

OSI U.S. Democracy and Power Fund
Docket III Recommended Grantee Blurbs
Docket III: September 27, 2010 (blurbs circulated August 9, 2010)

Note: Twenty-seven (27) grant recommendations totaling \$7.84 million are spotlighted within their relevant D&P funding strategy. A demographic summary and equity analysis of recommended grantees may be found at the end of this document.

Expanding Public Participation:
Grassroots Organizing and Non-Partisan Voter Engagement
Four recommendations, \$2,800,000

Center for Community Change

\$1,400,000/ 18 months; renewal, general support (potential Seize the Day co-funding for job creation organizing and advocacy)

To support the Center for Community Change (CCC), a U.S. Programs anchor grantee and well established resource center for grassroots social change organizations across the nation, with a particular emphasis on groups working in low-income, people of color and immigrant communities. CCC conducts broad-scale organizing, coalition building, voter participation, capacity building, and policy change work from its Washington, D.C. national office and through field offices across the country. CCC has unique reach at the grassroots level across the U.S. as well as in Washington and plays a key role in national campaigns to advance immigrant justice, economic opportunity and job creation, and health care for all. *(Note: CCC Executive Director, Deepak Bhargava, is a U.S. Programs board member. In order to maintain a distinction between his board role and CCC's grantmaking relationship with OSI, Rudy Lopez, a CCC senior staffperson, manages the organization's grantmaking relationship with OSI.)*

Faith in Public Life

\$25,000/ 1 year; add-on to current general support grant

To support Faith in Public Life, a Washington, DC-based strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion, and the common good. In order to maximize the faith community's unique ability to shape public debates, Faith in Public Life identifies and creates moments of opportunity, builds and supports broad coalitions, and designs and implements innovative campaigns, bold initiatives and capacity-building tools. Since its official launch in 2006, Faith in Public Life has worked to build the faith community's media presence and capacity, provide strategic assistance to faith-based coalitions, broker new partnerships, develop online communities, sponsor opinion research, and amplify the voices of emerging religious leaders.

National People's Action aka National Training and Information Center

\$700,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support (\$400k D&P; 200k Seize the Day; 100k Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative; and possible Transparency and Integrity Fund co-funding)

To support National People's Action, aka the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), a 36 year old, Chicago-based national resource center that supports, strengthens, and coordinates grassroots community organizations working for social and economic justice. Through the NPA, 25 affiliate organizations in 14 states and the District of Columbia link local and regional organizing efforts into powerful national campaigns that win accountability from decision-makers. OSI support will build the network's capacity and power and support its work to push forward a national economic and racial justice agenda on housing, job creation, and banking issues.

Pacific Institute for Community Organizations dba PICO National Network, General Support

\$675,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support (\$475k D&P; 100k Seize the Day; 100k NSI; and possible TIF co-funding)

To support the PICO National Network, a 36 year old, Oakland, CA-based network of faith-based community organizations that brings the voices of local families and faith leaders to the public debate on national policies. With more than 50 faith traditions represented in over 1,000 member institutions, PICO represents a diverse base of one million families in 17 states and 150 cities. Following the collapse of ACORN, PICO is now considered the nation's largest community-based organizing network. OSI support would strengthen the member institutions in the PICO network and support its leadership on campaigns for housing justice, banking issues, and immigrant justice, along with building a new, non-partisan voter engagement effort.

Youth Engagement and Social Justice Leadership Sector Development
Nine recommendations, \$1,815,000

Center for American Progress, Campus Progress

\$150,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support Campus Progress, the youth program of the Center for American Progress. Campus Progress, launched in 2005, seeks to strengthen progressive voices among young people, empowering new generations of leaders and connecting them to issues, resources, and organizations. Campus Progress supports campus publications and has its own quarterly and online publications and blog; offers trainings, tools, and small grants to help students hold successful events, advocate and raise awareness on issues of import to them; and holds local and national events bringing young people together. D&P is gradually cutting back its funding levels for college-campus based organizations in order to begin investing a bit more in high school-aged youth organizing, especially among young people of color and immigrant youth. Because of this and ongoing concerns about Campus Progress' model, this is a tie-off recommendation.

Center for Progressive Leadership

\$100,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Center for Progressive Leadership (CPL), a Washington, DC based leadership development intermediary. CPL engages activists across the country, including leaders from the non-profit, philanthropic, legal, business, and government sectors, to provide skills and resources to develop the next generation of political leaders.

CPL offers nine month fellowships for emerging leaders along with trainings to engage and activate new leaders and the leaders of local and national partner organizations in several states in which it works. D&P is gradually cutting back funding levels for adult-based leadership development entities that are not closely connected with grassroots networks. Because of this, this is a tie-off recommendation.

