

**U.S. Programs
Equality and Opportunity Fund
Summary of Recommended Grants
Docket I
April 17, 2009**

Equality and Opportunity Fund

2009 Approved Grantmaking Budget	\$ 7,500,000
2009 Docket I Grantmaking	<u>\$ (2,075,000)</u>
Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:	\$ 5,525,000

<u>Priority Area/Organization</u>	<u>Grants Totals</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Racial Justice Initiative (24431)			
Native American Rights Fund	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Citizens' Planning and Housing Association of Baltimore	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -
African American Policy Forum	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Jamestown Project	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Total Recommended:	\$ 825,000	\$ 725,000	\$ 100,000
Immigrants' Rights (24434)			
Immigrant Legal Resource Center ¹	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Let's Breakthrough, Inc. ²	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Total Recommended:	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
LGBT Rights (24432)			
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, Inc.	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ -
National Black Justice Coalition	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
National Center for Lesbian Rights	\$ 150,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
National Center for Transgender Equality	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation ³	\$ 175,000	\$ 87,500	\$ 87,500
Transgender Law Center	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Total Recommended:	\$ 950,000	\$ 587,500	\$ 362,500
GRANTMAKING TOTAL THIS DOCKET:	\$ 2,075,000	\$ 1,462,500	\$ 612,500

EOF Targeted Initiative: Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

2009 Approved Grantmaking Budget	\$ 5,942,785
2009 NSI Contribution to Approved Grants Co-Funded with D&P and SDF ⁴	\$ (150,000)
2009 Docket I Grantmaking	<u>\$ (1,560,000)</u>
Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:	\$ 4,232,785

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (21083)

Local Initiatives Support Corporation	\$ 560,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 280,000
National Community Stabilization Trust	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
National Consumer Law Center	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -
National Housing Law Project	\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -
The Urban Institute	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ -
Total Recommended:	\$ 1,560,000	\$ 1,130,000	\$ 430,000


EOF Targeted Initiative: Campaign for Black Male Achievement

2009 Approved Grantmaking Budget	\$ 3,000,000
2009 Docket I Grantmaking	<u>\$ (800,000)</u>
Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:	\$ 2,200,000

Campaign for Black Male Achievement (21098)

Center for Urban Families, Inc.	\$ 600,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Young People's Project ⁵	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Total Recommended:	\$ 800,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000

TOTAL EOF GRANTMAKING THIS DOCKET (Including NSI and CBMA): \$ 4,435,000


Approval/Signature

April 17, 2009
Date

¹ Immigrant Legal Resource Center: Total grant is \$400,000; Immigrants' Rights (24434) will contribute \$200,000 and the Criminal Justice Fund (24420) will contribute \$200,000, as approved in the CJF Docket I on March 20th, 2009.

² Let's Breakthrough, Inc.: Total grant is \$300,000; Immigrants' Rights (24434) will contribute \$100,000, Strategic Opportunities Fund (21080) will contribute \$100,000, and National Security and Human Rights (21095) will contribute \$100,000, as approved in the NSHR Docket I on March 20th, 2009.

³ National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation: Total grant is \$355,000; LGBT (24432) will contribute \$175,000, and the Seize the Day Fund (21079) will contribute \$180,000.

⁴ Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative will contribute a total of \$150,000 to two previously approved grants: (1) National Training and Information Center, split among the Democracy and Power Fund (21091) - \$300,000, Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (21083) - \$100,000, and Seize the Day (21079) - \$200,000; and (2) the Pacific Institute for Community Organizations dba PICO National Network, split among the Democracy and Power Fund (21091) - \$300,000, Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (21083) - \$50,000, and Seize the Day (21079) - \$250,000.

⁵ Young People's Project: Total grant is \$400,000; Campaign for Black Male Achievement (21098) will contribute \$200,000, and the Democracy and Power Fund (21091) will contribute \$200,000, as approved in the D&P Docket I on March 20th, 2009.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson; Raquiba LaBrie; and EOF Staff
DATE: April 10, 2009
RE: EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND DOCKET I

The Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) embraces US Programs' grantmaking in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and women's rights. It also includes the work of two targeted initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI) and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA).

Attached please find the EOF grant recommendations for Docket I of 2009.

Racial Justice

In the past, U.S. Programs' racial justice grantmaking has focused heavily on supporting academic scholarship and advocacy research outlining why a structural lens is appropriate to analyze the cumulative effects of racism in the U.S. This approach has born fruit—there is increasing evidence that a range of advocates OSI supports and fellow funders are adopting a structural analysis of barriers to equality and opportunity. Building from this success, EOF is planning to scale back our support of academic research and analysis in this area and to devote more resources to advocacy that directly challenges structural inequality.

In this docket, we are funding three groups that rely principally on litigation to challenge structural racism. In future dockets, we plan to increase support for grassroots organizing that challenges knotty structural issues.

The recommended grant to the **Native American Rights Fund**, a core EOF grantee, will provide general operating support to strengthen its litigation and broader field coordination efforts in defending tribal sovereignty and other Indian rights. The recommended grant to the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights** will support its ongoing work in defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). For the past two years, the Lawyers' Committee has represented the defendants in *North Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Gonzales*, which challenges the constitutionality of the VRA requirement that certain jurisdictions obtain federal pre-clearance before implementing changes to voting procedures. This case is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral argument is scheduled for April 29, 2009, with a decision expected in June 2009.

Residential segregation is a thread that runs through much of our racial justice grantmaking. Staff is planning to deepen our grantmaking related to segregation in the contexts of housing and schools. In the current docket, we recommend renewed support to the **Citizens' Planning and Housing Association of Baltimore (CPHA)**, to continue its work related to *Thompson v. HUD*, a lawsuit filed by the Maryland ACLU in 1995 that seeks to remedy over seven decades of public housing segregation in Baltimore. U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Garbis is expected to decide the remedy phase of this case this year. With renewed support, CPHA will coordinate advocacy, enforcement and communications efforts that stem from the case.

The remaining racial justice grants to two think tanks – the **African American Policy Forum (AAPF)** and **Jamestown Project (Jamestown)** – are terminal. As mentioned above, EOF plans to scale back its funding of university-based think tanks and free up resources to support direct advocacy. While the work of both AAPF and Jamestown is important in shaping public debate on racial justice and broader social justice concerns, staff has communicated to each that we do not plan to renew their grants next year.

Immigrant Rights

All of EOF's immigrant rights grantmaking in this docket intersect with the priorities of other U.S. Programs funds or campaigns. The recommended grant to the **Immigrant Legal Resource Center** is a joint grant with the Criminal Justice Fund to support the Defending Immigrants Partnership to prevent the deportation of low-income non-citizens accused of crimes by providing defense counsel with the training, resources, and tools needed to defend them against the immigration law consequences of a criminal conviction. The recommended grant to **Breakthrough** will be split equally among EOF, the National Security and Human Rights Campaign and the Strategic Opportunities Fund. Led by a strong staff including Mallika Dutt, Breakthrough has emerged as a national and international leader in the use of new media and popular culture to advance social change.

LGBTQ Rights

The recommended line-up of grants advancing LGBTQ rights is directly responsive to the U.S. Programs Board's request that we increase our investment in efforts to protect and defend the rights of the most marginalized groups within the LGBTQ community. To varying degrees, each recommended grant in the LGBTQ docket addresses the particular concerns of LGBTQ people of color or transgender people.

The recommended grant to the **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice** will support its re-granting to LGBTQ groups with limited access to traditional sources of funding, particularly people of color-led groups. The grant to **Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues** will support for its Racial Equity Campaign to offer matching grants to LGBTQ public foundations and community foundations with LGBTQ field of interest funds to strengthen the capacity and leadership development of LGBTQ people of color organizations. With renewed general operating support, the **National Center for Lesbian Rights** will continue its first-rate legal advocacy in advancing LGBTQ civil rights with some targeted attention to LGBTQ immigrants, LGBTQ people who are incarcerated, and transgender people. The **National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)** and the **Transgender Law Center (TLC)** are both recommended for renewed general support. NCTE has distinguished itself as an effective collaborator across group and issue lines with its work on identity documents that implicate the privacy rights not only of transgender people, but immigrants as well. TLC is a California statewide legal advocacy group that focuses on the overwhelming discrimination that transgender people face in virtually every institutional context.

A general support grant to the **National Black Justice Coalition** will strengthen its ongoing efforts to increase the visibility and political engagement of openly gay African Americans on civil rights issues. Staff will explore connections between the work of NBJC and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

The recommended grant to the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** advances the EOF goals of strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights as well as the Seize the Day Fund's goals of addressing the most challenging public policy issues at the federal level. With a combination of general operating support and project support, the Task Force will continue to provide staffing, financial support and expertise to support local and state policy advocacy campaigns. It will also work with national coalition partners to develop action plans focused on federal policy changes that are low-hanging fruit and can be accomplished by rule or regulation.

