

Democracy and Power Fund
Docket II 2009 Blurbs

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Grassroots Organizing & Civic Engagement

Center for Community Change / General Support

\$930,000/ 1 year

To support the Center for Community Change (CCC), a well established resource center for grassroots social change organizations across the nation, including a particular emphasis on groups working in low-income, people of color communities. CCC does broad-scale organizing, coalition building, technical assistance, and policy change work from its Washington, DC national office and through several staffed field offices across the country, including many smaller cities where there is limited funding and organizational development support for building a strong social change ecosystem. CCC is a core Democracy and Power Fund grantee that has unique reach at the deep grassroots level in communities across the U.S. as well as in the halls of power in Washington. CCC develops policy and builds grassroots public participation to advance policy changes at the federal level, including on immigrant justice and economic opportunity issues. In order to streamline the renewal process, this recommended grant rolls four separate CCC grants – Linchpin Project, Community Voting Project, Generation Change, and general support) into one combined grant.

Mujeres Unidas y Activas (fiscal sponsor) / National Domestic Worker's Alliance

\$200,000/ 2 years

To provide general support to the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), a New York City-based coalition of 15 domestic worker organizations from 10 major cities. The newly formed Alliance seeks to organize and build the power of domestic workers – a largely immigrant women workforce who work as nannies and housekeepers (200,000 in the NYC Metro Area alone) to improve their living and working conditions, bring visibility to the struggles of this unrecognized workforce, and end the exclusion of domestic workers from protection as a workforce. NDWA will develop a Training Institute to develop the capacity of local leaders to engage at the state and national levels and provide funding to increase staffing and technical support to the local partner organizations.

National Council of La Raza (fiscal sponsor) / Democracia-U.S.A.

\$500,000/2 years (\$350,000 to be dispensed in year one and \$150,000 in year two; \$300,000 Democracy and Power Fund; \$200,000 Seize the Day for capacity building)

To support Democracia U.S.A. (D-USA), a Miami-based national organization that advances civic engagement among the nation's fastest growing demographic group by conducting nonpartisan voter registration and voter education in Latino communities. It also conducts Leadership Academies to train and educate local leaders to promote sustained civic engagement by working beyond the electoral cycles to keep Latinos engaged on issues and the American political process. Widely recognized in the field as one of the highest quality large scale civic engagement organizations, D-USA is

expanding to serve other parts of the country where the Latino population is growing and also seeking to build the internal capacity it needs to ensure that it will grow sustainably. In addition to a renewal of its Democracy and Power Fund general support grant, additional funding has been recommended by the Seize the Day grantmaking committee for D-USA's capacity building efforts, including senior staff and board development and enhanced communications capacity.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (fiscal sponsor) / National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights \$300,000/ 18 months

To support the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights (the Campaign), a project of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a New York City-based not-for-profit providing legal services and resources to poor and under-served communities in New York City. The Campaign is a nationwide coalition of lawyers, academics, students and community activists that joined together in response to a series of Supreme Court decisions that have eroded civil rights protections, particularly in the area of federalism. The Campaign links individuals and groups from the many communities affected by the rollback of civil rights in the courts, including people and groups interested in women's rights, racial justice, disability rights, environmental justice, language rights, and worker's rights. With a focus on public education, communications and outreach, the Campaign frames court rulings in a way that helps advocates make deeper connections to concrete impacts on the lives of people and communities.

The Urban Justice Center (fiscal sponsor) / Right to the City

\$500,000/2years (\$300,000 from D&P and \$200,000 from Seize the Day)

To support the Brooklyn-based Right to the City Alliance (R2C), an emerging national alliance of more than 50 urban base-building organizations and allies committed to building a movement for urban justice, human rights, and democracy. R2C partner organizations are predominantly led by center city residents who are largely from people of color and lower-income economic backgrounds. R2C emerged in 2007 in response to a call for a united response to gentrification, the displacement of low-income people of color from their historic neighborhoods, and the need to confront negative fiscal and social policy changes occurring in cities across the country. Operating in seven states and more than a dozen urban jurisdictions, R2C is building a national urban agenda and network of low-income families and communities. Its overarching goal is to elevate locally initiated work around housing, racial justice, urban development, and civic participation to shift national public opinion and lead to urban policy changes. This general support recommendation follows a Democracy and Power Fund planning grant to R2C in 2008 and will be complemented by capacity building funding that has been recommended by the Seize the Day grantmaking committee.

Building the Leadership Pipeline and Youth Engagement

Social Justice Leadership/ General Support

\$100,000/1 year

To support the Harlem-based Social Justice Leadership (SJL), an innovative organizational cohort model training program that started as a joint pilot project of the

Rockwood Leadership Program (a Democracy and Power Fund grantee) and NY Jobs with Justice to provide high-quality leadership training to staff of community organizations, labor unions, and other grassroots social justice organizations. SJL combines three streams of leadership development – personal development and skills building, organizational development and management, and movement-building in the social justice arena – to help create capacity to support transformative leadership development through all levels of organizations, from staff-level to director-level. In addition to leadership development, SJL provides a table for diverse grassroots organizations to elevate issues of potential collaboration, on both social justice campaigns and organizational development.

Idea Generation & Policy Change

Drum Major Institute / General Support

\$350,000/ 2 years

To support the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy (DMI), a New York City-based think tank focused on promoting progressive economic and social policies. With an agenda that encompasses both New York issues and national affairs, DMI has positioned itself as a progressive version of the Manhattan Institute. DMI uses a “middle class squeeze” frame to work on several key issues. These issues have included predatory lending, immigration and civil justice reform, along with the need to elevate the discussion of urban issues in presidential debates. DMI produces original research and then aggressively markets its work – and that of its strategic partners – to inform and reframe the attention of policymakers, journalists and other opinion leaders. The DMI Scholars program identifies and grooms promising researchers, including a more racially and ethnically diverse pool than is typical for think tanks, who are given rare opportunities to craft research that is widely distributed and well regarded in policy and advocacy circles.

