

OSF U.S. Democracy and Power Fund
Blurbs for Docket III Grant Recommendations Under Consideration
Docket III: September 19, 2011 (blurbs circulated August 3, 2011)

Note: Twenty-five (25) grant recommendations totaling \$5.625 million are spotlighted within their relevant D&P funding strategy, including two U.S. Programs Anchor Grantee recommendations. The grants are organized by three major categories of funding recommendations: Ideas, Voting, and Engagement. A demographic and equity analysis of recommended grantees may be found at the end of this document. Since D&P is currently short-staffed and in the process of filling a vacant program officer position, a small number of these recommendations may be moved to the October 24 catch-up docket.

Ideas: Innovative Idea and Policy Generation

Center for American Progress – ANCHOR GRANTEE

\$1,000,000/ 2 years (renewal; general support; possible project support to be added by EOF, EOF/NSI, and NSHR)

To support the Center for American Progress (CAP), based in Washington, DC, one of the nation's largest and most influential multi-issue think tanks. Led by John Podesta, Chair of President Obama's transition team and former White House Chief of Staff under President Clinton, CAP has worked since its founding in 2003 to: 1) craft a progressive vision that best reflects the aspirations and goals of the American people; 2) generate and advance policy that realizes this vision; 3) thoughtfully critique conservative proposals and rhetoric; and 4) build a communications network that can help bring the national policy dialogue back into balance. CAP is among the best connected DC-based policy centers, with dozens of staff members who have been or are currently part of the current administration. It has vast staff expertise and a well-developed and high impact communications infrastructure and is a noted convener of organizations working on a broad variety of issues of importance to USP. CAP's priority issues include many open society priorities, including climate change, economic policy, education, health care, housing, immigration, judicial independence, national security and human rights, and structural inequality. It focuses on both domestic and international policies.

Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest

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

To support the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest (CLPI), a Washington, DC-based organization that 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 successfully raised awareness of advocacy-related restrictions on Legal Services Corporation grantees, leading to the loosening of several restrictions. Since 2009, CLPI has worked 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, and it has also been a dedicated advocate for the rights of non-profits to lobby and not have their advocacy voice limited by politically driven regulations.

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

\$500,000/2 years (renewal; general support)

To support the Roosevelt Institute, a New York-based grantee that focuses on the development of paradigm shifting economic policy through research, analysis, idea generation, fellowships and leadership development, and communication strategies. Via its Four Freedoms Center, a think tank for the development and promotion of rigorous, progressive economic policy ideas and values, Roosevelt invests in leaders and ideas inspired by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's legacies brought to the 21st century. Fellows with the Four Freedoms Center include Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Prize winning economist, Rob Johnson from the Institute for New Economic Thinking, Jonathan Soros, and many high level thinkers. The Roosevelt Institute was also an early partner to Harvard Law Professor Elizabeth Warren as she developed her ideas on financial regulatory reform, including her now famous (and controversial) new financial consumer agency to protect consumers and advance big bank accountability. Roosevelt also demonstrates its commitment to developing creative, high impact ideas through cultivating the idea generation capacity of young people via its Campus Network. This unique, student think tank network now has 110 campus-based chapters with more than 10,000 student members. Campus Network members are active in creating policy solutions for and by the Millennial Generation on a wide variety of open society priorities at the local level.

The Leadership Conference Education Fund (fka Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund) – ANCHOR GRANTEE

\$1 million/ 1 year (renewal; general support)

To support the Leadership Conference Education Fund (LCEF), a Washington, DC based multi-issue advocacy organization that was established in 1969 to provide public education and research for the national civil rights community. A USP anchor grantee, LCEF promotes policies that strengthen civil rights advocacy and social justice by serving as the 501(c)(3) partner of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 civil and human rights organizations that was founded in 1950 by noted civil rights and labor leader A. Philip Randolph. Through its initiatives focused on voting rights enforcement, social and economic opportunity, 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.

Progressive States Network

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

To support the Progressive States Network (PSN), a multi-issue, New York City-based idea generation and advocacy intermediary that supports state legislators with background research on progressive public policy. PSN links legislators and state-based advocates to each other across state lines and works in partnership with issue groups, academic experts, think tanks, national advocacy partners, and local grassroots organizations. PSN creates model legislation, fact sheets, and talking points that are distributed to state legislators and legislative aides, raising awareness of state-specific legislative campaigns, and promoting message continuity across states to reinforce open society friendly advocacy messages nationally.