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

Over the past several months, NSI staff has explored creative connections between our work addressing the local repercussions of the foreclosure crisis and other U.S. Programs grantmaking areas, such as the Criminal Justice Fund's efforts to eliminate employment barriers faced by formerly incarcerated people and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's emerging focus on creating sustainable employment opportunities for black males. In particular, we have been exploring opportunities to partner with prison reentry programs to employ formerly incarcerated individuals in neighborhood public improvement and property rehabilitation efforts in areas with high concentrations of foreclosures.

In late 2008, NSI provided a matching grant to the **Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN)** for a demonstration project that will use a transitional employment model to prevent deterioration in Jamaica, Queens, a neighborhood with high rates of foreclosure. In this docket, we recommend a grant that builds on the work of the Queens pilot. The proposed grant to the **Local Initiatives Support Corporation** will support the design and launch of workforce development programs in neighborhoods with concentrated numbers of foreclosures in Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Los Angeles. The ultimate goal is to cull best practices to benefit communities across the country.

As the mortgage and foreclosure crisis has unfolded, a pressing need has emerged to address the unprecedented volume of bank-owned foreclosed properties. The **National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST)** was formed by four leading housing and community development intermediaries to address this very issue. NSI's recommended general support grant to NCST will support its efforts to coordinate the transfer of foreclosed and abandoned properties from financial institutions to local housing organizations in order to facilitate the productive reuse of property and the stabilization of distressed neighborhoods.

Another problem that has evaded easy answers in the current foreclosure crisis is the pervasive refusal of mortgage holders and services to modify unsustainable mortgages. NSI's recommended grant to the **National Consumer Law Center (NCLC)** will respond to one dimension of this problem by promoting the use of effective mediation procedures in mortgage foreclosure cases and documenting effective loan modification models.

The recommended grant to the **National Housing Law Project (NLHLP)** will protect the rights of one of the most vulnerable populations impacted by the foreclosure crisis – renters. Renters displaced by foreclosure are more likely to be low-income households and families of color. NLHLP will advocate for expanded protections to prevent displacement of renters. It will also advise advocates on the most effective strategies for using federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds. Recognizing the crisis is also driving dramatic increases in homelessness around the country, staff recommends a grant to the **National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty** to advocate for the expansion and replication of model homeless prevention programs.

Finally, the recommended grant to the **Urban Institute** will support empirical research on the impacts of foreclosures on children and families by linking property-level foreclosure data to public school data in Baltimore, New York City, and Washington, D.C. To date, there has been no systematic research quantifying the negative consequences of foreclosure specifically for children. The Urban Institute findings will not only highlight the needs for services for these children and their families, but also allow policy makers to make more informed decisions.

Campaign for Black Male Achievement

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) has two important grants on this docket. The first is to the **Center for Urban Families (the Center)** in Baltimore. The Center proposes to implement the *Advancing Responsible Fatherhood Initiative*, a joint effort between the Center, the Columbia University Center for Research on Fathers, Children and Family Well-Being, and the National Fatherhood Leaders Group (NFLG). Using the Center's Baltimore-focused work as a laboratory for testing best practices in responsible fatherhood programming, the Columbia partner will conduct empirical analysis of outcomes for participants in the Center's programs. NFLG will disseminate the research findings to relevant social service providers, policy advocacy groups, and government agencies. OSI funding will also support the Center's national advocacy on policy issues related to the responsible fatherhood movement.

The second grant provides CBMA with an opportunity to partner with the Democracy and Power Fund to support the **Young People's Project (YPP)**. Founded in Mississippi as an outgrowth of the Algebra Project, YPP is now a national organization with programs in ten states. OSI funding will support the development of a Mississippi statewide network of math literacy workers and youth organizers with a particular focus on improving educational outcomes and leadership development of black males.

We look forward to meeting with you on April 17 to discuss the docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

**EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND
CORE PRIORITY GRANTS**

Name of Organization: Native American Rights Fund

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$375,000
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$50,000 (2004-5)
Racial Justice Initiative: \$100,000 (2004-5); \$75,000 (2006-7);
\$75,000 (2007-8); \$75,000 (2008-9)

Organizational Budget: \$6,945,874

Project Budget: N/A

Sources of Support: \$400,000, Ford Foundation; \$20,000, Panaphil Foundation; \$15,000, Aria Foundation; \$250,000 Mashantucket Pequot; \$15,000, Bureau of Indian Affairs; \$794,000, Individual Contributions; \$667,000, Membership Fee Income

Amount Requested: \$300,000 over three years

Amount Recommended: \$200,000 over two years

Term: Two years, beginning July 1, 2009

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Founded in 1970, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) has been the premier organization defending and promoting the legal rights of Indian people. NARF represents over 200 tribes in 31 states and has established five priorities of engagement: (1) the preservation of tribal existence, jurisdiction, and sovereignty; (2) the protection of tribal natural resources including rights to hunting and fishing; land rights, and access to clean water; (3) the promotion of human rights for indigenous peoples throughout the world; (4) the accountability of governments to Native Americans; and (5) the furthering of Indian Law and public education on Indian issues. Executive Director, John Echohawk, has led the organization since 1977. Its thirteen-member board of directors is composed entirely of Native Americans.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

NARF requests general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

NARF's proposed work advances EOF's commitment to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life. It also advances EOF's specific goal of challenging structural racism and exclusion.

Today many of the most critical battles affecting Native American rights are being fought in the courtroom. The ongoing challenge for groups such as NARF is that many judges lack an understanding of the fundamental principles underlying federal Indian law and are unfamiliar with the practical challenges facing tribal governments. In recent years, the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts have increasingly departed from established principles of Indian Law and gradually chipped away at bedrock principles of tribal sovereignty.

In response to increasing threats to tribal sovereignty, NARF has strengthened its partnership with other field advocates to coordinate advocacy on tribal sovereignty and other Indian rights issues. In the coming year, NARF will continue its work with the National Congress of American Indians on the Tribal Supreme Court Project. The Project actively monitors cases headed for the Supreme Court, and organizes, coordinates and contributes to a nationwide Indian amicus brief writing network. By bringing together experienced Indian law practitioners and scholars to develop a coordinated amicus brief writing strategy in each case, and by assisting the parties, the Project maintains a level of quality control over major cases going before the Court.

In addition to the Tribal Supreme Court Project, NARF manages a robust docket of cases it litigates independently and with partners such as the ACLU and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. It is active in United Nations and Organization of American States forums on the rights of indigenous peoples. Its National Indian Law Library and Indian Law Bulletins serve advocates across the country and play a vital role in educating the general public on Indian rights.

NARF has an impressive track record and high standing among the hundreds of tribes and tribal organizations that seek its counsel on the most pressing issues affecting Native Americans. Its depth and breadth of expertise on Native American rights is unparalleled. Staff recommends a two-year general support grant in the amount of \$200,000. Although NARF requested a three-year grant, for budgetary reasons we are limiting the recommendation to two years. This decision in no way reflects on the merits of NARF's proposal.

Name of Organization: Citizens' Planning and Housing Association of Baltimore

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

Purpose of Grant: To support litigation of the *Thompson v. HUD*, strategic communications, and coordination for members of the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign

Previous OSI Support: \$2,261,000
 OSI-B/Workforce and Development: \$125,000 (1998-9);
 \$250,000 (2000-2); \$250,000 (2002-4); \$275,000 (2003-5)
 OSI-B/Drug Addiction Treatment Program: \$220,000 (2001-3);
 \$270,000 (2003-5); \$175,000 (2005-7); \$261,000 (2006-8)
 OSI-B/Special Opportunities: \$50,000 (2004-5)
 Racial Justice Initiative: \$150,000 (2005-6); \$160,000 (2007-8);
 \$200,000 (2008)

Organizational Budget: \$1,369,000

Project Budget: \$220,000

Sources of Support: Annie E. Casey Foundation

Amount Requested: \$220,000

Amount Recommended: \$200,000

Term: One year, beginning January 1, 2009

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Since 1941, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association (CPHA) has been working to improve the quality of life for Baltimore through grassroots mobilization and advocacy, from the neighborhood to the regional level. CPHA has been a frontline organizer in the Baltimore metropolitan region and has tackled complex social issues including transportation policy, housing, and drug policy. CPHA is the coordinating organization and fiscal agent for the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign (the Campaign) involved in the *Thompson v. HUD* case and the litigation, advocacy, enforcement and communications efforts that stem from the case. *Thompson v. HUD* began in 1995, when the ACLU of Maryland sued on behalf of over 14,000 public housing families in Baltimore City. The goal was to remedy over *seven* decades of institutional racial segregation by HUD, Baltimore City and its Public Housing Authority. In 1996, working with the Cisneros Administration at HUD, the ACLU obtained a partial consent decree that would allow 3,000 families to move to non-segregated areas of the Baltimore region, many of them outside the city. To date, the number of families who have moved to communities of opportunity is over

1200. In July 2006, U.S. District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis heard final arguments for the *Thompson* remedy phase and is expected to hand down his decision in 2009.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

On behalf of the Campaign, CPHA seeks renewed project support to do the following:

Successfully Litigate *Thompson* in 2009

As noted above, Judge Garbis has not yet handed down his decision on the *Thompson* remedy. With new officials at HUD, CPHA expects that Judge Garbis may ask the ACLU and HUD to engage in settlement negotiations before releasing his remedy. Although settlement negotiations will prolong the process, they offer the opportunity to craft a remedy that will not only address institutional racial bias in Baltimore regional housing policies, but also signal the potential for shifts in federal policy.