Economic Policy Institute / General Support

\$550,000/ 2 years

To support the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), a Washington, D.C.-based policy center that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on working people in the United States and around the world. EPI’s mission is to raise the economic status of low- and middle-income families and achieve broadly shared prosperity by reshaping the way policymakers adopt policies so they are beneficial for working Americans. EPI develops data tools that are used at the state and local level, most effectively through their Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) that is active in 42 states. EPI and EARN are also incorporating recent racial breakdown data to infuse into a greater understanding of the impacts of race on economic disparity. EPI’s Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy (PREE) works with other organizations to put the expansion of opportunity and the elimination of barriers to training and employment by race and ethnicity on the national policy agenda. The recommended amount reflects a fairly sizable reduction in prior D&P funding levels. This is not a reflection of the importance of EPI’s work but instead reflects a reduction in overall funding for think tanks. EPI has

also recently received support from other USP funds, including EOF for immigration reform and TIF for transparency advocacy in economic recovery efforts.

Innovative Social Engagement

Air Traffic Control / General Support

\$125,000/ 3 years (add-on)

To provide general add-on support to Air Traffic Control, an Oakland-based organization which helps musicians lend their talents to social change by connecting concerned artists to activists, organizations and campaigns working on issues of interest to those artists. ATC's issue briefings and resources currently focus on the green economy & green sustainable touring, health care, immigration, education and New Orleans-based education and activism. ATC provides one-on-one advising and consulting, conducts research to expand the scope of information, and sharing of best-practices and resources, mostly available on its website. In 2008, D&P granted ATC \$50,000/year for two years. We now recommend additional support in light of our belief in ATC's work and that its budget is currently too lean to allow ATC to take on innovative projects. We also support this funding out of respect for the hard work and advisory role that ATC leadership plays in the funding and arts and culture social justice practitioner community and due to upcoming projects that align with OSI priorities. D&P recommends an add-on grant of \$25k for the next two years (making OSI's yearly contribution \$75,000/year for 2009 and 2010) and \$75,000/year for 2011. This also eases D&P funding constraints for 2010 funding as D&P currently has more room in the 2009 budget than it does in the 2010 budget due to the number and size of grants up for renewal in 2010.

New Organizing Institute / General Support

\$200,000/ 2 years

To support the New Organizing Institute, (NOI) a Washington, D.C.-based organization that seeks to enhance civic engagement and social change organizing by enabling nonprofit groups to take advantage of the latest advances in new technology, to do their work more efficiently and effectively, and to build connections between individuals and other organizations doing social justice, civic engagement, and community organizing. NOI is committed to building a movement in pursuit of a fair, just, and sustainable society and for a transparent, participatory democracy. By blending new and traditional methods of organizing, NOI focuses on building power through training, with the goal of expanding on diversity of experience, gender, economic and racial backgrounds. As a skills-trainer and network builder, NOI positions itself to build online and offline connections of activists in order to strengthen the capacity of organizers and advocates to advance their social justice agendas.

State-Based Social Justice Capacity Building

Center for Civic Policy / General Support

\$200,000/ 2 years (\$100,000 Democracy and Power Fund and \$100,000 Seize the Day)

To support the Center for Civic Policy, an Albuquerque-based group that utilizes innovative strategies to build 501c3 non-partisan civic engagement capacity and to

advance social justice issues from the state level. CCP has piloted a high impact and well regarded model of building state-based capacity in New Mexico in order to effectively shape the state issue landscape and shift public will toward social justice issues. Specifically, the Center engages ordinary people in the policy debates that affect their daily lives through increasing voter turnout; educating the public on issues like ethics reform, health care, the economy and the environment; and training new leaders for civic life. Now, at a time when building state-based capacity is vitally important to advancing more social justice friendly local, state, and federal agendas, CCP is in heavy demand nationally for its state power building expertise (and has recently spoken to OSI-Baltimore about state power building strategies, too). OSI funding – through matching support from the Democracy and Power Fund and recommended funding from the Seize the Day grantmaking committee – would underwrite the Center’s work to provide strategic consulting assistance to state-based organizations around the country.

Western States Center / General Support

\$100,000/1 year

To support the Western States Center (WSC), a Portland, OR based organization with a mission to build a movement for political reform and economic, racial and environmental justice in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and Alaska. WSC provides training, consultation and resources to a wide range of community and constituency-based organizations, with a focus on developing community organizing and civic participation strategies and methodologies among new and emerging communities as well as among historically under-represented constituencies. Western States Center uses an intersectional social justice frame that unites communities – immigrants, people of color, women, and LGBTQ identified people – that often face right-wing divide and conquer scapegoating in conservative communities throughout the Northwest. Of the states that D&P is currently researching for future state-based funding to launch in 2010 – CO, FL, NC, NM, NV, and VA – only Nevada is represented in the Western States Center’s region. Accordingly, we are recommending funding for one year as we continue to narrow our state funding strategy.

Total number of grants recommended:	12
Total funding recommended:	\$4.055 million
Total general support:	8 of 12 (4 are projects supported only because they are fiscally sponsored by other organizations)
Number of multi-year grant recs.:	9 of 12
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as Exec. Director:	7 of 12
Number of recommended grantees with women as Exec, Director:	5 of 12

Geographic diversity of recommended grantees: 5 are based in NYC (3 are national networks or coalitions); 3 in DC (1 is a national network with local and state partners); 1 in Albuquerque; 1 in Miami; 1 in Oakland; 1 in Portland, OR