

Democracy and Power Fund
Blurbs for recommended organizations
Docket I, 2009

Grassroots Organizing and Civic Engagement

The Center for Civic Participation (State Voices), Civic Engagement Fund

\$400,000/ 1 year

Project support; Renewal

To support The Center for Civic Participation (State Voices), a Detroit, MI-based national organization that supports permanent, year-round state non-profit coalition tables that foster collaboration, multi-issue policy work, rigorous evaluation, and the engagement of socially responsible and historically underrepresented communities in our democracy. State Voices is the new home of the Civic Engagement Fund (CEF), which provides shared voter file access, trainings, and technical and strategic support to more than 540 local, state, and national affiliate non-profit organizations in sixteen states. Through its negotiation of voter lists and technical assistance provision contracts for hundreds of grassroots groups, CEF's economy of scale strategies save groups and donors hundreds of thousands of dollars each year while allowing easy and affordable access to tools that dramatically expand non-partisan voter engagement impact nationwide.

National Training and Information Center

\$400,000/ 2 years (includes co-funding of \$100,000/ 2 years from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative)

General Support; New Recommendation

To support the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), a 36 year old, Chicago-based national resource center that supports, strengthens, and coordinates multi-issue grassroots community organizations working for social and economic justice. Through the NTIC, 25 affiliate organizations in 14 states and the District of Columbia link local and regional organizing efforts into powerful national campaigns that win accountability from decision-makers. OSI support would build the network's capacity and power and support its work to push forward a national economic and racial justice agenda on housing and banking issues.

Pacific Institute for Community Organizations dba PICO National Network

\$350,000/ 2 years (includes co-funding of \$50,000/ 1 year from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative; co-funding still under consideration by Equality and Opportunity Fund for immigrants' rights)

General Support; New Recommendation

To support the PICO National Network, a 36 year old, Oakland, CA rooted network of congregation-based community organizations that brings the voices of local families and faith leaders to the public debate on national priorities, including housing, health care, and immigration. With more than 50 faith traditions represented in over 1,000 member institutions, PICO is one of the nation's largest community based efforts, representing one million families in 17 states and 150 cities. OSI support would strengthen the member institutions in the PICO network and support its leadership on national housing and immigration reform campaigns.

Youth Engagement and Leadership Pipeline Development

Center for Community Change, Generation Change

\$300,000/ 1 year

Project support; Renewal

To support Generation Change, a project of the Washington, DC-based Center for Community Change, that recruits, trains, and sustains the next generation of community organizers and social justice nonprofit leaders. Generation Change has built a strong track record of identifying and developing young leaders who come from communities that are underrepresented in nonprofit leadership, including people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ identified, and low-income people. OSI support would fund Generation Change's work to provide paid summer internships and six-month fellowships with grassroots organizations across the U.S. that promote immigrant justice, racial justice, economic opportunity, and civic engagement.

Choice USA

\$300,000/ 2 years (includes co-funding of \$100,000/ 2 years from Equality and Opportunity Fund for women's rights)

General support; Renewal

To support Choice USA, a Washington, DC-based organization that mobilizes young people and develops the skills of future leaders through building a more inclusive and effective reproductive justice movement. Working on college campuses and in high schools across the nation, Choice USA utilizes an intersectional approach that links diverse identities and integrates issues of racial and economic justice into the pro-choice movement. OSI support would support organizational capacity, campaign strategy trainings and convenings, and base building activities to broaden the base of support for reproductive justice.

Jewish Funds for Justice, Funders Collaborative for Youth Organizing

\$150,000/ 18 months

Project support; Renewal, but new project

To support the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, a nine year old, Brooklyn, NY-based national intermediary that increases funding for youth organizing groups and develops strategies to promote to other funders the importance of investment in the leadership of low-income youth of color in social justice organizing. OSI has long supported FCYO. Our support in 2009-10 will fund the completion and release of a progressive leadership pipeline report and a series of regional funder convenings to recruit new donors to the youth organizing field.