In 2009, the ACLU will continue to enforce families' rights under the 1996 partial consent decree to ensure that promises to public housing families are met and to monitor creation of new housing opportunities with a specific focus on ensuring that families who choose to use mobility vouchers get them.

Conduct Policy Advocacy to Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

There are three areas in which the Campaign will partner with environmental and smart growth advocates to challenge government's inadequate response to the shortage of affordable housing in the Baltimore metropolitan area. They are: (1) advocating for the equitable administration of federal neighborhood stabilization funds under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008; (2) ensuring that Maryland Smart Growth initiatives require local or state planning for affordable housing; and (3) advancing a proposed one-to-one replacement policy for demolished public housing and developing a financing plan to support creation of replacement housing for public housing families.

Implement A Communications Strategy To Promote Regional Housing Opportunity

Recognizing that there will inevitably be opposition to a *Thompson* remedy, the Campaign is continuing to refine its communications strategy. The Campaign will build on the messaging and framing work conducted last year with OSI support. The communications research revealed that broader resonance is achieved when housing issues are framed in terms of the marketplace – supply and demand – to which everyone can relate, as opposed to the specific needs of poor people of color for affordable housing.

OSI communications staff plans to work with the Campaign in the coming year as it seeks to recruit credible messengers and provide media training to suburban clergy and residents of the receiving communities, similar to that already provided to *Thompson* clients. Once the decision is released, the Campaign will undertake a number of activities, including meeting with key press contacts and editorial boards, meeting with key county administration officials and staff of the

Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign, and developing announcements to be read at church services.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The recommended grant to support the work of the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign advances a number of core EOF priorities. It challenges the historic and cumulative effects of institutional policies and practices that have contributed to the exclusion of people of color and poor people from adequate, affordable housing and from broader opportunities. It also supports efforts that focus on the shared values that bind individuals and communities together by highlighting the ways in which all members of society are affected by the housing situation.

There is a growing body of contemporary research that addresses the rising societal costs of segregation. Social scientists and legal scholars, including Peter Dreier, Margery Austin Turner, John Powell, Ingrid Gould Ellen, and James Carr, make the well-established argument that residents of racially segregated, high-poverty neighborhoods are isolated from job opportunities, go to bad schools, suffer from unhealthy environments, and pay relatively high grocery prices. Such factors have strong influences on individual life chances. Many studies show that people vote with their feet by leaving such places when they can. However, the stark reality is that the overwhelming majority of central city residents do not have the resources to move to places that offer better opportunities. *Thompson* holds government accountable by forcing it to provide these residents with greater options.

Many around the country are awaiting the *Thompson* remedy, mindful of its potential to become a national model for redressing government's role in perpetuating racial and economic segregation by creating access to opportunity for low-income communities of color that have historically been excluded from meaningful economic and political opportunity. Continued OSI support for the Campaign will help with implementation of the remedy and support needed ongoing advocacy to ensure government accountability. Accordingly, staff recommends a renewed project support grant in the amount of \$200,000.

Name of Organization: Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

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

Purpose of Grant: To support litigation and public education related to Voting Right Act protections

Previous OSI Support: \$1,229,000
L&S/Access to Legal Counsel: \$80,000 (2000-1)
L&S/Judicial Independence: \$255,000 (1998-2000); \$75,000 (2000-1)
L&S/Legal Profession: \$106,000 (2000-1)
U.S. Justice Fund/Independence of the Judiciary: \$75,000 (2002-3); \$60,000 (2002-3); \$28,000 (2005)
The After Prison Initiative: \$100,000 (2004)
Racial Justice Initiative: \$150,000 (2005-6); \$150,000 (2008-9)
Progressive Infrastructure: \$150,000 (2007-8)

Organizational Budget: \$6,305,100

Project Budget: \$1,245,100

Sources of Support: \$495,000, Ford Foundation; \$250,000, Carnegie Corporation; \$55,000, Newman's Own; \$50,000, Mitchell Kapur Foundation; \$50,000, Rockefeller Family Foundation; \$50,000, Wallace Global Fund; \$50,000, Rosenberg Foundation; \$50,000, Rockefeller Brothers Foundation; \$50,000, DLA Piper; \$50,000, Citigroup Foundation; \$45,000, Z.Smith Reynolds Foundation; \$35,000, FB Heron Foundation; \$25,000, Bank of America Foundation; \$25,000 Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation

Amount Requested: \$150,000

Amount Recommended: \$50,000

Term: One year, beginning April 1, 2009

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Founded in 1963 upon the request of President John F. Kennedy, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (the Lawyers' Committee) was formed to strategically engage and mobilize the private bar to provide legal services to address racial discrimination and defend fundamental civil rights protections. The organization represents racial and ethnic minorities and

women in the courts by: (1) advocating strong enforcement of civil rights laws before administrative bodies; (2) working in coalition with other public interest agencies; and (3) educating the general public about pressing civil rights issues.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

The Lawyers' Committee requests renewed project support in the amount of \$150,000 to conduct the following activities under its Voting Rights Project.

Defending the Constitutionality and Vitality of the Voting Rights Act

The Lawyers' Committee is at the center of pending litigation in the Supreme Court case, *North Austin Municipal Utility District No.1 v. Gonzales* ("NAMUDNOI"), which challenges the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA).¹ The Lawyers' Committee and *pro bono* co-counsel, WilmerHale, represent the Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches and the Austin Branch of the NAACP as defendant-interveners. They submitted the NAACP's brief on March 18, 2009. Oral argument is scheduled for April 29, 2009, with a decision expected in June 2009.

If the plaintiffs prevail and Section 5 of the VRA is declared unconstitutional, the Lawyers' Committee will begin work on an analysis of the opinion to determine alternate strategies for addressing the continuing voting rights problems faced by minorities. It will publish a research paper and circulate findings to civil rights and civic engagement advocates and policy makers.

In addition to its work in *NAMUDNOI*, the Lawyers' Committee has a substantial docket of voting rights cases, including vote dilution cases under Section 2 and other actions to enforce Section 5 when covered jurisdictions attempt to implement voting changes without federal pre-clearance.

Educating Voters and the Public about Voting Rights Issues

In the next year, the Lawyers' Committee plans to focus on promoting awareness of Section 5 protections and the Section 203 minority language provisions of the VRA. Under Section 203, jurisdictions are required to provide voting materials in a language other than English if there are more than 10,000 or over 5 percent of the total voting age citizens in a single political subdivision who are members of a single minority language group, have depressed literacy rates, and limited English proficiency as a group. The Lawyers' Committee will enhance the Voting Rights Project section of the Lawyers' Committee's website with materials to educate voters about Sections 5 and 203, including:

- A practical guide to understanding and applying Sections 5 and 203 with instructions on how citizens and attorneys can advocate for voting rights minorities to apply its provisions;
- Letters developed by civic engagement and civil rights organizations objecting to Section 5 pre-clearance requests;
- Objection letters issued by the Department of Justice;

¹ Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act requires that jurisdictions in all or part of 16 states obtain prior approval, or "pre-clearance," from either the U.S. Department of Justice or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia before implementing any new qualifications, prerequisites, standards, practices or procedures related to voting.

- A searchable database of pre-clearance requests going back to 1998; and
- Information concerning jurisdictions covered by Section 5 and when they had observer coverage, dating back to 1965.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Lawyers' Committee's proposed work advances EOF's commitment to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life. It also advances EOF's specific goal of demonstrating the shared stake that multiple constituencies have in challenging structural racism and inequality. Finally, the grant advances the goal of the Transparency and Integrity Fund to ensure the integrity of our election systems.

Despite the achievements of the civil rights movement and the progress made during the last four decades in minority registration and voting, as well as the inclusion of language minority citizens in the democratic process, there is no question that barriers to equal minority voter participation persist. Recognizing that the franchise is central to our individual and collective ability to impact public policy, EOF staff believes it is important to fund The Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project. With OSI's support, it has helped to implement the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act, developed the single largest record documenting the ongoing need for the protective provisions of the VRA, and been vigilant in defending its protections.