League of Young Voters Education Fund

\$300,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support (\$250k D&P; 50k Campaign for Black Male Achievement, including 25k for fundraising development plan)

To support the Brooklyn, NY based League of Young Voters Education Fund, the non-partisan arm of the League of Young Voters, a national network that is focused on building the political power of young people of color and low-income young people. The League conducts year-round programs that include outreach, leadership development, trainings, arts-based organizing, alliance building and non-partisan voter engagement with the goal of building the power and leadership skills of low-income youth, youth of color, and youth in arts-based communities. The League fills an important niche as one of the only national, non-partisan voter engagement organizations that focuses on young people of color who are not primarily based on college campuses.

Movement Strategy Center

\$150,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support

To support the Movement Strategy Center (MSC), an Oakland, CA based organization strengthening social justice movements through increasing the capacity of individuals, organizations, alliances, and sectors to be more strategic, collaborative, and sustainable. MSC teaches organizers and organizations movement building and networking skills through: 1) capacity-building trainings and conferences; 2) networking opportunities for organizations through face-to-face and online meetings; and 3) research and information. MSC focuses on organizations led by young people, women, people of color, and low-income people on regional, statewide, and national levels.

New World Foundation / Small Donor Development and Diversification Collaborative Fund

200,000 / 1 year; renewal, project grant

To support the Small Donor Development and Diversification Fund (3D), housed at the NYC-based New World Foundation. The 3D joint funding collaborative, initiated by OSI, involves New World, the Stoneman Family Fund, and a growing community of social justice funder thought partners and last year provided \$510,000 in grant funding to support eight grassroots membership organizations in building more effective approaches to small donor fundraising. The eight groups were selected from an RFP process that drew 315 proposals. The 3D funding collaborative's goals include enhancing the organizations' fiscal health and community ownership and accountability while reducing their often unhealthy reliance on foundations whose grantmaking budgets are unpredictable. The second year plans for the fund includes an additional round of funding to the grantees, convenings, and dissemination of lessons learned to the broader social justice field.

Ruckus Society

\$100,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support

To support the Ruckus Society, an Oakland, CA based capacity building and intermediary organization that provides direct action trainings to grassroots organizations and young individuals working on environmental, human rights, and social justice issues. Founded in 1995 after the passage of federal anti-environmental legislation, Ruckus works in collaboration with local and national organizations to lead camps, trainings, and workshops of that train participants to envision the community they want, campaign and take action to further and achieve their goals, and to hold decision makers accountable to their constituents' needs. A renewal grant to Ruckus is part of U.S. Program's ongoing commitment to support intermediary organizations that offer trainings and resources crucial to building the field capacity and strengthening the collective power of a broader community of organizations and activists.

Trail of Dreams (fiscal sponsor: Florida Immigrant Coalition)

\$15,000/ 1 year; new, one-time project grant (\$7,500 D&P; \$7,500 Equality and Opportunity Fund)

To support the Trail of Dreams, a national youth immigrant justice organizing effort that recently spearheaded 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. Four student members 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. In so doing the group drew national attention to immigrant 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. These young organizers, some of which are undocumented, have built up an extensive network and are now focused on conducting public education and building public support to combat anti-immigrant efforts such as Arizona's SB 1070.

United States Student Association Foundation

\$600,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support (possible TIF co-funding)

To support the United States Student Association Foundation, the tax exempt arm of the United States Student Association, the nation's oldest, largest, and most diverse student organization. Via its national network of students from public and private universities, community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic serving institutions, USSAF organizes leadership development trainings and coalition building workshops for progressive students and organizations through on-campus and summer gatherings. USSA is the only student-led organization representing students on higher education issues and encourages activism on issues relevant to students – labor rights, LGBTQ equality, college access and affordability, and immigrant student education, among others.

Young People's Project

\$200,000/ 2 years; renewal, general support

To support the Young People's Project (YPP) founded in Jackson, Mississippi in 1996 by former and current students of the Algebra Project, the Bob Moses founded organization

whose programs help low-income students and students of color acquire mathematical skills that are a prerequisite for college preparatory mathematics and full citizenship in today's technological society. Born out of the spirit and work of Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, and many others, YPP's national network of city-based chapters strives through its learning/organizing model to create a culture among young people that is centered on educational excellence, equity and social justice, and community change. D&P co-funds YPP with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and CBMA's project renewal will come up in 2011.

