

**U.S. PROGRAMS
 Campaign for a New Drug Policy
 Summary of Recommended Grants
 December 2011**

Program Area/Organization

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant Code</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013-2021</u>
Promoting Alternatives to Punishment-Based Drug Policies Drug Policy Alliance	T1: 21128	49,000,000	10 years	4,000,000	45,000,000 C
	T1: <u>21105</u>	1,000,000	1 year	1,000,000	

Total Recommended: \$ 50,000,000

GRANTMAKING TOTAL THIS DOCKET: \$ 50,000,000

Approval Signature

Date

Amel Veis

1/5/12

**Campaign for a New Drug Policy
Memo**

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Diana Morris, Leonard Noisette, Andrew Ko

Date: December 6, 2011

Re: Drug Policy Alliance – General Support Grant 2012-2021

As you are aware, George Soros has committed \$50 million over ten years to support the work of the Drug Policy Alliance for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2021. This amount includes general support up to \$40,000,000 and project support up to \$10,000,000 to make grants or award contracts to public charities to advance drug policy reform. From this project support grant, DPA will be required to re-grant not less than \$1 million annually throughout the 10-year term of the grant. This grant is made at Mr. Soros' direction, but we have attached a brief write-up for your review and signature to comply with the foundation's grantmaking procedures.

Grant ID: 20033585

Legal Name of Organization: Drug Policy Alliance

Tax Status: 501(c)(3) public charity

Purpose of Grant: to provide general support and a project grant to support its Advocacy Grants Program to fund drug policy reform work by other public charities.

Grant Description: To provide a multi-year renewal grant to the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), which seeks to end punitive drug polices and establish a system that regulates drugs based on sound health policy and respect for civil and human rights. DPA opposes prohibition and zero-tolerance policies and supports a harm reduction approach designed to minimize negative outcomes for drug users and society as a whole. DPA operates at the local, state, and federal levels, often partnering with groups that have a broader advocacy agenda. DPA pursues its work through a combination of direct public policy advocacy, public education and movement building - the latter through its coalition work, biennial conference, and its own grants program. This grant to DPA would advance OSF's interest in ending the criminalization of drug users, promoting polices that effectively address drug economies without increasing incarceration or racial disparities, and expanding access to drug addiction treatment and harm reduction services.

Previous OSI Support: \$55,035,757 U.S. Drug Policy Reform, 2000-2011

Organization Budget: \$10,965,160

Project Budget: \$10,000,000

Major Sources of Support: \$3,439,158 Individual Contributions; \$919,600 Membership Revenue; \$394,509 Earned Income; \$150,000 MAC AIDS Fund; \$150,000 Public Welfare Foundation; \$50,000 Rosenberg Foundation/Fund for Nonviolence; \$309,725 Foundation carryover from 2010 and grants under fifty thousand dollars

Amount Requested: \$50,000,000 (\$40,000,000 general support, \$10,000,000 project support)

Is this a contingent grant? Yes

Amount Recommended: \$50,000,000 from (\$49,000,000 from the Campaign for a New Drug Policy T1: 21128 and, for 2012, \$1,000,000 from Board/Chair's Special Fund T1: 21105)

Term: 10 years (January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2021)

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) formed in July 2000 from a merger of The Lindesmith Center, a drug policy think-tank established as OSI's first U.S. Program in 1994, and the Drug Policy Foundation, a membership and grantmaking organization established in 1987. The merger created an organization able to engage in high-profile advocacy and strategically target support for emerging opportunities for drug policy reform. According to DPA's most recent annual report, the organization awarded approximately \$1.2 million in 2010. Grants ranged between \$10,000 to \$50,000 and were made to more than 50 organizations and projects.

DPA currently has eight offices, 47 staff members, and approximately 26,000 dues-paying members and 125,000 subscribers to its online communications. DPA's departments and state programs include: Advocacy Grants, Communications, Legal Affairs, Office of National Affairs-DC, and State Advocacy Program (national staff and state-based staff in California, Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York).

DPA Core Goals

DPA describes its goals as: (1) reform of the criminal justice system, (2) establishing public health approaches as the primary response to drug use, (3) ending marijuana prohibition and (4) promoting a realistic approach to the use of drugs by young people.

Criminal justice reform - Approximately 500,000 of the more than 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S. are serving sentences for the possession or sale of drugs. In all correctional systems across the country, a highly disproportionate number of racial minorities and poor people are imprisoned in comparison to the general population of drug users and sellers. DPA seeks to decrease the number of people forced into the criminal justice system for drug offenses, reduce the periods of incarceration and eliminate mandatory minimums, and replace punitive drug policy with a health-based regulatory model. Its goals also include eliminating racial disparities in drug law enforcement and reforming parole and probation so that formerly incarcerated people are not returned to prison for technical violations due to drug dependence or subsistence level involvement in the drug economy.