The former Racial Justice Initiative began funding the Lawyers' Committee's research and outreach during the Voting Rights Act reauthorization process. EOF staff eagerly awaits the Court's decision in *NAMUDNO1* – the centerpiece of the Lawyers' Committee's VRA advocacy. Depending on the outcome of that case, we may choose to scale back funding of this work as we refine our racial justice and broader EOF priorities. At this time, staff recommends a renewal project support grant in the amount of \$150,000 over one year.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	African American Policy Forum
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501 (c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	to provide general support
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	Racial Justice Initiative: \$100,000 (2007-8)
<u>Organizational Budget:</u>	\$634,984
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$75,000
<u>Sources of Support:</u>	\$163,600, Aspen Institute; \$96,000 total, The Dream Fund; \$25,000, Cordaid; \$10,000, Minnesota Dream Fund; \$1,500, Harvard Ash Institute; \$1,284, Omega Institute
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$200,000 over 1 year
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$75,000 over 1 year
<u>Term:</u>	One year, beginning January 1, 2009
<u>Matching Requirements:</u>	None

Description of Organization

Established in 1996, the African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is a civil rights think tank that operates as a strategic intermediary connecting the civil rights advocacy field to policy-making sectors and academia. Led by renowned civil rights scholar and advocate Kimberle Crenshaw, AAPF brings diverse actors from various social justice fields to develop concrete strategies for addressing the intersectionality of class, race and gender discrimination and exclusion.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

AAPF requests general support.

Rationale for Recommendation

AAPF’s proposed work advances EOF’s commitment to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life. It also advances EOF’s specific goal of demonstrating the shared stake that multiple constituencies have in challenging structural racism and inequality.

Twenty years ago AAPF Executive Director Kimberle Crenshaw coined the term “intersectionality” in a law review article examining *Degraffenreid v. General Motors*, a case in which African American women sued the automaker for race and gender discrimination in employment. The case was

dismissed because neither white women nor African American men were similarly excluded from employment opportunities at GM. Ultimately, the trial court saw race and gender discrimination as group-based and exclusive, not overlapping.

Since Crenshaw published her first article on intersectionality, the concept has gained considerable momentum and a host of interpretations. According to Crenshaw, the concept is a “prism from which to view a range of social problems to better ensure inclusiveness of remedies, and to identify opportunities for greater collaboration between and across social movements.” EOF considers Crenshaw and AAPF to be strategic leaders and thought partners in highlighting how siloed movements such as immigrant rights, racial justice, women’s rights, and LGBTQ rights can be productively integrated to advance a shared fate agenda. Our current focus on intersectionality builds on the work of Crenshaw and AAPF.

With renewed OSI support, AAPF will launch its new Intersectionality Forum. The Forum will publish materials and sponsor convenings that highlight best practices in intersectional policy making, campaign development, and organizing. It is modeled after AAPF’s past work on affirmative action and structural racism. In partnership with the ACLU, AAPF assisted Michigan equity groups working to build support for affirmative action by supplying legal and policy research, and training advocates on message development, public education, and media outreach. AAPF also served as the principal facilitator of the Aspen Institute’s Roundtable on Racial Equity and Youth Leadership. AAPF developed and facilitated workshops for civic leaders to provide a comprehensive understanding of how race and racism impact youth. The workshops provided tools and benchmarks on how to incorporate racial equity standards into government programs for children and families in poor communities of color.

Staff recommends a one-year renewal grant of \$75,000 to AAPF. We have communicated to AAPF that we do not plan to renew their grant next year. EOF is attempting to create space to fund grassroots and other advocates that are putting the theories developed by AAPF into practice. To free up funds for direct advocacy, we plan to tie off a number of university-based think tanks currently supported through the Racial Justice portfolio.

Name of Organization: Jamestown Project

Tax Status: 501(c)3 public charity

Purpose of Grant: to provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$420,000
Racial Justice Initiative: \$100,000 (2005-6); \$75,000 (2006-7);
\$25,000 (2007-8); \$200,000 (2008-9)
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$20,000 (2006-7)

Organizational Budget: \$700,000

Project Budget: N/A

Sources of Support: \$100,000, Kellogg Foundation; \$75,000, William Graustein;
\$50,000, Marguerite Casey Foundation; \$75,000, Wallace Global
Fund; \$50,000, Carnegie; \$150,000, Harvard University (in-kind
compensation)

Amount Requested: \$200,000

Amount Recommended: \$200,000

Term: One year, beginning April 1, 2009

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Founded in 2005, the Jamestown Project (Jamestown) is a think tank based at the Harvard School of Law and dedicated to improving the quantity and quality of democratic participation by advancing diverse new voices in the public discourse on issues of national importance. The mission of Jamestown is to create, articulate, promote, and implement new ideas for enriching American democracy. Its cadre of Jamestown Fellows are public intellectuals of color who over the past year have been engaged in a wide array of issues including: democratic participation; morality and ethics; bioethics and technology; criminal justice; racial and social justice; and national security and militarism.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

Jamestown requests renewed general support funding.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Jamestown's proposed work advances EOF's interest in supporting efforts to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life. It also advances the goal of the Democracy and Power Fund in supporting organizations that engage critical constituencies, nurture new leaders, and generate innovative ideas and solutions that address threats to democracy.

In 2008, Jamestown experienced considerable growth and increased visibility. The year's work was dominated by a series of events and developments linked to its Engage and Debate 2008 initiative. As part of this initiative, Jamestown established the Democracy Spot, a blog on its website for fellows, staff and others to write on issues related to its mission. Jamestown contributed to the third installment in Tavis Smiley's book series titled, *Accountable: Making America as Good as Its Promise*. In September 2008, Jamestown President Stephanie Robinson was named political commentator on the Tom Joyner Morning Radio Show, where she reaches as many as 10 million primarily African American listeners.

In 2009, Jamestown will continue to focus its work on its stated priorities of developing new leaders, empowering citizen voices, supporting critical thinking, and building a bridge between diverse constituencies. It has a number of specific goals for 2009 related to enhancing its fellowship program, continuing community conversations, and advancing the use of storytelling to create common cause across different constituencies.

Jamestown will continue to work with best-selling author and Hip Hop activist, Bakari Kitwana, in holding a series of community conversations responding to the question, "Is America Really Post-Racial?"

It will also continue its effort, *Storytelling – Building Bridges and Bonds between Communities of Color*. This effort brings together communities of African Americans and Latinos to share experiences of racial inequity through storytelling. In its initial phase, the project has shown the power of storytelling to; 1) attract audiences who reject traditional techniques of political engagement, such as town hall meetings; 2) bridge generations; 3) lead to a new way of forming policy recommendations that derive from shared values.

Staff recommends a one-year renewal grant of \$200,000 to Jamestown Project. EOF will contribute \$150,000 and D&P will contribute \$50,000. EOF and D&P staff have communicated to Jamestown that we do not plan to renew their grant next year. EOF is attempting to create space to fund grassroots and other advocates. To free up funds for direct advocacy, we plan to tie off a number of university-based think tanks currently supported through the racial justice portfolio. D&P is also seeking to scale back its funding of think tanks generally.

Name of Organization: Immigrant Legal Resource Center

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

Purpose of Grant: To support the Defending Immigrants Partnership, which works to prevent the needless deportation of low-income non-citizens accused of crimes by providing defense counsel with the training, resources, and tools needed to defend them against the immigration law consequences of a criminal conviction

Previous OSI Support: \$2,222,000
Emma Lazarus Fund – Direct Services: \$500,000 (1997-8)
Emma Lazarus Fund – Advocacy and Policy: \$75,000 (1997-8); \$200,000 (1999-9)
USP General Grants: \$50,000 (2001-2); \$100,000 (2002-3)
Gideon: \$100,000 (2002-3); \$100,000 (2003-5); \$200,000 (2005-6); \$210,000 (2007-8)
Immigrant Rights: \$100,000 (2003-5); \$125,000 (2004-6); \$200,000 (2005-6); \$210,000 (2007-8)
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$50,000 (2006-7)

Organizational Budget: \$2,175,853

Project Budget: \$430,000

Sources of Support: \$30,000, Defending Immigrants Partners

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Amount Recommended: \$400,000 (\$200,000 from Criminal Justice Fund, T1: 24420; and \$200,000 from Immigrant Rights, T1: 24434)

Term: Two years, beginning January 1, 2009

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

The San Francisco-based Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), established in 1979, is a national legal resource center that advances the rights of immigrants. ILRC is the coordinating member of the Defending Immigrants Partnership (DIP), a collaboration between four non-profit legal organizations that was formed in 2002, with support from OSI, to prevent the needless deportation of low-income non-citizens accused of crimes by providing defense counsel with the training and assistance needed to protect such persons against the immigration law consequences of conviction. In addition to ILRC,

DIP is comprised of the New York City-based Immigrant Defense Project (IDP), the Boston-based National Immigration Project (NIP) of the National Lawyers Guild, and the D.C.-based National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA).

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

DIP has been working since 2002 to ensure that attorneys who represent indigent non-citizens charged with crimes understand—and take steps to minimize or avoid—the harsh immigration law consequences of criminal convictions, which can include immigration detention, deportation, and even permanent banishment from the United States. In its first two years, DIP focused its efforts in the six states with the highest immigrant populations: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois. Collectively, these states accounted for 70% of all foreign-born persons in the United States in the 2000 census, and 66% of all foreign-born persons in the United States in the 2005 census. In its third and fourth years, DIP expanded its focus to reach nine additional states – Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. Together, DIP’s 15 priority states accounted for 80% of all foreign-born persons in the United States in the 2005 census. In its fifth and sixth year, ending in December 2008, DIP returned to key states of high immigrant population in order to secure and expand the advances that were made there in the first two years of the partnership. It also committed to continuing work in key additional states of high population where work was already in progress.

