

OSI U.S. Democracy and Power Fund
Docket II Recommended Grantee Blurbs
Docket II: June 28, 2010 (blurbs circulated May 10, 2010)

Note: Twenty-four (24) grant recommendations totaling \$2.81 million are spotlighted within their relevant D&P funding strategy (including a few shifts in how we organize and describe our funding strategies). A demographic summary of all recommended grantees may be found at the end of this document.

Expanding Public Participation:
Grassroots Organizing and Non-Partisan Voter Engagement
Three recommendations, \$650,000

Interfaith Education Fund

\$200,000/1 year (renewal; tie-off)

The Interfaith Education Fund (IEF), based in Austin, TX, provides organizing, training, and research support to community organizations affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the congregation-based community organizing network that was founded by organizing legend Saul Alinsky. Renewal funding is requested to support nonpartisan leadership development, training, and issues education in IAF's Metro (Northeast and Middle Atlantic) and Southwest regions. Among issues addressed include health care, immigrant justice, education reform, workforce development, and others of concern to OSI. *Note: While D&P recognizes IAF's legacy and impact in a number of communities throughout the U.S., this will be a tie-off grant in light of ongoing community concerns about IAF's organizing model.*

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

\$75,000/1 year (new; project support)

The Los Angeles-based National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) is a national alliance working to promote the full participation of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, with the greater goal of building a national movement for social change. This grant would support NAKASEC's technical assistance on non-partisan voter engagement work in several states with organizations that represent a wide range of APIA communities. *Note: This grant recommendation follows the recent D&P cut-off of grantee APIA Vote. Due to significant board and staffing changes and other challenges, APIA Vote is unable to carry out national voter engagement work at scale within the APIA community.*

Youth Engagement Fund (fiscal sponsor: Tides Foundation)

\$375,000 / 1 year (renewal)

To support the Youth Engagement Fund, a Washington, DC-based national, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) collaborative table of youth civic engagement organizations that exists to provide technical assistance and regranting to increase youth voter registration and mobilization goals. In 2010-11, the Fund will: support its 35 member organizations with voter data through the use of a joint voter file; develop a coordinated GOTV plan in regions across the nation; provide objective and scientific evaluation of the work of the

youth sector, and re-grant approximately \$3 million to partner organizations. Participating organizations include key youth mobilization organizations in diverse communities, including D&P grantees the Bus Federation, Democracia-USA, Hip Hop Caucus (co-funded with CBMA), League of Young Voters, United States Students Association, and others. Due to significant concerns about the projected youth vote drop-off in 2010, D&P is recommending an additional \$225,000 beyond the original \$150,000 planned for this renewal grant.

Youth Engagement, Organizing, and Leadership
Three recommendations, \$290,000

Funders Collaborative for Youth Organizing (fiscal sponsor: Jewish Funds for Justice)

\$200,000/ 2 years (renewal)

To support the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, a Brooklyn-based national intermediary that seeks to increase funding for youth organizing organizations across the U.S. and develop 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, including board representation from Erlin Ibreck (Bill Vandenberg now serves as our representative), and this recommendation would continue OSI's support for FCYO's youth leadership pipeline project and a series of regional funder convenings to recruit new youth organizing donors.

Trail of Dreams (fiscal sponsor: Florida Immigrant Coalition)

\$15,000/ 1 year (new, one-time project grant, co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund, \$7,500 per fund)

To support the Trail of Dreams, a 1,500 mile immigrant justice march led by dynamic youth organizers from Students Working for Equal Rights, the Florida Immigrant Coalition's youth organizing project. Since January 1, 2010, four students have walked from Miami, FL to Washington, DC to lift up the unheralded stories and unknown struggles of immigrant young people who are unable to fully participate in society. They've drawn national attention to immigrant's rights and justice for immigrants and have received online organizing support from Presenté and the Citizen Engagement Lab, a USP (CJF, D&P, and EOF) grantee. Three of the youth organizers are undocumented and they have drawn significant right-wing anti-immigrant attacks along their route.

