

**Democracy and Power Fund**  
**Docket I, April 12, 2009 Blurbs (circulated February 12, 2010)**  
**D&P Team: Cristóbal Josh Alex, Patricia Jerido, Nashay Jones, Bill Vandenberg**

*Note: Eleven grant recommendations totaling \$2.2 million are spotlighted within their relevant D&P funding strategy. Four additional recommendations will be co-funded and led by the Equality and Opportunity Fund in its docket. A demographic summary of all recommended grantees may be found at the end of this document.*

**Grassroots Organizing & Non-Partisan Voter Engagement:**  
**Four recommendations, \$825,000**

**Gamaliel Foundation, Faith and Democracy Campaign**

*\$300,000/ 2 year (renewal; project support)*

To support the Gamaliel Foundation, a Chicago-based confederation of 60 local and regional grassroots organizing affiliates in twenty states, which are collectively composed of 1,600 dues paying congregations representing more than one million clergy and laypeople of multiple faiths. Gamaliel builds independent grassroots faith-based community organizations so that ordinary people can have an impact on the political, social, economic, and environmental decisions that affect their lives. Using a “metro-equity” lens, affiliates work on a range of issues, including housing, education, jobs, health care, immigration, and criminal justice. Gamaliel’s "Faith and Democracy Campaign" aims to transform the way its congregation members organize, pushing members to mine their faith values, cultural beliefs, and traditions in ways that lead to a more unified worldview. This allows Gamaliel to move from the limitations of the Saul Alinsky agitational model of organizing to one that can serve as a unifying framework for work across diverse issues and constituencies. Gamaliel is also home to the Transportation Equity Network, funded for its economic recovery work in 2009 by the Seize the Day Initiative. (Patricia Jerido is leading this recommendation)

**Jobs with Justice Education Fund**

*\$100,000/1 year (new; general support)*

To support the Jobs with Justice Education Fund (JWJEF), a Washington, DC-based national network of 47 coalitions in 25 states comprised of both member organizations and over 100,000 individual activists that engage workers and allies in campaigns to win justice in workplaces and in communities where working families live. Since its founding in 1987, JWJEF has built a base of diverse constituencies at the local level and provided training, coordination, and networking at the national level to more effectively advance economic and social justice. JWJEF received prior funding from the Seize the Day Initiative as the fiscal sponsor for the Inter-Alliance Dialogue, a network of emerging people of color and immigrant led grassroots networks. JWJEF may be a potential Seize the Day grantee in 2010 for job creation advocacy. (Cristóbal Alex is leading this recommendation)

**National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund**

*\$125,000/1 year (new; general support)*

To support the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO), a Los Angeles-based national network of over 6,000 Latina/o elected and appointed officials. NALEO facilitates full Latina/o participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service, through integrated strategies that include increasing the effectiveness of Latina/o policymakers, mobilizing the Latina/o community to engage in civic life, and promoting policies that advance Latina/o civic engagement. Responding to the historic immigrant's rights mobilizations of 2006, NALEO has spearheaded the "Ya Es Hora" campaign linking naturalization to census to voter participation under a single message: "it's time." (Lead: Cristóbal Alex)

### **USAction Education Fund**

*\$300,000/2 years (renewal; general support)*

To support the USAction Education Fund (USAEF), a Washington D.C.-based national network of 25 independent, state-based, grassroots, and multi-issue organizations that educate, engage, and empower people to participate in the democratic process. USAEF devotes its primary attention to multi-issue, multi-constituency organizations that are committed to empowering low- and moderate-income communities and individuals through issue advocacy campaigns for tax and budget fairness, health care reform, preservation of Social Security, expansion of Medicaid and Medicare, and creating jobs. USAEF assists its state-based affiliates in developing strategic advocacy campaigns around federal issue priorities and expanding civic participation, especially for historically under-represented constituencies. This recommendation follows a joint Seize the Day and D&P project grant made in 2009 for the Renew and Rebuild federal budget priorities campaign. USAEF may also be a potential Seize the Day grantee in 2010 for its job creation advocacy. (Lead: Cristóbal Alex)

### **Innovative Social Engagement through Arts, Culture, or Technology:**

**One recommendation, \$100,000**

#### **Citizen Engagement Laboratory - Color of Change, Presenté (fiscal sponsor: League of Young Voters Education Fund)**

*\$100,000/ 2 years (renewal from a 2009 Seize the Day funded grant; general support) co-funded with additional EOF support (\$100,000). We are still seeking additional co-funding and will be following up with relevant funds.*