During the proposed grant period DIP will continue to focus on its priority states while it makes inroads in new states and takes measures to increase the availability of its resources to state and federal defenders nationally. With a renewed two-year project support grant from OSI, it plans to pursue the following strategies:

1. **Implement Model Immigration Service Plans at Pilot Sites in New York and California.** In 2008, DIP partner IDP developed a model protocol identifying components of best practices that defender offices should include in developing approaches to advising immigrant clients. In 2009, DIP partners IDP and ILRC will pilot the Model Protocol at defender offices in New York and California.
2. **Respond to Worksite Raids and Federal Criminal Enforcement.** The Bush administration consistently used workforce raids as an instrument of immigration enforcement leading to the deportation of hundreds of immigrants. Although the new administration has signaled a desire to review these policies, DIP will continue work with partners NIP and NLG to undertake the following:
 - a. Conduct outreach to National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to enlist it in the effort to prevent future worksite raids and the use of the federal criminal justice system as a means to enforce immigration laws;
 - b. Provide technical assistance to federal public defenders on enforcement issues; and
 - c. Conduct model training for Federal Defenders and CJA panel attorneys on how to defend against aggravated identity theft charges and other common federal immigration charges such as illegal entry and illegal re-entry;

3. Update DIP Resources & Trainings in Key States and Expand to New States.

- a. **Provide State and Local Trainings.** Continue to provide trainings to defenders at local, regional, and national levels with local defender experts where possible.
 - b. **Provide Regional Trainings.** Hold a series of Webinar regional trainings due to the current economic crisis which has severely impacted the travel capacity of defender offices nationwide.
 - c. **Update Existing, and Develop New, Quick-Reference Charts on State Law.** 1) update state-specific charts analyzing Arizona, California, Florida, New York and federal law; and 2) create or work with local experts to create new charts for Nevada and Oregon. Each chart is a quick-access summary of the immigration consequences of the jurisdiction's criminal code.
 - d. **Provide Vital Technical Assistance and Mentorship of Local Experts.** Continue to provide technical assistance to state and federal defenders, appointed counsel, and judges. Priority areas include Arizona, California, Florida, New York and Texas.
4. **Expand Efforts to Use Technology to Educate and Assist Defenders.** During the proposed grant period, DIP will continue to maintain, expand and publicize its newly created centralized website; maintain and expand the relevant sections of its partner websites; and develop state and regional listservs through its national website.
 5. **Develop Quick Response Readiness.** DIP partners will provide analysis and strategies to respond to new enforcement practices by writing practice advisories on major administrative decisions, creating summaries of any U.S. Supreme Court decision on criminal immigration issues and describing their impact on criminal defense practice, and integrating new changes into its training curriculum for defenders.

Rationale for Recommendation:

A grant to the Defending Immigrants Partnership of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center will support the goals of the Criminal Justice Fund (CJF) by improving indigent defense services and reducing excessive punishment and the collateral consequences of conviction such as deportation. The grant will also advance EOF's goal of supporting efforts to ensure justice and equality by lifting the barriers that prevent immigrants from participating fully in economic, social and political life.

As a result of the 1996 amendments to federal immigration laws, non-citizens convicted of a specified set of crimes are subject not only to criminal punishment, but to immigration detention, deportation, and permanent banishment from the United States. In too many cases, non-citizens with strong family, work, and personal ties to this country have found their lives – and the lives of their families – uprooted based on convictions for relatively minor crimes. For the past six years,

DIP has played a remarkably successful leadership role in the fight to counter the draconian immigration law consequences for non-citizens convicted of crimes.

DIP has developed an unprecedented collaboration among the foremost immigration advocacy and defense organizations with expertise in the immigration consequences of crime and the national legal organization devoted to ensure high-quality legal representation for indigent clients in criminal and civil matters. It has become the acknowledged leader in this arena because of its expertise in this extremely complex area of the law; the consistently outstanding quality of its trainings, resource materials, and technical assistance; and the groundwork it has laid in establishing a national network of trainers and in-house experts. To meet the increased demand for its assistance, DIP is exploring creative ways to use Internet technology to make its trainings, reference charts, and resources materials more widely available. In addition, DIP has devoted more resources to self-evaluation, so that it can improve the delivery of its services.

For the above reasons, staff recommends a two-year project support grant in the amount of \$400,000 to the Immigrant Legal Resource Center to support the Defending Immigrants Partnership. The grant will be split equally by CJF and EOF.

Name of Organization: Let's Breakthrough, Inc

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$440,000
Constitutional and Legal Policy: \$120,000 (2005-06)
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$100,000 (2004-05); \$20,000 (2005-6)
USJ Communications Fund: \$200,000 (2007-09)

Organization Budget: \$1,522,034

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: U.S. Human Rights Fund; Tides Foundation, Starry Night Fund; Overbrook Foundation; Ford Foundation; Carnegie Corporation; Arcus Foundation; The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Amount Recommended: \$300,000 (\$100,000 from National Security and Human Rights, T1: 21095; \$100,000 from Immigrants' Rights, T1:24434; and \$100,000 from the Strategic Opportunities Fund, T1: 21080)

Term: Two years, beginning May 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Let's Breakthrough, Inc. (Breakthrough) is a human rights organization that uses education, media and popular culture to transform public attitudes and promote values of equality, justice and dignity. It works in the United States and in India with the goal of building more equitable and democratic societies invested in sustaining human rights values. While Breakthrough's overarching goal is to protect and promote the human rights of the most vulnerable communities, in the U.S. it focuses its work in two main areas: 1) the application of human rights principles to domestic social justice issues; and 2) the reframing of the immigration debate in terms of human rights.

Breakthrough is based in New York City and is led by a strong staff including Mallika Dutt, a former Ford Foundation program officer who founded and now directs the organization.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

This grant recommendation is for general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This recommended grant to Breakthrough is proposed out of pooled funds since the organization's work aligns with several priorities. It furthers the Equality and Opportunity Fund's overarching work and in particular, the Immigrant Rights' portfolio's goals of stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants, and linking immigration to broader national issues to build a multi-ethnic, multi-constituent movement. In addition, this grant furthers the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of ending arbitrary and indefinite detention domestically and internationally; and supporting communications capacity to shift the paradigm away from the "war on terror." The third portion of funding will be from the Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) which is investing in exploratory grants to innovative programs that use arts and culture to empower individuals and communities to advance social change. SOF hopes to raise awareness of the power and potential for art as an activism tool to advance a broad spectrum of social justice concerns and issues of specific interest and relevance to U.S. Programs' priorities

Breakthrough infuses the progressive movement with new voices, new energy, and new methods for transforming public attitudes by using a human rights framework around a range of linked issues, including poverty, racial justice, immigration, and women's rights. It has carved out a unique niche and pioneered the use of new media and popular culture to advance social change, and has played a key role in training US advocates to use these tools.

Breakthrough engages its primary audience of 18 to 35 year olds through music videos, video stories, animations and video games—tools with content that young people can understand and act upon. In all of its work, Breakthrough incorporates gender and cultural contexts that more effectively reach women and men in multi-ethnic and multi-racial communities. Breakthrough also works very deliberately with community-based groups and OSI grantee partners such as Rights Working Group and Detention Watch Network.

Breakthrough believes that fair immigration policy must be based on American values of due process and human rights. Not only has Breakthrough developed a clear and coherent message about immigration, human rights and national security, but it has also developed a way to effectively communicate that message to ensure maximum impact.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommend a two-year general support grant of \$300,000 to Breakthrough, be split equally among the Equality and Opportunity Fund, the National Security and Human Rights Campaign and the Strategic Opportunities Fund.

Name of Organization: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

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

Purpose of Grant: To support activities related to Astraea’s US grantmaking program, including re-granting, convenings, technical assistance and program administration.

Previous OSI Support: \$260,000
LGBTQ: \$50,000 (2005-6); \$50,000 (2007-8); \$50,000 (2008-9)
USP General Grants: \$50,000 (2003-4); \$60,000 (2003)

Organization Budget: \$4,755,601

Project Budget: \$2,162,000

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation; Dreilinden; Ford Foundation; Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues; HIVOS; Tides Foundation; Anonymous; individual and corporate donors (partial list).

Amount Requested: \$100,000

Amount Recommended: \$200,000, over two years

Term: Two years, beginning May 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (“Astraea”) is a public charity that raises funds from foundations and individual donors to make grants to lesbian-led, LGBTQ, and progressive organizations. Its mission is to help lesbians and their allies challenge oppression and claim their human rights. Astraea also sponsors philanthropic education and advocacy programs to broaden the community of foundations and donors concerned about LGBTQ issues and communities.