United We Dream Network (fiscal sponsor: National Immigration Law Center)

\$75,000 / 1 year (new, project support; co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund, \$37,500 per fund)

To support the United We Dream Network, housed at the Los Angeles-based National Immigration Law Center. UWD is a new network founded by immigrant youth activists to better connect immigrant youth organizing efforts throughout the country and aggregate their collective power to impact change. The network will provide structure for immigrant youth activists to develop a shared vision, goals, and strategies for addressing the challenges they and their families face in their communities, particularly on expanding access to higher education and a pathway to citizenship. UWD will also allow

fundors to funnel resources directly to the youth organizations that are leading this movement; improve the groups' access to technology, media, and organizational development tools; and support peer-to-peer networking and trainings.

Innovative Policy Development for Economic Opportunity

Two recommendations, \$350,000

Main Street Alliance (fiscal sponsor: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations)

\$200,000 / 2 years (renewal of support initially provided via Seize the Day in 2009)

Founded in 2008, the Seattle-based Main Street Alliance (MSA) is a national network of small business coalitions that leverages small business voices to advance policies that promote racial, economic, and social equity. The Alliance has grown quickly to represent more than 10,000 businesses in 15 states, and has proven to be a strong counterweight to the national lobby groups that claim to represent small businesses but that take uniformly regressive positions on the role of government. Following a successful role in the health care debate, MSA is turning its attention to workplace quality, public investment, job creation advocacy, and lending reform campaigns. *Note: MSA may be considered for Seize the Day Initiative support for job creation advocacy.*

United for a Fair Economy, Tax Fairness Organizing Collaborative

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

To support Boston-based United for a Fair Economy's Tax Fairness Organizing Collaborative, a national network convened in 2004 to educate and organize for fair and adequate taxation and socially just government budget priorities at the state and federal levels. The Collaborative's 28 member groups in 24 states seek to create a long-term national tax fairness organizing infrastructure to complement the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, a D&P grantee, and the Economic Analysis and Research Network.

Organization and Network Builders: Capacity Building Intermediaries

Four recommendations, \$400,000

Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest

\$50,000/1 year (renewal)

To support the Washington D.C.-based Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest (CLPI). CLPI protects the ability of nonprofits to engage in lobbying and other forms of advocacy through reports, media, and stakeholder convenings. CLPI has proven itself a trusted source of information on legislation and regulations that impact the work of nonprofits and recently raised awareness of advocacy-related restrictions on Legal Services Corporation grantees, leading to the loosening of several restrictions. CLPI continues to work with OSI-DC to spotlight the Obama Administration's Executive Order on the hiring of lobbyists, a sweeping order that has precluded many public interest advocates from working in the Obama Administration.

Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training

\$200,000/2 years (renewal)

To support the Oakland-based Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, a national training and technical assistance organization that promotes the connection between fundraising, social justice, and social justice movement building, particularly for people of color communities and groups. GIFT assists organizations in building community-rooted grassroots fundraising capacity, administers a one of a kind people of color development internship, and conducts research on people of color fundraising trends.

Grassroots Policy Project

\$100,000/2 years (renewal and tie-off)

To support the Grassroots Policy Project, based in Cambridge, MA, an educational and research organization working in partnership with grassroots community groups, activist networks, statewide coalitions and other training organizations to encourage strategic approaches to issues of social and economic justice. Since 1993, GPP has pursued ways to provide grassroots organizations with the tools, training, and technical assistance to further their long-term social change goals, including providing support to the Gamaliel Foundation, National People's Action, and other USP grantees. *Note: Due to shifts in D&P's priorities, this will be a tie-off grant for GPP.*

Wellstone Action

\$50,000/ 1 year (new; project support)

To support the Minneapolis, MN-based Wellstone Action, a national center for training and leadership development for progressive organizations. Wellstone Action trains thousands of community activists each year so that they may be better equipped to organize issue advocacy campaigns, become community leaders, or run for public office. Campus Camp Wellstone, a current D&P grantee, is a well regarded leader in the youth leadership and strategic campaign development field. OSI funding for Wellstone Action would support technical assistance provision to 501(c)(3) organizations that are part of State Voices civic engagement tables across the nation so that they are better able to maximize their non-partisan voter engagement impact.

