

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund
Date: September 14, 2009
Re: Democracy and Power Fund Docket III

We look forward to discussing our second docket with you on Tuesday, September 22. The twenty-four write-ups and a docket sheet are attached here.

In this third docket of 2009, the Democracy and Power Fund recommends funding for twenty-four (24) organizations, including nineteen renewals (19) and five new grantees, with seventeen (17) recommended grant terms of more than one year and one tie-off recommendation. These recommendations total \$6.53 million, of which \$1.15 million to seven organizations is co-funded through support from seven different U.S. Programs funds, campaigns, or special initiatives. This illustrates the Democracy and Power Fund's role within USP to serve as a connective tissue builder in order to increase strategic grantmaking collaboration and leverage enhanced levels of funding for OSI's domestic advocacy grantees.

Our recommended Docket III grantees are:

Grassroots Organizing & Non-Partisan Voter Engagement:

Arab American Institute Foundation / General Support: \$150,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Arab American Institute Foundation's Yalla Vote project and its civic education and non-partisan voter engagement work in Arab American communities across the country.

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good / General Support: \$100,000/ 1 year (renewal)

To support Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, a national organization that educates Catholics and the broader public about the Catholic social justice vision of the common good.

Faith in Public Life / General Support: \$450,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support Faith in Public Life, a national strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion, and the common good. This is jointly recommended by the Equality and Opportunity Fund in recognition of Faith in Public Life's work to advance comprehensive immigration reform.

Public Interest Projects / Funders' Committee for Civic Participation: \$150,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP), a driving force in the donor community in advancing effective voter registration, education, and protection.

This is jointly recommended by the Strategic Opportunities Fund in recognition of FCCP's work to convene the Funders' Census Initiative.

Public Interest Projects / Four Freedoms Fund: \$80,000/ 1 year (renewal)

To support the Four Freedoms Fund, a national funding collaborative established to safeguard immigrants' civil rights and civil liberties and promote the full participation of immigrants in a democratic society.

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits / Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network: \$300,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network (NVEN), a national alliance of direct and human service providers and agencies building the civic engagement capacity of the nonprofit social service sector.

Southern Echo / Pushback Network: \$225,000/ 18 months (renewal)

To support the Pushback Network, a national collaboration of grassroots groups and networks, that seeks to build "bottom-up" state-based alliances to increase civic participation by leaders from marginalized communities.

State Voices / General Support: \$600,000/ 18 months (renewal)

To support State Voices, the convener and technical assistance provider for 16 permanent, year-round state tables for non-partisan 501(c)(3) organizations that foster collaborative voter engagement and multi-issue advocacy work.

Innovative Social Engagement through Arts, Culture, or Technology:

Institute for Policy Studies / Hip Hop Caucus: \$150,000/ 2 years (new)

To support the Hip Hop Caucus, an emerging national organization that inspires non-partisan voter participation and community engagement from the hip hop generation, specifically from young people who are not on college campuses. This is jointly recommended by the Campaign for Black Male Achievement in recognition of HHC's work to advance civic participation from – and green jobs for – young Black men.

Voto Latino / General Support: \$225,000/ 2 years (new)

To support Voto Latino, an emerging national organization that informs and motivates acculturated Latino youth to engage in civic participation by leveraging the latest technologies to promote positive change. This is jointly recommended by the Strategic Opportunities Fund in recognition of VL's census outreach leadership and the Seize the Day Initiative in recognition of VL's cutting edge use of new media outreach strategies.

Leadership Pipeline and Youth Engagement:

Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training / General Support: \$100,000/ 1 year (new)

To support the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, (GIFT), a national organization that promotes the connection between fundraising, social justice, and movement building, particularly for people of color communities and organizations.

Movement Strategy Center / General Support: \$150,000/ 1 year (renewal)

To support the Movement Strategy Center (MSC), an organization that strengthens the social justice movement through increasing the capacity of individuals, organizations, alliances, and sectors to be more strategic, collaborative, and sustainable.

Oregon Bus Project / Bus Federation Civic Fund: \$150,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Bus Federation, a unique coalition of five state organizations in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington that seek to engage young people in civic engagement work and develop them as leaders.

Rockwood Leadership Program / General Support: \$400,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Rockwood Leadership Program, a national non-profit that promotes social change by providing individuals, organizations, and issue sectors with powerful and effective training in leadership and collaboration.

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy / General Support: \$100,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), a grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact drug abuse has on communities and how the “War on Drugs” is failing.

Tides Center / Generational Alliance: \$100,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Generational Alliance, a national collaboration of youth engagement organizations working to empower low-income youth, youth of color, and LGBTQ youth through electoral and community organizing, arts and culture, communication and media, policy, and leadership development.

Tides Foundation / Youth Engagement Fund and Table: \$150,000/ 1 year (renewal)

To support the relaunch of the Youth Engagement Fund and Table, a non-partisan 501(c)(3) collaborative table of youth civic engagement organizations that exists to increase the ability of each group to meet voter registration and mobilization goals.

Paradigm-Shifting Policy Generation:

Center for American Progress / General Support: \$1,375,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Center for American Progress, one of the nation's largest progressive think tanks. Support for CAP is jointly recommended by USP's global warming grantmaking program in recognition of its climate change leadership, the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative in recognition of its leadership in housing policy related to the subprime crisis, and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign in recognition of its work on counterterrorism and human rights issues.

Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest / General Support: \$50,000/ 1 year (new)

To support the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest, an advocacy organization that protects the ability of nonprofits to engage in lobbying and other forms of advocacy.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute / General Support: \$500,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Roosevelt Institute's work on economic policy and financial regulatory reform and its student-led network of campus think tanks that connect student ideas to advocacy. This is jointly recommended by the Seize the Day Initiative in recognition of Roosevelt's leadership in financial regulatory reform advocacy. Seize the Day's \$300,000 recommendation is contingent on approval from George Soros (pending).

Partnership for Working Families / General Support: \$300,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Partnership for Working Families, a national network that provides policy, communications, research, organizing and legal resources to metro-based affiliates that are working to advance economic and social justice in their communities.

Progressive States Network / General Support: \$300,000/2 years (renewal)

To support the Progressive States Network for its work to provide non-partisan support to state legislators with background research on public policy and linking legislators and state advocates to each other across state lines.

Tobin Project / General Support: \$225,000/ 1 year (renewal; tie off recommendation)

To support the Tobin Project, a network of leading academics from law, economics, history, politics, and policy working to reframe fundamental debates about foreign and domestic policy.

United for a Fair Economy: \$200,000/1 year (follows 2008 planning grant)

To support United for a Fair Economy's Tax Fairness Organizing Collaborative, a national network of state-based organizations that educates and organizes for fair taxation at the state and local levels. Support for United for a Fair Economy is jointly recommended by the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative in recognition of UFE's work to spotlight the subprime crisis.

Full write-ups for each of our recommendations are attached. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet on September 22 and please let us know if there is additional information we may provide in advance of the meeting. Thank you.