Innovative Ideas and Open Society Policy:
Multi-Issue Think Tanks and Expanding Economic Opportunity
Seven recommendations, \$2,625,000

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

\$1,250,000 / 20 months; renewal (\$1 million D&P; 250k Seize the Day; SFPA possible co-funding)

To support the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a DC-based economic policy think-tank and USP anchor grantee. Founded in 1981, CBPP analyzes federal and state budget priorities with a particular emphasis on the impact of various budget choices on low-income Americans. At the state level, CBPP runs the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative and internationally its International Budget Partnership helps civil society organizations in new democracies such as former Soviet republics. The Center is frequently rated among the nation's most effective advocacy organizations and its U.S. work focuses on fiscal issues, low-income programs and tax areas that include Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, food stamps, TANF, supplemental security income, WIC and child nutrition, low-income housing and low-income tax credits.

Center for Working Families

\$75,000/ 1year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the New York City-based Center for Working Families, founded in 2006 by long-time community activists, veteran union organizers and experienced policy advocates. The Center for Working Families aims to bring innovative ideas into the public debate, to provide decision-makers with the research support to make bold policy proposals, and to strategize with organizations and activists to build effective campaigns to enact them in New York State. While the Center plays a key role in New York advocacy, the Democracy and Power Fund is now prioritizing its state-based grantmaking in North Carolina and Texas, resulting in this tie-off recommendation.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

\$775,000/ 1 year; renewal, general support (\$300k TIF; 275k D&P; 200k EOF; and possible additional co-funding)

To support the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (LCCREF), a Washington, DC based organization that was established in 1969 to provide public education and research for the national civil rights community. An USP anchor grantee, LCCREF promotes policies that strengthen civil rights advocacy and social justice reform by serving as the 501(c)(3) partner of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a

coalition of more than 200 civil and human rights organizations founded by A. Philip Randolph in 1950. Through its initiatives focused on voting rights enforcement, fair and impartial federal courts, and affirmative action protection, LCCREF works on building an informed public that will be supportive of the nation's growing diversity and pressing civil and human rights issues.

State Fiscal Analysis Initiative

Project support for four state-based organizations, total recommendation of \$525,000

To support the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, based at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a national network of state-based organizations that provide state-level research and policy support around budget, tax, and fiscal issues to advance the interests of low- and moderate-income people. The work of the SFAI groups is particularly significant at a time when so many local, state, and federal budgets are facing dramatic shortfalls and essential services have been (or will soon be) cut. SFAI organizations receive independent support from a collection of foundations, with coordination through CBPP and OSI is recommending support for organizations in Maryland, Louisiana, and North Carolina, with a tie-off grant to the Colorado partner group since Colorado is not a priority state for USP funding. In addition to co-funding with D&P for the Louisiana group, SOF will recommend support for the SFAI in Mississippi, housed at the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, in its October docket.

Colorado Center on Law and Policy	\$150,000/ 2 years; renewal
Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute	\$150,000/ 2 years; new
North Carolina Justice Center	\$150,000/ 2 years; new
Louisiana Budget Project	\$75,000/ 1 year; renewal (funding split with SOF)

Innovative Use of Arts, Culture, and Technology

Two recommendations, \$250,000

Design Studio for Social Intervention

\$50,000/ 1 year; new, general support

To support the Design Studio for Social Intervention (DS4SI), a Boston-based non-profit that borrows methodologies from design practices and implements them in unconventional and innovative ways to build social justice campaigns. DS4SI brings together designers, community activists, performance artists and youth organizers to translate design theory into public interventions.

Highlander Research and Education Center / Zilphia Horton Community Project

\$200,000/ 1 year; new, project grant

To support the Highlander Research and Education Center's Zilphia Horton Community Project that places cultural organizers – individuals with both artistic and community organizing skills – into active advocacy campaigns throughout the south. ZHCP started as a pilot project earlier this year and cultural organizers were placed at Kentuckians for the Commonwealth for a felon voter restoration campaign and Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition for a youth-led campaign for immigrant youth higher education access. ZHCP provides support to both the institution and the cultural work and

Highlander staff engage in community outreach support and provide oversight, evaluation and documentation of the campaigns. The Highlander Center, located in the Appalachian hills of New Market, Tennessee, has served as a center for the civil and human rights movement for more than 75 years.

Building State-Based Power: North Carolina and Texas Capacity Building, Organizing, and Advocacy
Five recommendations, \$350,000

North Carolina

Blueprint North Carolina

\$75,000 / 1 year; new, general support

To support Blueprint North Carolina, a Raleigh, NC based state civic engagement convening “table” with over 50 nonprofits dedicated to improving non-partisan voter participation and advocacy in the state. Started in 2005, Blueprint provides communications, research, coordination, and outreach support to elevate efforts to expand access to health care, raise wages, secure affordable housing, advance a cleaner environment and achieve freedom from discrimination. Blueprint builds the capacity of social justice non-profits so that they can engage in voter participation and more effectively speak and write about progressive ideas and values in this fast-growing and changing southern state. Blueprint NC’s partner organizations are driven by the shared values of justice, equality, responsibility, fairness, community, opportunity, shared prosperity, democracy, and hope.

