

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund
Date: June 19, 2009
Re: Democracy and Power Fund Docket II

We look forward to discussing our second docket with you on Friday, June 26. The twelve write-ups and a docket sheet are attached here.

We appreciated your challenge to us, at our March docket meeting, to more clearly define the specific advocacy agendas of our recommended grantees. In these write-ups we've attempted to better articulate what policies the organizations seek to advance. We note that a small number of our recommendations, still, are for organizations that serve in intermediary roles, working less on issue advocacy and more on providing capacity building support or inspiring new leaders to fuel the broader open society organizational ecosystem.

In this second docket of 2009, the Democracy and Power Fund recommends funding for twelve organizations, including eight renewals and four new grantees, with nine recommended grant terms of more than one year. These recommendations total \$4.055 million, of which \$500,000 is co-funded through the Seize the Day Initiative. Additionally, the Democracy and Power Fund is offering \$100,000 to support a funding recommendation that you will consider on July 24, for the Applied Research Center (co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund).

As a friendly reminder, the Democracy and Power Fund seeks to provide multi-year general support funding to multi-issue organizations that address these five priority funding strategies:

- Grassroots Organizing and Civic Engagement;
- Youth Engagement and Leadership Pipeline Development;
- Transformative Policies Linked to Action;
- Innovative Social Engagement through Arts, Culture, and Technology; and
- Building State-Based Power.

Consistent with these funding priorities, our recommended Docket II grantees are:

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 with a particular emphasis on supporting groups working in low-income, people of color and immigrant communities. This recommended grant follows several months of conversations between CCC leaders

and Democracy and Power Fund and U.S. Programs staff and merges four separate CCC grants – general support, Generation Change, Linchpin Project, and the Community Voting Project.

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 advocacy power of domestic workers – a largely immigrant women workforce of nannies and housekeepers (a June 15 *New York Times* editorial cited that there are 200,000 domestic workers just in the NYC metropolitan area).

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

\$500,000/ 2 years (\$350,000 to be released 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.

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

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

To support the Brooklyn-based Right to the City Alliance (RTTC), 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.

Leadership Pipeline & Youth Engagement

Jewish Funds for Justice (fiscal sponsor)/ Social Justice Leadership

\$100,000/ 1 year

To support the Harlem-based Social Justice Leadership (S JL), an innovative organizational cohort model training program that provides high-quality leadership training to staff of community organizations, labor unions, and other grassroots social justice organizations in New York, Miami, and New Orleans.

Transformative Policies Linked to Action

Drum Major Institute/ General Support

\$350,000/ 2 years (\$200,000 to be released in year 1, \$150,000 in year 2)

To support the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy (DMI), a New York City-based think tank focused on promoting social justice oriented economic and social policies.

Economic Policy Institute/ General Support

\$550,000/ 2 years

To support the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, DC-based policy center that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on working people in the United States and around the world. The recommended amount reflects a significant reduction from prior D&P funding levels, from \$600,000 to \$275,000 annually. This reflects two primary factors: 1) a reduction in overall D&P funding for think tanks; and 2) the sizable additional support that EPI has recently received from other USP funds for immigration reform and economic recovery transparency work.

Innovative Social Engagement through Arts, Culture, and Technology

Air Traffic Control Education Fund/ 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.

Center for Progressive Leadership (fiscal sponsor)/ New Organizing Institute

\$200,000/ 2 years

To support the New Organizing Institute, a Washington, DC-based organization that enhances civic engagement and social change organizing by enabling social justice and progressive-identified nonprofit groups to take advantage of the latest advances in new technology to do their work more efficiently and effectively.

Building State-Based Power

Center for Civic Policy/ General Support

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

To support the Center for Civic Policy, an Albuquerque-based group that utilizes innovative strategies to build non-partisan civic engagement capacity and advance social justice issues from the state level.

Western States Center/ General Support

\$100,000/ 1 year

To support the Western States Center, a Portland, OR based organization with a mission to build a movement for political reform and racial, economic, immigrant, criminal, and environmental justice in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies, and Great Basin states.

Full write-ups for each of our recommendations are attached. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet on June 26 and please let us know if there is additional information we may provide in advance of the meeting. Thank you.