Voting: Expanding Non-Partisan Voter Participation in Key Constituencies

Arab American Institute Foundation

\$150,000/2 years (renewal; general support; possible additional project support from NSHR)

To support the Washington D.C.-based Arab American Institute Foundation (AAIF). AAIF engages in research, educational outreach, coalition building, leadership development and heritage programs to promote the Arab American experience. OSF support helps to fund AAIF's Yalla Vote project, an effective, community-rooted civic education and non-partisan voter participation in several of the largest Arab American communities across the country. Yalla Vote activities promote full engagement by Arab Americans in civic opportunities at the local, state, and national levels.

Democracia-USA (fiscal sponsor: National Council of La Raza)

\$300,000/1 year (renewal; project support)

To support Democracia-USA (D-USA), a Miami-based national organization that advances civic engagement among the nation's fastest growing demographic group by conducting non-partisan voter registration and voter education in Latino communities. It also conducts leadership academies to train and educate local leaders to promote sustained civic engagement to keep Latinos engaged on issues and the American political process beyond elections. Widely recognized in the field as one of the highest quality large scale civic engagement organizations, D-USA has registered more than 100,000 new voters in each of the last two election cycles, including work in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, AND Texas. Previously a fiscally sponsored project of the National Council of La Raza, Democracia-USA has undergone recent transition and is now being more thoroughly integrated into NCLR. This integration – and merger of different but complementary approaches to civic engagement – has great potential to enhance voter participation from the Latino community. With this recommendation, OSF, an anchor Democracia funder, joins with Carnegie Corporation and the Ford Foundation to support a successful integration project and the development of a top notch voter plan for 2012 and beyond that would unite NCLR affiliate's largely direct service-based community interaction with Democracia's field-based approach to engaging voters.

Funders Committee for Civic Participation (fiscal sponsor: Public Interest Projects)

\$100,000/2 years (renewal; project support)

To support the New York City-based Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP), housed at Public Interest Projects. FCCP brings together grantmakers committed to enhancing non-partisan democratic involvement in all dimensions of civic life, including elections, governance, media, and civil society, with a particular emphasis on historically disenfranchised and underrepresented communities. Since the 1980s, FCCP has been a driving force in the donor community – advancing effective voter registration and education, supporting campaign finance reform, and exploring new voting technologies and effective voter engagement strategies. Several USP programs participate in leadership roles within FCCP, including D&P on voter registration, education, and mobilization, and TIF on election administration and money in politics issues. Disclosure: Bill Vandenberg serves as OSF's elected representative on the FCCP Steering Committee.

League of Young Voters Education Fund

\$350-375,000/1 year (renewal; general support, 300k Democracy and Power Fund; 50-75k Campaign for Black Male Achievement)

To support the Brooklyn-based League of Young Voters Education Fund, the non-partisan arm of the League of Young Voters, a national network that builds the political power and leadership skills of young people of color and low-income young people through year-round civic engagement efforts. The League conducts programs that include outreach, leadership development, trainings, arts-based organizing, alliance building, and non-partisan voter engagement with the goal of having young people be a greater force for social justice advancement. 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. Through elections and after elections, the League conducts issue-based advocacy at the local and state levels on youth jobs, policing practices, public investment, educational access, immigrant's rights, and criminal justice reform.

Service Provider and Civic Engagement Project

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

To support the Denver, CO based Service Providers and Civic Engagement Project (SPaCE), an innovative pilot project to conduct state-based experiments and develop best practices for voter engagement among direct service providers and their clients. SPaCE will work in five geographically and demographically diverse states to build service provider voter participation tables and enhance the capacity of providers to reach their community clients with voter education materials and non-partisan voter mobilization. If successful, via its partnership with another D&P grantee, the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, this project can serve to awaken the civic engagement “sleeping giant,” direct service organizations. Such service providers reach millions of American each year and often have a more direct and close connection with their clients than do typical organizing or advocacy groups. Within the voter participation field this is a vastly underdeveloped audience for engagement and impact and SPaCE project findings will help to inform the broader voter participation field and its funders.

Youth Engagement Fund (fiscal sponsor: Tides Foundation)

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

To support the Youth Engagement Fund, a Washington, DC-based national, non-partisan 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 2011, the Fund will support its 25 member organizations with voter data through the use of a joint voter file; develop a coordinated GOTV plan for 2012 in regions across the nation; provide objective and scientific evaluation of the work of the youth sector, and begin to raise funding to re-grant significant funding to partner organizations for the 2012 election cycle. Participating organizations include key youth mobilization organizations in diverse communities, including grantees the Bus Federation, Democracia-USA, Hip Hop Caucus (co-funded with CBMA), League of Young Voters, United States Students Association, and others.