Public health approaches – DPA advocates for harm reduction policies and is a core partner of health focused organizations, such the Harm Reduction Coalition. DPA views the promotion of a public health approach as strategically relevant to achieving if reform goals, but also necessary in preventing many of the potential harms of drug use itself, including the transmission of HIV/AIDS, overdose fatalities, and addiction-related social harms.

Ending marijuana prohibition – DPA views marijuana prohibition as “the heart of the drug war.” While recognizing that people convicted of non-marijuana drug offenses face prison more frequently and for longer periods, DPA points out that there are more than a quarter of a million marijuana arrests in the U.S. each year. These arrests place affected people person at a disadvantage for obtaining employment, housing, and other necessities. DPA also argues that the impact of marijuana arrests falls much more heavily and permanently on poor people and people of color.

Young people and drugs -- DPA addresses the question of drug use by young people though a harm reduction lens. The organization is a mentor and ally to Students for Sensible Drug Policy, which is active on many campuses throughout the U.S. and has a long-established campaign to reduce the harms of drug use by young people.

DPA pursues its work through a number of internal departments, including: a communications department with staff in New York and Berkeley; Office of Legal Affairs in Berkeley; Office of National Affairs in Washington, DC; and state advocacy offices in California, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

DPA has requested \$40,000,000 over ten years for general support, with an additional \$10,000,000 over ten years (not less than \$1 million annually) to make grants or award contracts to public charities to advance drug policy reform. The DPA grants program provides grants up to \$50,000 to drug policy reform groups working on local and/or national reform. These grants prioritize geographic areas where DPA is not working directly and programs that advance a particular issue area. Based on its staff’s evaluation, DPA will often support work that takes a new, untried approach to drug policy work, but that is well thought-out and has a potential to advance reform. Representative examples are the work of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition to engage law enforcement professionals in reform work. More recently, DPA has supported the work of Purpose to explore opportunities for online movement building and a number of small-scale mothers’ organizations that are seeking to collaborate in its drug policy reform efforts. DPA also has a rapid response grantmaking line designed to take advantage of emerging opportunities or crises.

Rationale for Recommendation:

George Soros has directed the foundation to make a grant of \$50 million over ten years (\$5 million annually) to support DPA, based on discussions he has had with DPA Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann. This grant will fund DPA’s work on a national and local level to establish nonpunitive approaches to drug policy that more effectively address the potential health

and social harms associated with drug use. This work will advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's goals of eliminating arrest, incarceration and post-correctional forms of punishment that pervade current drug policy in the U.S. and of establishing a system that promotes, rather than erodes, public health, welfare and safety.

This grant will provide DPA with a stable financial foundation to pursue its reform efforts over the next decade and to raise the level of professionalism and sophistication of its drug policy reform partners in the U.S. Through its biennial conferences, DPA has made it possible for national groups to share experience and expertise, showcasing strategically oriented advocacy, such as the overdose prevention work done by its office in New Mexico and replicated in New York, Washington and other jurisdictions.

DPA and its staff have served in a mentoring capacity to Student for Sensible Drug Policy and other organizations, as well as an ally to the Harm Reduction Coalition, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, the ACLU and its affiliates, local chapters of the NAACP and other civil rights groups that represent people impacted by the war on drugs. On an individual level, DPA's current and former staff members, such as Ethan Nadelmann, Jill Harris, Jasmine Tyler, Bill Piper, Gabriel Sayegh, Deborah Small, and Glenn Backes have had a substantial influence on policy advocates, organizers and executive directors at many other organizations. DPA has also been responsible for diversifying the range of individuals and groups advocating for reform of existing drug policies, including celebrities, such as the late Walter Cronkite and talk show host Montel Williams, and directly engages individuals in the community. As the organization has grown into its leadership role, it has concluded that the success of its work often depends on its willingness, in some contexts, to take a less visible role and help other voices calling for reform to be heard.

Through its direct involvement in states where it maintains offices, DPA is able to coordinate its national and local advocacy to a degree that is often not possible for other national organizations and develop relationships that it is able to leverage in other forums. At this time of heightened opportunity to advance criminal justice reform broadly and drug policy reform specifically, a strong and stable DPA plays a critical role in supporting the network of drug policy reform organizations.

While DPA's dominant role among drug policy reform organizations offers many benefits, there is also a cost. With such a large portion of the resources available for drug policy reform work going to DPA, other organizations – even those that are well run and effective – are often underfunded. The creation of OSF's Campaign for a New Drug Policy is, in part, intended to ameliorate that situation. The requirement that DPA re-grant a substantial portion of this 10-year grant, with at least \$1 million annually designated for grants and contracts awarded by DPA to other charitable organizations to advance drug policy reform, also partially addresses that concern.

For the above-stated reasons, staff of the Campaign for a New Drug Policy recommend a grant of \$50 million over ten years on a contingency basis to the Drug Policy Alliance.