People for the American Way, Young People For & Young Elected Officials Network

\$500,000/ 1 year

Project support (2 projects); Renewal

To support Young People For (YP4) and Young Elected Officials Network (YEO), two programs housed at the People for the American Way Foundation. Each program is geared toward a different phase in a young activist's political and professional development. YP4, based in Manhattan, is a leadership development program that supports a diverse group of campus leaders through its college-age fellowship, advanced-fellowship and Leadership Academy (age 21-30) programs, leadership trainings and

conferences. YEO, a Tallahassee, FL-based network, provides support to progressive local, state, and federal elected officials who are 35 years old or younger. YEO, the only national organization of its kind, offers a forum for idea exchange and young leader networking, connections to policy development organizations, and Policy Academies trainings on a range of progressive policy area topics. Jointly, YP4 and YEO run the Front Line Leaders Academy, an intensive program to equip young leaders with basic knowledge, skills and tools necessary to participate in the political process – either as candidates, campaign professionals or community organizers.

Tides Center, WireTap Magazine

\$200,000/ 2 years

Project support; Renewal

To support WireTap magazine (www.wiretapmag.org), a well-read and influential independent news and culture youth web magazine based in San Francisco, CA. WireTap generates and amplifies daily content by young people from diverse backgrounds and carefully selects op-eds that promote social justice, inspire action, give young people a voice, and shed light on issues that are overlooked by the mainstream media. Through its work with young people on editing, fact checking, and writing support, WireTap ensures high quality journalism and shapes the political discourse by connecting young social justice activists to each other, to non-activists, and to issues that impact their lives.

US Public Interest Research Group, Student PIRG

\$100,000/ 1 year

Project support; Renewal, tie-off

To provide tie-off support to the Student PIRGs, a national organization whose staff is dispersed throughout the country to facilitate student activism on college campuses. Student PIRGs train and empower students to become engaged in policy campaigns, elections, and the political process.

Wellstone Action, Campus Camp Wellstone

\$200,000/ 2 years

Project support; Renewal

To support Campus Camp Wellstone, a project of the Minneapolis-based Wellstone Action, that runs trainings and develops curriculum for a diverse community of young people. Campus Camp Wellstone also works with the staff and membership of national youth organizations to train them on how to run community-building and advocacy campaigns and win on issues of concern to young people.

Power Building Intermediaries

Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation

\$100,000/ 2 years

General support; Renewal

To support the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation (BISCF), a Washington, DC-based organization that provides social justice and open society organizations with education, research, and strategic assistance on ballot initiatives and referendums. In the two dozen states where the initiative and referendum process is present, BISCF provides essential support for organizations seeking to expand rights through the citizen initiative

process or to help them take on right-wing proposals that threaten people and communities of greatest interest to OSI.

Idea Generation and Issue Change

American Rights at Work Education Fund

\$150,000/ 1 year

General support; New recommendation

To support American Rights at Work Education Fund (ARAWEF), a national organization founded in 2003 and based in Washington, DC that is dedicated to workplace fairness and giving working people a voice on the job. ARAWEF has built an impressive 155,000 person database and a strong coalition of business, civil rights, environmental, human rights, labor, and social justice organizations that are united in support of labor law reform, including public education on the rights of workers to organize, an important economic recovery priority.

Other D&P Recommended Grants (grants that will be brought up through other funds or campaigns)

Jamestown Project

\$50,000/ one year, co-funded with Equality and Opportunity Fund (total grant is \$200,000/ one year)

Idea Generation and Issue Change

General Support; Renewal, tie-off

To support a Cambridge, MA-based idea generation and issue change think/ action tank that is rooted in the African-American community.

Young People's Project

\$200,000/ two years, co-funded with Campaign for Black Male Achievement (total grant is \$500,000/ two years)

Youth Engagement and Leadership Pipeline Development

General Support; New Recommendation

To support a Jackson, MS-based youth-led youth organizing group that is building a statewide campaign for education as a constitutional right.

Total D&P Directly Recommended Grants

\$3,150,000 (includes \$250,000 in co-funding from other funds or initiatives: \$150,000 from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative and \$100,000 from the Equality and Opportunity Fund for women's rights)

Co-Funding for Grants That D&P is Not Recommended Directly

\$250,000 (includes D&P funding for grants that will be directly recommended by other funds or campaigns: \$200,000 for the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and \$50,000 for the Equality and Opportunity Fund for racial justice)