Engagement: Expanding Public Participation in Open Society Advocacy; Addressing Shifting Demography

Action NC

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

To support Action NC, a Raleigh-based multi-issue grassroots membership organization that employs legislative advocacy, community organizing, direct action, and voter participation strategies to advance open society in North Carolina. Action NC's priorities are identified statewide by its multiracial membership and via its Charlotte and Durham chapters. Current issue priorities include better housing conditions for renters, living wages for low-wage workers, affordable health care, financial reform and increased community investment from banks and governments, immigrant's rights, and better public schools. Action NC and current D&P grantee the Texas Organizing Project Education Fund are partner groups within the new Leadership Center for the Common Good network. The organizations work at the local and state levels to expand the advocacy impact of low-income Black and Latino communities.

Air Traffic Control / General Support

\$150,000/2 years (renewal; general support)

To support 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 working on issues of interest to those artists. As their name suggests, ATC provides coordination, capacity, and efficiency for artists to produce stronger relationships between the artist, their fan base, and the social change community. ATC is a trusted partner within the music industry and plays a critical role helping musicians to become effective advocates by providing support for musicians to participate in advocacy. ATC's current issue priorities focus on the green economy & green sustainable touring, immigrant's rights, and post-Katrina New Orleans-based education and activism.

Center for Participatory Change

\$75,000/1 year (renewal; 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 conducts deeply rooted anti-racist, multi-cultural work in a region with a complex racial history – and a fast changing present-day demography – fostering collaboration among African American, Latina/o, Native American (primarily Cherokee), and rural Appalachian white people. These alliances lead to more effective advocacy on local and state level social justice issues, including environmental justice, affordable housing, immigrant's rights, and public investment.

Generational Alliance (fiscal sponsor: Tides Center)

\$100,000 /2 years (renewal; project support; tie-off)

To support the Washington, DC-based Generational Alliance (GA), 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. Members include a number of current Democracy and Power Fund grantees, including the United States Student Association, League of Young Voters, Campus Camp Wellstone, and the Bus Federation, among others. The GA builds the capacity of organizations and leaders by providing a space and the resources for these organizations to map out and align their goals and strategies, share best practices, plan collective

special projects, and develop collective resources. This is a tie-off recommendation due to our inability to identify significant overlap with OSF's priority issues or to discern appropriate impact for our investment.

Hip Hop Caucus

\$150,000/2 years (renewal; general support; co-fund with Campaign for Black Male Achievement, 100k D&P; 50k CBMA)

To support the Hip Hop Caucus, a Washington D.C.-based national organization that utilizes cutting edge and old fashioned outreach strategies – from new media, large scale text messaging campaigns to street teams and barbershop outreach – to inspire non-partisan voter participation and community engagement from the hip hop generation. Since its founding in 2004, HHC's dynamic leadership and effective use of high profile celebrities with street credibility – including performers like rapper T.I. and singer Keyshia Cole – Hip Hop Caucus has grown from 900 people at its founding conference to nearly 700,000 members, an advisory board of 25 Members of Congress, and 48 local chapters nationwide. It leads – with Green for All – the “Green the Block” campaign that links climate change, urban workforce development, and anti-poverty work, with an emphasis on young Black men.

La Union del Pueblo Entero

\$100,000 /1 year (renewal; project support)

To support La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a San Juan, TX-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.

Leadership Center for the Common Good

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

To support the Washington, DC-based Leadership Center for the Common Good (Common Good), a new national multi-issue organization whose mission is to support community engagement efforts to promote increased equity and a government more responsive to the needs of low- and moderate-income people. Common Good provides organizational development, capacity building, policy research, fundraising, and governance expertise to 17 state-based community organizations that work in 45 cities across the nation, including in California, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Texas. Common Good's partner organizations work on local and federal level campaigns, including confronting foreclosures, achieving paid sick days, expanding health care access, big bank accountability, and reforming the No Child Left Behind Act.

NAACP Houston Branch (fiscal sponsor: Tides Center)

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

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 hosted the NAACP's 2012 national conference. Support of the Houston branch will allow it to expand its civic engagement and non-partisan voter engagement work in Harris County, which has recently had the fastest growing African-American population of any county in the nation. OSF support will also support ongoing efforts for police accountability and participation in efforts to establish and adequately fund a public defender's office in Harris County.

NAACP North Carolina State Conference (fiscal sponsor: Tides Center)

\$200,000/2 years (renewal; project support; co-funded by the Equality and Opportunity Fund, 150k D&P, 50k EOF)

To support the North Carolina NAACP State Conference, the second largest state NAACP in the country with more than 100 community, campus, 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, including anti-death penalty work, voter participation, and structural inequality. Under the leadership of Rev William Barber – the preeminent social justice alliance builder in the state and a self-avowed “liberation theologian” – 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.