To support the Citizen Engagement Laboratory (CEL), an Oakland, CA-based online organizing innovator, and its projects, Color of Change (CoC) and Presenté. CEL's programs are dedicated to developing innovative online vehicles to enhance civic engagement and amplify the advocacy voice of people of color communities. CEL uses digital media and technology to organize issue and identity-based communities, with a focus on amplifying the voices of underserved groups in order to make government more responsive and to bring about positive social change. With a base of 700,000 members (600,000 in Color of Change and 100,000 in Presenté), CEL projects have successfully activated bases around Jena Six justice system racism, confronting police brutality in the Oscar Grant case, spotlighting Sonia Sotomayor's judicial record, advancing immigrant's rights, and removing Lou Dobbs from CNN. (Lead: Patricia Jerido)

**Leadership Pipeline and Youth Engagement:**  
**Three recommendations, \$850,000**

**Americans for Informed Democracy**

\$50,000/ 1 year (renewal; general support, tie off grant) *We are still seeking additional co-funding and will be following up with relevant funds.*

To support Americans for Informed Democracy, a Washington, DC-based youth engagement organization that empowers young people in the U.S. to address global challenges such as poverty, disease, climate change, and conflict through awareness and action. Through a network of 30 chapters and hundreds of individual activists on campuses across the U.S., AID promotes just and sustainable solutions at the campus, community, and national levels. Founded by a group of American students who studied abroad just after the September 11th attacks, AID challenges the picture of the rest of the world that most U.S. residents receive as refracted through the mainstream media. While the media typically presents extremists and threats from around the world, AID (particularly through its Peace and Security Program) takes action on its members' concerns with how counter-terrorism is used as a national security strategy. AID has been a part of prior USP youth engagement funding but, despite its great work, is now an outlier to D&P's current youth organizing and engagement field building. As such, we are making a tie-off grant and have reached out to relevant USP colleagues to explore continuation of OSI support. (Lead: Bill Vandenberg)

**Social Justice Leadership (fiscal sponsor: Jewish Funds for Justice)**

*\$200,000/2 years (renewal, general support)*

To support Social Justice Leadership (SJL), an innovative, Harlem-based organizational cohort model training program that started as a joint pilot project of the Rockwood Leadership Program and New York Jobs with Justice. Through its NYC cohorts and emerging cohorts in Miami and New Orleans, SJL provides 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 create capacity to support transformative leadership development through all levels of organizations, from frontline staff 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. (Lead: Cristóbal Alex)

**Young Elected Officials Network and Young People For (fiscal sponsor: People for the American Way Foundation)**

*\$600,000/ 2 years (renewal, general support); Additional co-funding already identified: NSHR \$25,000. We are still seeking additional co-funding and will be following up with relevant funds.*

To support the Young Elected Officials Network (YEO) and Young People For (YP4), two leadership development programs housed at the People For the American Way Foundation. Led by Andrew Gillum, a 30 year old elected City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem of Tallahassee, FL, each program is geared toward different phases in

young people's personal, political, and professional development. YP4 is a leadership development program which identifies and trains leaders while they are still in college. YEO is a one of a kind national network that continues the pipeline of leadership development by providing support to more than 525 social justice rooted local, state, and federal elected officials – from all 50 states – who are 35 and younger. YEO and YP4 diversify leadership in the social justice ecosystem and support young leaders to make change now and long into the future through addressing the different needs that exist at different points in a young activist's trajectory. (Lead: Patricia Jerido)

### **Paradigm-Shifting Policy Generation:**

**Three recommendations, \$425,000**

#### **American Rights at Work Education Fund**

*\$150,000/ 1 year (renewal, general support)*

To support American Rights at Work Education Fund (ARAWEF), a Washington DC-based national organization that advocates for equality in the workplace through coalition-building, research, public relations, policy analysis, and organizing. ARAWEF investigates and exposes workplace discrimination and the inadequacy of U.S. labor law; stimulates debate about the state of workplace equality among journalists, policymakers, advocacy groups, and the public; researches policies that can lead to enhanced levels of unionization in the U.S.; and highlights public policy that protects workers from hostile employers and weak laws. (Lead: Cristóbal Alex)

#### **Applied Research Center**

*\$200,000/ 2 years (add-on grant; general support)*

To support the Applied Research Center, a New York- and Oakland, CA-based racial justice think/act tank and communications center for engaging critical constituencies in confronting structural inequality. This add-on grant would continue D&P's and the Equality and Opportunity Fund's co-funding of ARC's work in 2009 and would coordinate D&P's funding cycle of ARC with the Equality and Opportunity Fund, its USP lead. Additionally, D&P support has helped ARC to expand its Racial Equity State Legislative Report Cards in a number of states. (Lead: Patricia Jerido)

#### **Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute**

*\$75,000 1 year (merger) Note: Actual amount will be in the \$74,000+ range; a prior grant will be returned and this recommendation won't come from D&P's current budget)*

