundation sponsored funder briefing this October 29 at which state funding strategies will be discussed. The briefing will discuss how national funders can more effectively support state-based groups and will have a special focus on Colorado, one of the states that D&P is considering for direct, state-based funding in 2010. The convening is co-sponsored by the Piton Foundation, a Denver-based operating foundation that serves as the convener for a one of a kind social justice organizer/funder strategic collaborative, the Colorado Community Organizing Collaborative (CCOC) and its partner the Philanthropic Community Organizing Collaborative (PCOC). Leaders from seven CCOC partner organizations and four Colorado-based funders will be in attendance, along with OSI state funding partners from Atlantic Philanthropies, Ford, New World, Solidago, Surdna, and the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.

Catalist – project support (exact fiscal sponsor yet to be determined)

\$8,333/ term to be determined

To support the plan development, by noted fundraising consultant, Anne Lewis, of a model project to examine how national membership organizations can more effectively build sustainable small and mid-size donor bases. Through this partnership with Atlantic Philanthropies and the Democracy Alliance, OSI is interested in exploring how fundraising experts can work with organizations to determine which donor development strategies work most effectively to enhance fundraising diversification and organizational sustainability in these tough times for non-profit groups. Anne Lewis will develop a proposal for the project and OSI has been asked to provide one-third of the funding for the project planning process.

New World Foundation – project support

\$150,000/1 year

To support a short-term, OSI initiated funding collaboration – with the New World Foundation and Stoneman Family Foundation – for a small, joint funding pilot project to community-based organizations. The initiative, with conversations beginning in April, 2009, seeks to strengthen the ability of grassroots organizations to withstand the challenges of the economic crisis through identifying effective and replicable models to increase small donor funding bases. The joint funding project will provide funding to three to five organizations with proven models of raising small donor funds in order to raise the scope and scale of their work while at the same time expanding their capacity to build community-rooted organizational power. The initiative seeks to create replicable

models that will benefit many other grassroots and social justice organizations and the New World Foundation will serve as the fiscal sponsor and main point of contact for the project. New World will cover all administration for the grant process including the request for proposals, grantee notification, and reporting. OSI is one of three funders developing and disseminating the RFP and will be on the project's executive committee and will join with New World and Stoneman to make consensus-based decisions on the organizations that will be selected for funding later this fall.