Cultural Organizing: Using Arts and Culture to Advance Social Justice **One recommendation, \$45,000**

School for Creative Activism

\$45,000/1 year (new; project support)

To support the School for Creative Activism, a New York City-based organization, for its work to design and implement a cultural organizing curriculum for interested Democracy and Power Fund grantees. The SCA will develop sessions that build creative models of organizing which challenge organizers to engage constituencies differently and develop campaigns that reach a broader audience. This grant will advance D&P's emerging cultural organizing portfolio, focused on integrating cultural organizing into broad-based organizing and advocacy groups (rather than funding artists or organizations which specifically focus on arts and culture).

Building State-Based Power: Investing in Issue –Based Advocacy and Organizing in North Carolina and Texas

Eleven recommendations, \$1,075,000

North Carolina

D&P's emerging North Carolina funding strategy will build the grassroots organizing, issue advocacy, and civic engagement capacity and impact of African-American, Latina/o, and immigrant communities, along with that of young people across the state. Beginning with this docket, D&P will launch its state-based program in North Carolina. Beyond supporting organizations that meet the priorities stated above, D&P will also fund key statewide organizations that build issue advocacy capacity, expertise, and impact and those that enhance statewide civic engagement collaboration.

Beloved Community Center

\$75,000/1 year (new)

To support the base-building and grassroots organizing of the Greensboro-based Beloved Community Center, an organization that works to model a spirit of community that is based upon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a "beloved community." BCC works to realign social and economic relations that affirm and realize the equality, dignity, worth and potential of every person. Using community as a framing concept, the BCC has built an impressive grassroots base within Greensboro's African-American, Latina/o, and youth communities. BCC is actively engaged in local campaigns for police accountability and educational and racial justice and provides important support to several statewide racial and economic justice advocacy campaigns.

Democracy North Carolina

\$100,000/1 year (new)

To support Durham-based Democracy NC, a nonpartisan statewide organization that uses research, organizing, and advocacy to increase voter participation, reduce the influence of money in politics, and achieve representational government. Democracy NC has six local coalitions across the state and conducts civic engagement, census outreach, and advocacy for publicly financed local and judicial elections and voting rights and reforms, including ex-felon re-enfranchisement, and voter pre-registration for teenagers. The organization is led by Bob Hall, a former MacArthur Fellow, who has advanced nationally path-breaking efforts to build broad support for publicly financed elections.

North Carolina Justice Center

\$75,000/1 year (new)

To support the Raleigh-based North Carolina Justice Center, a well regarded state level organization that uses litigation, analysis, multi-issue advocacy, community education, and communication strategies to eliminate poverty in North Carolina. The NCJC seeks to ensure that every household in the state has access to the resources, services, and treatment it needs in order to enjoy economic security. NCJC is an advocacy hub for the state's social justice ecosystem and home to a number of projects that advance key OSI priorities: tax and budget analysis, health access, immigrant legal assistance, education and law, and poverty law litigation.

North Carolina Latino Coalition

\$50,000/1 year (new)

To support the Durham-based North Carolina Latino Coalition, a statewide organization dedicated to building power among grassroots Latina/o community-based organizations. The NCLC provides CBOs with technical assistance and participatory opportunities for grassroots Latina/o leaders to work towards social change. NCLC's goals are to build the capacity of grassroots organizations, increase access to information, nurture leadership skills, and support joint problem solving strategies. The implementation grant is for staff development and to support diversification of its funding base, adoption of a membership structure for NCLC's partners, and an increase in board members' governing skills so that the network can more effectively advance the interests of North Carolina's fast growing Latina/o communities.