Each year, Astraea provides strategic support to hundreds of LGBTQ organizations and projects that work to secure human rights for LGBTQ people, and advance gender, racial, economic and social justice across the U.S and internationally. Astraea prioritizes grants to LGBTQ people of color, particularly lesbian and transgender people of color led organizations.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The recommended grant would provide support for Astraea’s U.S. Grantmaking Program which, since 1977, has provided millions of dollars to support LGBTQ organizations across the country. The goals of the U.S. Grantmaking Program are to:

- Provide financial support to organizations that work for LGBTQ rights and social justice, with a particular focus on groups with limited access to traditional sources of funding (particularly people of color groups);
- Support a range of social, political, economic, health and cultural initiatives that benefit a broad constituency including youth, elders, communities of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, and artists;
- Educate donors to increase support for LGBTQ social justice issues, and promote the work of organizations that are working on long-term societal and institutional change (with an understanding of multi-issue frameworks and strategies); and
- Help build the capacity of grantees to engage in strategies for LGBTQ rights by facilitating collaboration, information sharing, skills building, and networking opportunities amongst LGBTQ organizations and activists working for social justice.

In making these grants, Astraea purposefully seeks to support organizations that are led by and for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex women of color and that primarily serve communities of color. The grants are determined by a community funding panel – a geographically, racially and economically diverse group of lesbian activists who come together to review and recommend grants from Astraea’s pool of U.S.-based applicants.

Astraea’s Grants program awarded a total of 284 grants totaling \$2,231,540 in FY ’07-08. In the U.S., \$1,253,365 went to 165 organizations in 28 states and 55 cities. This represents almost a 20% increase in the number of grants made and a 14% increase in the amount awarded compared to FY ’06-07.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio’s grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances EOF’s broader goals by supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions. The organization also meets the strategic grantmaking priorities of EOF’s racial justice portfolio by advancing and protecting civil opportunities for historically disenfranchised racial communities in the United States.

The hallmark of Astraea’s grantmaking is grants to smaller organizations and projects with limited access to traditional funding, often at the state and local levels. For communities under-represented in the mainstream LGBTQ movement, including people of color, lesbians, and transgender people, such grants can have a significant impact, stimulating engagement at the grassroots level and nurturing emerging leaders. The concerns of people of color within the LGBTQ community often include racial and economic justice issues, concerns that at times have not received sufficient attention from the mainstream LGBTQ organizations. The groups Astraea funds are often organized creatively and effectively, working at the intersections of multiple oppressions (racism, poverty, and homophobia) and positioned to achieve substantial gains in policy through grassroots organizing and advocacy.

The recommended grant provides a particularly effective vehicle for EOF to direct resources to support small but important players in the LGBTQ rights movement. Astraea has historically provided leadership and expertise in sustaining innovative work of organizations that are overlooked by national

fundes. It consistently ranks amongst the top ten fundes – both in terms of total funds granted and number of grants – providing support to LGBTQ work.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant of \$200,000 over two years to support Astraea’s U.S. Grantmaking Program. The recommended grant amount reflects an increase in the level of OSI support to Astraea. We believe this funding increase is warranted to maximize OSI’s ability to reach smaller, under-resourced organizations doing cutting edge work to expand LGBTQ rights within an intersectional, multi-constituency framework.

Name of Organization: Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, Inc.

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

Purpose of Grant: To increase support for LGBTQ people of color organizations in the US and to strengthen the commitment and capacity of LGBTQ public foundations and community foundations to racial equity policies and practices; and to renew OSI membership in the Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues affinity group

Previous OSI Support: \$582,000
Public Health Sexual Health and Rights: \$20,000 (2006-7)
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$12,000 (2005-6)
USP General grants: \$50,000 (2003-4)
US Foundation Partnerships: \$500,000 (1999-01)

Organization Budget: \$1,667,803

Project Budget: \$573,587

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation; Astraea Foundation; Atlantic Philanthropies; Berks County Community Foundation; Blachford-Cooper Foundation; Boston Foundation; CA Endowment; CA Wellness Foundation; Ford Foundation; Freeman Foundation; Gill Foundation; Haas Jr. Fund; MacArthur Foundation; Paul Rapoport Foundation; Tides Foundation; Weston Milliken; Washington Area; Women’s Foundation; Wells Fargo Foundation

Amount Requested: \$275,000 (\$250,000 for LGBTQ Racial Equity Campaign; \$25,000 for membership renewal)

Amount Recommended: \$175,000

Term: 18 months, beginning April 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues (FLGI) was formed in 1982 in response to the lack of visibility and funding for LGBTQ issues within institutional philanthropy. An all volunteer group until 1992 when they hired an Executive Director, FLGI now has a full time staff of four including an Executive Director, Program Director, Director of Research & Communications and Operations Manager. FLGI is the only organization in the world whose mission it is to educate and advocate for support of LGBTQ issues within organized philanthropy.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The recommended grant would provide support for FLGI's LGBTQ Racial Equity Campaign. The goals of this Campaign are: to increase to no less than 15% the LGBTQ dollars being granted by foundations targeting LGBTQ people of color populations and/or addressing issues of racial justice; to stimulate an investment of \$15,000,000 in capacity building and leadership development of LGBTQ people of color organizations and projects; and to assist LGBTQ foundations to implement explicit policies and procedures that support and model racial equity.

To accomplish these goals, FLGI offers matching grants of up to \$150,000 to LGBTQ public foundations and community foundations with LGBTQ field of interest funds to support the capacity and leadership development of LGBTQ people of color organizations. FLGI also provides technical assistance to and hosts convenings of participating foundations to share strategies for implementing racial equity grantmaking guidelines, policies and procedures.

FLGI requests \$250,000 to support the second phase of its LGBTQ Racial Equity Campaign. During the second phase, FLGI will build upon its success thus far in the Campaign by: providing additional grants to the current cohort of LGBTQ people of color groups being funded by its foundation grantees; bring on additional foundations in key localities not currently covered (specifically the Southeast and Southwest); organizing a national convening for the LGBTQ people of color funded through the Campaign; and improving its website to disseminate a range to grantmaking tools and best practices.

FLGI also requests \$25,000 to renew OSI's membership in the FLGI affinity group.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances EOF's broader goals of supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions. The organization also meets the strategic grantmaking interests of EOF's racial justice portfolio by advancing and protecting civil opportunities for historically disenfranchised racial communities in the United States.

Funding for LGBTQ people of color organizations and issues has been woefully inadequate both on its face and when measured as a percentage of overall LGBTQ giving. This lack of investment has profound implications on the health of these organizations and, ultimately, on the effectiveness of broader movements for social change. Further, LGBTQ people of color are inadequately represented in leadership positions within national, statewide and local LGBTQ organizations. The inadequate representation of people of color within LGBTQ organizations has contributed to the lack of strategic and sustainable alliances among multiple sectors of the LGBTQ and racial justice movements.

FLGI has consistently shown leadership and commitment to working on racial equality within the LGBTQ movement, and in recent years, has strengthened its commitment to reducing funding disparities to people of color led LGBTQ organizations through its Racial Equity Campaign.

Although staff feels strongly that FLGI's Racial Equity Campaign provides an effective vehicle to direct resources to people of color led LGBTQ organizations on the ground while simultaneously institutionalizing support for racial equity concerns among LGBTQ foundations, it recognizes that the full amount requested by FLGI is substantial and, if approved in full, would limit EOF's ability to fund new LGBTQ Rights grantseekers. Therefore, staff recommends providing a project support grant of \$150,000 to support FLGI's Racial Equity Campaign and \$25,000 to renew OSI's membership in the FLGI affinity group.

Name of Organization: National Black Justice Coalition

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$235,000
Racial Justice Initiative: \$50,000 (2005-7); \$50,000 (2007-9)
LGBTQ: \$50,000 (2005-7); \$35,000 (2007); \$50,000 (2007-9)

Organization Budget: \$1,030,000

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: Henry van Ameringen Foundation; Astraea Lesbian; Foundation for Justice Donor Advised Fund; Arcus Foundation; David Bohnett Foundation; Freedom to Marry; Gill Action Fund; Gill Foundation; Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Human Rights Campaign Foundation; Jonathan D. Lewis Foundation, Inc.; individual and corporate donors (partial list).

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Amount Recommended: \$50,000

Term: One year, beginning January 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

The National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) was formed in December 2003 to serve as the national voice for LGBTQ African Americans. It is the only national black LGBTQ civil rights organization in the U.S. With a staff of seven, led by executive director Alexander Robinson, NBJC works to increase the visibility of LGBTQ African Americans and to break down the barriers of prejudice in black communities through education and engagement.