North Carolina Fair Share

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

To support North Carolina Fair Share, a twenty year old, Raleigh-based membership organization that works, through multi-issue advocacy and community organizing, to build economic and political power for low- and moderate-income North Carolinians. NC Fair Share conducts advocacy on voting rights and campaign finance reform, health access, public transportation, and affordable housing and prioritizes leadership development to improve its members' abilities to participate in public policy on the local, state and national levels. Rare among organizations in the state, Fairshare emphasizes membership building and community-driven advocacy in Eastern North Carolina, the state's poorest region, including in rural and military communities that are often overlooked by open society advocates.

North Carolina Latino Coalition

\$75,000/1 year (renewal; general support)

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. OSF funding would support ongoing staff development and to support diversification of NCLC's funding base, adoption of a membership structure for its partners, and increase board members' governing skills so that the network can more effectively advance the interests of North Carolina's fast growing Latina/o communities.

School for Creative Activism

\$75,000/1 year (renewal; 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 (and USP) grantees. Coming off of two highly successful and well-reviewed sessions with advocates in North Carolina and New York City, SCA will continue their work to 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 cultural organizing portfolio, focused on integrating cultural organizing into broad-based engagement strategies.

Small Donor Development and Diversification Collaborative Fund (fiscal sponsor: New World Foundation)

\$300,000 /1 year (renewal; project support)

To support the Small Donor Development and Diversification Fund (3D), housed at the New York City-based New World Foundation. The 3D joint funding collaborative, initiated by OSI, involves New World, the Stoneman Family Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Veatch Foundation, and a growing community of social justice funders. The 3D Initiative has already provided two years of support to an eight organization learning community on 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 developing replicable models that can be broadly shared among often struggling social justice non-profits. It will also focus on enhancing the organizations' fiscal health and community ownership and accountability while reducing their often unhealthy reliance on unpredictable foundations. The third year plans for the fund includes an additional round of funding to the grantees, convenings, and documentation and dissemination of lessons learned to the broader social justice field.

Working Class White People Research Project (fiscal sponsor: Jewish Funds for Justice)

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

To support a new collaborative project, initiated by the Democracy and Power Fund and Jewish Funds for Justice, to better understand the challenges and opportunities of engaging working class white people in open society advocacy. The project seeks to identify strategies for more effective outreach to, and inclusion and engagement of, working class white people in open society campaigns. The project will conduct and analyze interviews with academic, advocacy, faith, labor, and organizing experts and practitioners; support public opinion research; host convenings; recruit additional donors; and develop demonstration projects that help inform funders and advocates.

D&P Docket III Recommended Grants and Grantees

Grant Recommendation Analysis, Demography, and Equity

Total number of grants recommended:	25
Total general support:	18 (72%)
Total funding recommended:	\$5,625,000
Number of co-funded grant recommendations:	as many as 5 (25%)
Number of multi-year grants recommended:	11 (44%)
Number of tie-off recommendations:	1 (4%)
Number of newly recommended grantees:	5 (20% of total recs.)
Number of recommended grantees with people of color as director*:	10 (40% of groups)
Number of grant dollars recommended for people of color led organizations:	\$2,525,000 (45%)
Number of recommended grantees with women as director*:	12 (48%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for women led organizations:	\$1,525,000 (27%)
Number of recommended grantees with immigrant or first generation American as director*:	4 (16%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for immigrant led organizations:	\$625,000 (11%)
Number of recommended grantees with openly LGBTQ identified director*:	5 (20%)
Number of grant dollars recommended for LGBTQ led organizations:	\$1,050,000 (19%)

Geographic Diversity

The following is where the twenty-five 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:	9
New York:	6 (all NYC)
North Carolina:	5 (3-Raleigh, 1-Asheville, 1-Durham)
Texas:	2 (1-Alamo, 1-Houston)
California:	1 (San Francisco)
Colorado:	1 (Denver)
Florida:	1 (Miami)

* The background or identity of an executive director is only one measure, among many, for identifying an organization's authentic commitment to diversity. Via due diligence in our grant recommendation process, D&P uses this and other measures of assessment to monitor our performance from docket to docket. Through this, we seek to improve our track record of funding high impact organizations that are rooted in, led by, and sensitive to the interests of

communities that have faced and often continue to face the greatest challenges to achieving a more open society.

Circulated by the Democracy and Power Fund. For further information on the recommended grantees, please contact program director, Bill Vandenberg; program officer, Patricia Jerido; or program associates, Nashay Jones and Hedly Nam.