To support the merger of the New Vision Institute, a Washington, DC-based public policy organization and the Roosevelt Institute, a New York-based D&P grantee that focuses on the development of paradigm shifting economic policy. New Vision, funded from 2006 by the USP Progressive Infrastructure fund, sought to bridge the gap between academia and public policy by building the next generation of progressive public policy intellectuals. This work will now be subsumed into Roosevelt's Campus Network, composed of 8,000 members organized at 86 chapters across the country. Roosevelt Campus Network chapters organize education events, foster debate and dialogue on campus, and generate policy and promote student ideas for legislative impact. The Campus Network's "Think Impact" project fits with New Vision's goals as it emphasizes

young people's engagement in advocacy through developing model policy proposals that are tailored to the needs of their communities. (Lead: Patricia Jerido)

### **Building State-Based Power**

D&P will begin making state-based grant recommendations in North Carolina and Texas in its second docket.

### **Co-Funded grants Led by Other Funds**

D&P will be co-funding four grants for an additional \$275,000 that will be led by the Equality and Opportunity Fund in its first docket. These include:

#### **Center for Social Inclusion**

*\$100,000/ 1 year (renewal; general support); co-funded with EOF for its first docket*  
D&P is joining with EOF to continue general support funding for the Center for Social Inclusion (CSI), a think tank that engages in applied research with local communities to unravel the structural barriers to opportunity. More specifically, D&P is co-funding CSI for its innovative work to engage in public education and policy positions, models, and tools to advance structural reforms that achieve equity for people of color communities, women, and low-income communities.

#### **Choice USA**

*\$50,000/ 1 year (renewal; general support); co-funded with EOF for its first docket.*  
*D&P formerly served as Choice USA lead, now moving to EOF.*  
D&P is joining with EOF to continue general support funding for Choice USA's work to build a healthy, long-lasting and dynamic social justice ecosystem through youth organizing. Choice USA plays a critical role in the youth social justice movement by linking often marginalized issues of reproductive justice to the broader social justice agenda. Choice USA was formerly led by D&P; it will now be led by EOF.

#### **National Day Laborer Organizing Network**

*\$62,500/ 1 year (new; general support); co-funded with EOF support for its first docket*  
D&P is joining with EOF to support the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON), a national network that provides technical support and regranting to 65 day labor centers in 20 states, in their efforts to develop leadership and mobilize day laborers to protect and expand their civil, labor, and human rights. NDLON maintains a presence in both of D&P's priority states and has proven to be an effective advocate for one of the most vulnerable populations in the U.S.

#### **9to5: National Association of Working Women**

*\$62,500/ 1 year (new; general support); co-funded with EOF support for its first docket*  
D&P is joining with EOF to support 9to5: National Association of Working Women, a membership based organization of low- and no-wage women seeking justice, dignity, and equality in the workplace and in the community. Through advocacy and organizing on welfare rights, benefits access, anti-discrimination, and anti-poverty work at the national level and in California, Colorado, Georgia, and Wisconsin, 9to5 advances D&P goals to

expand public participation through grassroots organizing and public policy research and advocacy.

### **Doing the Math: D&P Docket I Recommended Grants and Grantees**

Total number of grants directly recommended by D&P:	11
Total number of grants recommended by D&P:	15
Total general support:	10 (91%); 14 w/co-funding
Total funding recommended:	\$2.2 million; \$2.475 total
Number of multi-year grant recs.:	6 (55%); 6 (40%) total
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as Exec. Director*:	7 (64%); 10 (67%) total
Number of recommended grantees with women as Exec. Director*:	4 (36%); 7 (47%) total
Number of recommended grantees with openly LGBTQ person as Exec. Director*:	1 (9%); 2 (13%) total
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as Exec. Director*:	3 (27%); 4 (27%) total

Geographic diversity of the eleven directly recommended grantees (only refers to their base of operations, not where they may have local and state affiliates or chapters): Los Angeles, CA (1); New York, NY (3); Oakland, CA (2); Tallahassee, FL (1); and Washington, DC (4). Co-funded grantees are based in Los Angeles, CA (1); Milwaukee, WI (1); New York, NY (1); and Washington, DC (1).

\* The background or identity of an executive director is only one measure, among many, for identifying an organization's authentic commitment to diversity. Through due diligence in our grantmaking process, D&P uses this and several other measures of assessment. By tracking our performance, we seek to improve our track record of funding organizations that are rooted in and led by people from communities that face the greatest historic and ongoing challenges to achieving equality and justice.

Circulated by the Democracy and Power Fund. For further information on these recommended grantees, please contact the listed program officer, either Cristóbal Alex or Patricia Jerido, program associate Nashay Jones, or program director Bill Vandenberg.