Over the past several years, NBJC has worked to increase the visibility and political engagement of openly gay African Americans on issues of civil rights - including marriage equality, affirmative action, voter disenfranchisement, and anti-discrimination policies and legislation. To advance its public education agenda, NBJC has worked to build coalitions and alliances with black civil rights and labor leaders. To date, NBJC has developed key partnerships with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, National Urban League, Black Leadership Forum, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, Service Employees International Union and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, enlisting the support of those organizations and their leaders in support of LGBTQ rights. NBJC has also focused intensively on efforts to engage black clergy on

LGBTQ rights issues. NBJC has hosted Black Church Summits in Atlanta (January 2006) and Philadelphia (March 2007), each of which attracted hundreds of participants.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NBJC requests renewed general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances the broader goals of EOF by supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions. The organization also meets the strategic grantmaking interests of EOF's racial justice portfolio by advancing and protecting civil opportunities for historically disenfranchised racial communities in the United States.

By working to build African American support for gay rights, NBJC is filling a critical gap in the debate over same-sex marriage and other LGBTQ rights issues. The group has partnered effectively with major gay national organizations on various initiatives and has assumed a leading role in representing the voice of gay African-Americans among these groups. NBJC staff, most notably Alexander Robinson and faith outreach coordinator Sylvia Rhue, are impressive new leaders in the field. In 2008, NBJC was particularly effective in expanding its network of African American religious leaders willing to speak out in favor of LGBTQ equality. In 2009, it seeks to strengthen religious support for LGBTQ civil rights by increasing collaboration with allied religious groups, congregations, and faith-based organizations.

Cash flow difficulties in 2007 and 2008 prompted OSI staff to look closely at NBJC's financials and perform extra due diligence in consultation with our funding partners. We were encouraged that NBJC's fundraising from foundations and large individual donors has been increasing steadily over the past two years, and NBJC is beginning to roll out a series of fundraising events to build a base of small donations. In the past year, NBJC also developed a multi-year strategic plan which includes hiring a chief operating officer to manage development efforts and administrative functions. We will continue to monitor this grant closely and are pleased to note that the Arcus Foundation has agreed to fund an organizational/management consultant to evaluate the organization's management practices.

For these reasons, we recommend a grant of \$50,000 over one year to provide general support to NBJC.

Name of Organization: National Center for Lesbian Rights

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$350,000
 USP General Grants: \$50,000 (2003-5)
 LGBTQ: \$100,000 (2004-6); \$50,000 (2006-7); \$50,000 (2006); \$75,000 (2007-8); \$75,000 (2008-9)

Organization Budget: \$3,771,500

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation; Bohnett Foundation; Columbia Foundation; Equal Justice Works; Gill Foundation; Haas Jr. Fund; Overbrook Foundation; San Francisco Foundation; Wells Fargo; Working Assets/Credo; individual and corporate donors (partial list)

Amount Requested: \$150,000

Amount Recommended: \$150,000

Term: Two years, beginning July 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Established in 1977, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) is a legal resource center committed to advancing the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through a program of litigation, public policy advocacy, provision of free legal assistance and resource support, and public education. NCLR also provides support and technical assistance to attorneys who represent LGBTQ clients, and educates the legal profession, the LGBTQ community and allied constituencies, and the public on issues affecting LGBTQ people.

NCLR's legal work includes a strong focus in the area of lesbian and gay family law. NCLR pioneered second-parent adoption rights, which are now recognized in 25 states, and the organization continues to be the LGBTQ community's most authoritative advocate on all matters related to custody and relationship protection. It is one of the lead players in the national marriage equality movement. In addition, NCLR has rapidly growing program areas around the issues of LGBTQ youth, immigration, sports, and elders.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NCLR requests renewed general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances the broader goals of the Equality & Opportunity Fund by supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions.

NCLR is one of four anchor legal organizations in the national LGBTQ movement.² Examples of its success in the past year include: winning the landmark California Supreme Court ruling on marriage rights in May 2008, including the first ruling ever issued from a high court that says that LGBTQ people are entitled to the highest level of constitutional protection (strict scrutiny); winning asylum for five LGBTQ individuals who had experienced persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity in their countries of origin; winning the first case in the country requiring prison officials to immediately provide hormone therapy to an incarcerated transgender woman; and working with the National Association to End Homelessness (NAEH) to develop a set of LGBTQ practice recommendations for homeless youth agencies across the country.

For the next several years, NCLR has identified the following critical community needs that they will attempt to address: proactively seeking to establish protections for LGBTQ parents and same-sex couples through litigation and legislation in states across the country, including counteracting the negative effects of recent anti-LGBTQ measures; challenging opponents' efforts to repeal existing protections; advocating for greater legal protections and greater public understanding of LGBTQ immigrants and asylum seekers, LGBTQ persons who are incarcerated, and LGBTQ persons who are targeted because of their gender identity or expression; solidifying coalitions with allies such as civil rights organizations, women's organizations, labor, businesses, and human rights organizations to build a united coalition of groups committed to securing equality for all people; and dealing with the effects of anti-LGBTQ discrimination experienced by youth, including greater numbers of LGBTQ youth facing increased family rejection, putting them at risk of homelessness, foster care, HIV infection, and incarceration.

NCLR continues to be a partner in key LGBTQ coalitions such as the LGBTQ Legal Roundtable, Freedom to Marry, and California's Equality for All (including about 50 LGBTQ and allied organizations, such as SEIU and the California Teachers Association), but also with non-gay allied organizations such as the National Juvenile Defender Center, Child Welfare League of America, American Association of Retired Persons, International Olympic Committee, American Bar Association, National Council of La Raza, Legal Services for Children, California Rural Legal Assistance, Family Builders by Adoption, The Women's Sports Foundation, National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

² The others are Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (a grantee in U.S. Programs' Transparency and Integrity Fund), the ACLU LGBTQ Rights Project, and Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (a grantee in EOF's LGBTQ Rights portfolio).

The leadership, mission and structure of NCLR exemplify EOF's grantmaking priorities. Their work focuses on challenging inequality and expanding opportunity for LGBTQ people, working in a way that recognizes the intersection of the issues and needs of our constituencies with efforts to secure women's rights, racial justice, and immigrant rights. Their litigation and public policy development consistently address structural barriers to equality and opportunity, and often cut across multiple issue areas.

For these reasons, we recommend a grant of \$150,000 over two years to provide general support to NCLR.

Name of Organization: National Center for Transgender Equality

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$100,000
LGBTQ: \$50,000 (2007-8); \$50,000 (2008-9)

Organization Budget: \$500,000

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation; Bohnett Foundation; Education Foundation of America; Gill Foundation; Anonymous; individual donors.

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Amount Recommended: \$100,000, over two years

Term: Two years, beginning January 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) was founded in 2003 by transgender advocates and allies who saw the need for an effective voice in Washington, D.C. to work on national/federal policy issues of concern to the transgender community. NCTE focuses on public education and advocacy strategies, with an emphasis on (1) collaboration with other LGBTQ organizations and (2) empowering transgender people to engage in their own human rights struggle.

NCTE advocacy work focuses primarily on federal policy issues with particular impact on transgender people, including antidiscrimination legislation, federal prison policy, federal collection of hate crime statistics, identity documents and privacy issues, and access to healthcare. At the state level, NCTE provides assistance to advocates pushing for policies that will provide greater legal protection for transgender people.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NCTE requests renewed general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances the broader goals of the Equality & Opportunity Fund by supporting organizations that work

across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions.

Transgender people face a particular mix of oppression and discrimination that, although similar to the lesbian and gay community in some ways, bear some unique characteristics. Transgender people face threats of physical violence and emotional abuse simply going about their daily lives, whether using a bathroom or gaining access to health care. Questions of identification and personal privacy are fraught with anxiety and difficulty, particularly at a time when public understanding of gender identity remains at a nascent stage. Many current policies place transgender people at risk of being unwillingly outed any time they have to show proof of identity.

NCTE's work on identity documents and privacy issues provides a good illustration of the important role played by the organization, particularly in its collaboration across group and issue lines. Many states have policies on licenses and I.D. cards that require proof of sex reassignment or create other hurdles preventing transgender people from receiving recognition of their proper gender identity. (Indeed, 80% of requests for information and assistance to NCTE arise from this issue.) With the passage of the Real I.D. Act (to implement a national identification system and database) these issues have only become more acute. To help address this issue, NCTE works with state departments of motor vehicles to implement policies that recognize the needs of transgender people. It has also worked closely with the ACLU, the National Immigration Law Center, and the AFL-CIO in seeking to oppose (and, failing repeal, guide) the Real I.D. Act's implementation.³ Based on its recognition that transgender people are present in unions, immigrant communities, and throughout communities of color, NCTE has made common cause with organizations that represent such groups but that do not normally incorporate transgender perspectives into their work. In recognizing the diversity of its constituency, NCTE does a better job of advocating on their behalf.

For these reasons, we recommend a grant of \$100,000 over two years to provide general support to NCTE.

³ NCTE seeks policies that allow people to change their gender on driver's licenses and I.D. cards via a simple affidavit along with the signature of a doctor, surgeon, therapist, social worker, or other professional attesting to the applicant's gender. NCTE currently is working with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Agencies to turn this into a national model.