Center for Participatory Change

\$50,000/ 1 year; new, general support

To support the Center for Participatory Change, an Asheville, NC based and Appalachian identified non-profit focused on supporting community-led, grassroots social justice work in western North Carolina. CPC integrates research, leadership development and regional networking to build the capacity of small grassroots organizations, serving roughly 40 local groups annually with hands on and high quality technical support. CPC’s intentionality on anti-racist, multi-cultural work in a region with a complex racial history – and a fast changing demography in the present day – fosters collaboration among African-American, Latina/o, Native American (primarily Cherokee), and rural white people. These alliances lead to more effective advocacy on social justice issues including environmental justice, affordable housing, and immigrant justice.

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

\$75,000/ 1 year; general support (\$50k SOF; 25k D&P)

To support the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a Durham, NC based organization that was founded in 2007 to provide legal, social science, organizing, and communications support to efforts throughout the south to dismantle structural racism. SCSJ, currently a USP grantee for its Census 2010 work, works closely with grassroots social justice groups in North Carolina and across the south to support immigrant justice, protect minority voting rights, examine “heirs property” rights of long-time landowners

facing developers, and advance criminal justice reform. D&P and SOF will co-fund this recommendation.

Texas

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

\$150,000/ 1 year; new, project grant

To support the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a leading Latino legal civil rights organization for over forty years. MALDEF has its headquarters in Los Angeles and regional offices in Chicago, Sacramento, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C. Its mission is to advance fair treatment of and opportunities for Latinos through advocacy, communications, education, and litigation. This grant would support MALDEF's non-partisan redistricting work in Texas, a Democracy and Power Fund priority state and a key battleground for the 2011 redistricting cycle. Because of the population explosion in Texas, particularly among Latinos and African Americans, Texas is poised to pick up as many as four Congressional seats in reapportionment which will likely lead to heated redistricting battles akin to the prior cycle in 2003. This grant would support organizing, map drawing and eventual litigation in Texas.

Project New West

\$50,000/ 1 year; new, project grant

To support Project New West (PNW), a Denver-based research firm that focuses on the western region of the U.S. PNW conducts groundbreaking research to understand the West, its unique public policy issues and the people who live, work and vote there. The polling, research, analysis, and strategic planning services conducted by PNW provide its subscribers with actionable tools to effectively organize, mobilize and communicate with voters. This grant would provide support for PNW to conduct non-partisan polling and research of Latina/o people in the Rio Grande Valley and Harris County (Houston) regions of Texas. Information gleaned from that research would be disseminated among organizations conducting non-partisan civic engagement efforts in Texas in order to increase Latina/o participation.

D&P Docket III Recommended Grants and Grantees

Grant Recommendation Analysis, Demography, and Equity

Total number of grants recommended:	27
Total general support:	18 (67%)
Total funding recommended:	\$7.84 million
Co-funding from other programs and campaigns:	\$1.395 million*
Number of multi-year grants recommended:	11 (41%)
Number of tie-off recommendations:	3 (11%)
Number of newly recommended grantees:	10 (37% of total recs.)
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as director**:	12 (44% of groups)
Number of grant dollars recommended for people of color led organizations:	\$3.565m (45% of grants)

Number of recommended grantees with women as director**:	11 (41%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for women led organizations:	\$1.490m (19%)
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as director**:	4 (15%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for immigrant led organizations:	\$1.565m (20%)
Number of recommended grantees with openly LGBTQ identified director**:	3 (11%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for LGBTQ led organizations:	\$1.615m (21%)

Geographic Diversity

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

Washington, DC:	7
North Carolina:	4 (2-Raleigh, Asheville, Durham)
California:	4 (3-Oakland, Los Angeles)
New York:	3 (2-Manhattan, Brooklyn)
Colorado:	2 (2-Denver)
Florida:	1 (Miami)
Illinois:	1 (Chicago)
Louisiana:	1 (New Orleans)
Maryland:	1 (Baltimore)
Massachusetts:	1 (Boston)
Mississippi:	1 (Jackson)
Tennessee:	1 (New Market)

* Co-funded grant recommendations for Docket III total \$1.395 million at the time of this memo (August 9, 2010). Co-funding comes from the following sources: Seize the Day Fund (\$550,000); Transparency and Integrity Fund (\$300,000); Equality and Opportunity Fund (\$207,500); Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (\$200,000); Strategic Opportunities Fund (\$87,500); and Campaign for Black Male Achievement (\$50,000).

** 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 monitoring our performance from docket to docket, 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 social justice and a more open society.

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.