North Carolina NAACP State Conference

\$125,000/1 year (new; co-funded by the Equality and Opportunity Fund, \$75,000 D&P and \$50,000 EOF)

To support the North Carolina NAACP State Conference, one of the nation's largest state NAACP networks with more than 100 community and youth branches. The NC NAACP catalyzes advocacy and organizing on issues of economic and racial justice and serves as the home for the Historic Thousands on Jones Street Campaign (Jones Street is where the NC State Capital is located), a 90 organization coalition that is organized around a 14 point policy platform and that draws thousands to its annual march at the state legislature. The coalition includes many issues of concern to OSI such as criminal justice reform, voter participation, and structural inequality, and under the leadership of Reverend William Barber – the preeminent social justice alliance builder in the state – the NAACP occupies a central role in North Carolina's social justice ecosystem. This is atypical to how the NAACP situates itself – and is seen by others – in nearly every other state.

Texas

D&P's emerging Texas funding strategy will build the grassroots organizing, issue advocacy, and civic engagement capacity and impact of African-American, Latina/o, and immigrant communities, along with that of young people. Beginning with this docket, D&P will launch its state-based program in Texas. While our work will be statewide in desired impact in this vast state of more than 23 million residents, we'll begin by focusing more resources on two fast growing and very diverse regions: Houston/Harris County and the Rio Grande Valley. Beyond supporting organizations that meet the priorities stated above, D&P will also fund – or help launch – key statewide organizations that build issue advocacy capacity, expertise, and impact and those that enhance statewide civic engagement collaboration.

Center for Public Policy Priorities

\$75,000 /1 year (new)

To support the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), an Austin-based non-profit policy institute committed to bettering the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans. CPPP pursues this mission through independent research, policy analysis and development, public education, advocacy, coalition-building and technical assistance and, based on our due diligence, it is the most influential source for

accessible and credible research that informs policy makers, opinion leaders, the press, and the general public in Texas. *Note: CPPP co-leads the Seize the Day economic recovery alliance in Texas with the Texas Impact Education Fund. A \$500,000 grant, over two years, was awarded to this alliance in 2009.*

La Union del Pueblo Entero

\$100,000 /1 year (new)

To support La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a San Juan-based non-profit membership organization that was established by César Chávez and whose mission is to engage farmworkers, immigrants, and their families in transforming the communities in which they live. LUPE anchors the Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network, a ten organization, Marguerite Casey Foundation-supported effort representing over 10,000 families in the region, home to three of the U.S.'s five poorest counties. By virtue of its long and trusted history in the Valley, and its anchor role in the Equal Voice network, LUPE is well-positioned to lead civic engagement efforts in the Valley by convening a regional c3 table that will offer trainings, mini-grants, access to voter files and software, and non-partisan Get Out the Vote support.

NAACP Houston Branch

\$75,000 /1 year (new)

To support the NAACP's Houston Branch, serving the Harris County area, including Houston, the nation's fourth largest city. The Houston Branch is one of the five largest NAACP branches in the nation and serves the community through various programs, including an impressive police misconduct legal redress effort, youth outreach, health advocacy, and a sizable technology center. In recognition of its successful work and high functioning operations, Houston will host the NAACP's 2012 national conference. Support of the Houston branch will allow it to expand its non-partisan voter engagement work in Harris County, which has the fastest growing African-American population of any county in the nation, as well as to support ongoing efforts for police accountability and the establishment of a public defender's office in Harris County.

Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance (fiscal sponsor: Border Network for Human Rights)

\$100,000 /1 year (new)

To support the Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance (RITA), a new, El Paso-based multi-sector statewide network dedicated to building support for immigrant rights, including comprehensive immigration reform. RITA's goal is to present a consistent, pro-immigrant Texas voice and educate people throughout the state about fair, humane, and sensible policies that foster America's strength, security, and prosperity. In less than one year, RITA has developed organically from a conference call among advocates to now include more than 100 organizations from across the state. RITA fills a critical D&P need: it is the only statewide network in Texas advocating for immigrant rights. OSI funding will provide key capacity support to help RITA build regional power to elevate immigrant's rights throughout the state.

Texas Organizing Project Education Fund

\$150,000/1 year (new)

The Texas Organizing Project Education Fund (TOP) is a new Houston-based statewide organization promoting social and economic equality for low- to moderate-income Texans through community organizing and civic engagement. TOP is a new organization that was built following the collapse of ACORN by bringing together seasoned community organizers, including some with prior ACORN experience, and a top notch advisory committee of community, labor, and policy leaders and donors who recognize the critical importance of effective community-based organizing in Texas. In 2010, TOP will focus its non-partisan voter engagement and organizing efforts in four counties — Harris (Houston), Dallas, El Paso, and Hidalgo (McAllen) — with large numbers of African American, Latina/o, and immigrant populations. TOP fills a critical niche in D&P’s Texas strategy as the only statewide organization with the staff, skills, sophistication, and strategic capacity to conduct effective base-building in the D&P target regions of Harris County and the Rio Grande Valley. *Note: As part of our due diligence, D&P has communicated our interest in recommending TOP with the General Counsel’s office in order to vet any concerns about the post-ACORN organizational landscape. We now have a greenlight to request a proposal.*

Texas State C3 Table

\$150,000/1 year (new; seed funding grant)

To provide seed funding – to be matched by donors identified via Texas in-state fundraising – for a new, statewide c3 civic engagement table. Similar tables exist in 16 states via State Voices, a core D&P grantee that provides support to over 600 social justice and progressive non-profits. The c3 tables feature high level and independent coordination and provide voter list access, technical assistance, data analysis, independent evaluation, and a place for strategic collaboration for 501(c)(3) organizations advancing social justice through organizing, advocacy, and non-partisan voter engagement. Through D&P’s 70 meetings across Texas, the need for a strong, statewide collaborative table has been identified as a key need.

D&P Docket II Recommended Grants and Grantees

Grant Recommendation Analysis, Demography, and Equity

Total number of grants recommended:	24
Total general support:	17 (71%, an additional 5 or 21% are fiscally sponsored organizations or entities)
Total funding recommended:	\$2.81 million
Number of multi-year recs., national orgs.:	4 (31% of national recs.)
Number of tie-off recs., national orgs.:	2 (15% of national recs.)
Number of newly recommended grantees:	16 (67% of total recs.)
Number of new state-based organizational recs.	11 (46% of total recs.)
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as Exec. Director*:	12 (50%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for	

people of color led organizations:	\$1.29 million (46% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with women as Exec. Director*:	13 (54%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for women led organizations:	\$1.39 million (49% of total)
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as Exec. Director*:	6 (25%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for immigrant led organizations:	\$0.7 million (25% of total)

Geographic Diversity

The following is where the twenty-four recommended grantees have their base of operations. Many of the recommended organizations have local and state affiliates or chapters that enable them to reach far beyond the cities where their offices are located.

Texas: 7 (Austin: 3; Houston: 2; El Paso: 1; San Juan: 1)
 North Carolina: 5 (Durham: 3; Greensboro: 1; Raleigh: 1)
 California: 3 (Los Angeles: 2; Oakland: 1)
 Massachusetts: 2 (Boston, Cambridge)
 New York: 2 (New York City)
 Washington, DC: 2
 Florida: 1 (Miami)
 Minnesota: 1 (Minneapolis)
 Washington: 1 (Seattle)

* 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 program director Bill Vandenberg; program officers Cristóbal Alex or Patricia Jerido; or program associate Nashay Jones.