Name of Organization: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide 1) general operating support and 2) project support to advance positive policy change for LGBTQ equality on the federal level

Previous OSI Support: \$615,000
 USP General Grant: \$100,000 (2000-1) \$100,000 (2001-2);
 \$5,000 (2003); \$80,000 (2003-4);
 Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$100,000 (2004-5)
 LGBTQ: \$50,000 (2004-5); 50,000 (2005-6); \$30,000
 (2006-7); \$50,000 (2008-9)

Organization Budget: \$10,063,775

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation; E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation;
 Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; Ford Foundation; Gill Foundation;
 Scott Opler Foundation; The Allan Morrow Foundation, Inc.;
 Anonymous; individual and corporate donors (partial list)

Amount Requested: \$200,000

Amount Recommended: \$355,000 over two years (\$180,000 from Seize the Day, T1:21079; and
 \$175,000 from LGBTQ, T1:24432)

Term: Two years, beginning November 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Founded in 1973, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation (the "Task Force") represents the national voice of the gay rights movement, working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. The Task Force is the oldest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) organization that aims to build the political power of the LGBTQ community from the ground up. Its headquarters is located in Washington, DC, and the organization has offices in New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, Cambridge and Minneapolis.

The Task Force serves several unique roles within the LGBTQ movement for equality. The Task Force is the only national LGBTQ organization working to build the infrastructure and capacity of local and statewide LGBTQ organizations through comprehensive and intensive investments. Through the Academy for Leadership and Action (the LGBTQ movement's most comprehensive organizing, training and capacity building vehicle), the Task Force trains new leaders and assists communities across the country in defeating anti-gay attacks, educating legislators and policymakers, advancing pro-LGBTQ legislation, building multi-racial teams and working in coalition with other communities.

Its annual Creating Change conference is the primary skills building and organizing conference for the movement. Its National Religious Leadership Roundtable is the country's only interfaith network of pro-LGBTQ religious organizations. The Task Force also operates the movement's premier think tank – the Policy Institute – which conducts cutting edge social science research and policy analysis on the major issues facing LGBTQ people, same-sex couples, and families.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The Task Force requests 1) renewed general support and 2) project support to advance positive policy change for LGBTQ equality on the national level. With new project support, the Task Force will aggressively advocate for the non-legislative changes that can be made at the executive branch and agency levels of the federal government to advance LGBTQ civil rights.

The Task Force served as the lead organization on the Administration Transition Policy Project, a collaborative effort involving leading national LGBTQ rights and civil rights groups⁴ to produce a proposed policies book for the new administration. *A New Beginning: Policy Recommendations to Improve the Lives of LGBTQ People and Eliminate Discrimination from Federal Policies*, includes briefings from 20 organizations recommending changes to over 80 policies within over 30 federal agencies and the executive branch that can be accomplished by rule or regulation, not requiring legislative action.

Over the next year, the Task Force proposes to do the following:

- Work with coalition partners to publicize *A New Beginning* and the collaborative work of the organizations to pursue policy changes.
- Convene two meetings in Washington, D.C. (in April 2009 and six months later) of the contributing organizations to *A New Beginning* to identify specific priority policy recommendations (particularly low hanging fruit), develop policy advocacy action plans, and assess the need for course corrections to ensure success.
- Create an electronic scorecard, housed on the Task Force's website, which identifies federal non-legislative policy changes that benefit LGBTQ people and tracks progress toward achieving recommended policy changes.
- Continue to collect new policy and regulatory change recommendations, incorporating these into existing briefing documents and engaging other LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ groups that can contribute.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances the broader goals of EOF by supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure

⁴ Contributors include: Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Immigration Equality, National Coalition for LGBTQ Health, National Black Justice Coalition, National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders.

justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions. It also advance the Seize the Day Fund’s goal of elevating the hardest issues – in this case, structural inequality – at the federal level.

For over 35 years, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has played a significant role in nearly every major landmark event in the LGBTQ civil rights movement. Its leadership is widely recognized not only within the LGBTQ rights field but also within the broader field of progressive advocates. It has worked with the administrations of a number of presidents, from Carter to Clinton, and most recently with the Obama administration.

In all of its work, the Task Force bridges communities, identities, and issues. The Task Force recognizes that strong inclusive coalitions are necessary to win progressive social change. In this regard, the Task Force builds real, substantive relationships with non-LGBTQ organizations working on labor, economic reform, healthcare and other social justice issues, recognizing that each of these issues *are* LGBTQ issues.

Over the past few years, the Task Force has helped hundreds of communities at the state and local level defeat anti-LGBTQ attacks, often providing staff, financial support and expertise. The Task Force led an unprecedented coalition of over 360 organizations working to pass a transgender-inclusive federal employment nondiscrimination bill. It focused national media attention on the plight of homeless LGBTQ youth and played an essential role in increasing federal appropriations for runaway and homeless youth by \$10.5 million.

The Task Force recognizes that, to continue building momentum and achieve victories, it is crucial for the LGBTQ rights movement to form broad coalitions and include diverse voices within the movement. The Task Force focuses on outreach to communities of color, particularly in recruiting participants for its trainings on grassroots activism. It also engages in significant outreach to the faith community and has established formal coalitions with its members. The Task Force recently launched an Aging Initiative (in partnership with Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders) which aims to build grassroots efforts to advocate for the needs of LGBTQ elders. It houses a Transgender Civil Rights Project, which offers policy and legislative expertise on transgender issues. Through the Academy for Leadership and Action, the Task Force is committed to ensuring that the most marginalized members of our community are not only represented, but are leading the movement. The Task Force has demonstrated its deep commitment to dismantling racial and economic disparities not only in the LGBTQ movement, but in the framework of larger social justice issues.

In its approach to promoting policy change at the federal level, the Task Force is also extremely astute. It prioritizes the need for collaboration among a wide range of groups. It focuses on policy changes that can be made easily without legislative change. It organizes its policy recommendations and briefing materials in ways that are accessible for policy makers and advocates alike. It also recognizes the value of building partnerships that extend beyond the LGBTQ rights field.

For these reasons, we recommend a general support grant of \$175,000 to the Task Force over a period of two years and a project support grant of \$180,000 over the next year.

Name of Organization: Transgender Law Center

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

Previous OSI Support: \$195,000
Strategic Opportunities Fund: \$25,000 (2006)
LGBTQ: \$70,000 (2005-7); \$30,000 (2004-5); \$70,000 (2007-9)

Organization Budget: \$542,800

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support: Arcus Foundation, Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund; Gill Foundation; Horizons Foundation; David Bohnett Foundation; California Endowment; California Wellness Foundation; San Francisco Foundation; Tides Foundation; individual and corporate donors (partial list).

Amount Requested: \$50,000 (one year)

Amount Recommended: \$100,000 (two years)

Term: One year, beginning January 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) was created in 2002 as a project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights to respond to the overwhelming discrimination that transgender people and their families faced in nearly every institution in California. Based in San Francisco, TLC uses direct legal services, education, community organizing, and policy and media advocacy to improve laws and regulations that affect the ability for transgender people to fully express their identities without discrimination.

In the five years since it first received OSI funding, TLC has grown as an organization, advancing key components of its original mission while taking on new projects. In the past year, TLC provided legal guidance and advice to more than 900 transgender people and their families, and direct legal assistance to more than 130 people. It organized more than 50 workshops to inform and assist attorneys to work better with transgender community members.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

TLC requests renewed general support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant will advance the LGBTQ Rights portfolio's grantmaking priorities of: 1) strengthening and expanding policies that advance LGBTQ rights; and 2) increasing the participation of diverse voices within the LGBTQ rights movement, with an emphasis on people of color and transgender people. It advances the broader goals of the Equality & Opportunity Fund by supporting organizations that work across groups to ensure justice and equality and prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government actions.

Recent years have seen a new move to integrate transgender people and issues into activism regarding the rights of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. As this trend continues to increase, it has created a corresponding need for experts to shape this activism, represent transgender interests and educate transgender citizens, service providers and the general public. TLC is providing such expertise, and in a short time has established itself as a leader in advocating for equal rights of transgender individuals in California and nationally.

TLC is not only at the forefront of providing sound legal advice, training, and direct representation to transgender individuals facing discrimination, it is also actively involved in creating policy changes that address and help overcome the particular obstacles that transgender individuals face in gaining access to jobs, education and health care. TLC's Transforming Institutions Project works directly with different institutions to transform their environments from ones which inhibit or punish diverse expressions of gender to ones which understand and embrace them.

In 2008, TLC conducted its first statewide survey to assess the economic health of transgender Californians (in partnership with Dr. Eli Bartley of CSU Northridge and the Williams Institute). Despite California legislation barring workplace discrimination based on gender identity and a particularly high rate of higher education among transgender respondents, the survey showed that un- and underemployment are still rampant in California's transgender community. Fewer than half of respondents were employed full time; 48% reported being terminated and/or denied a promotion because of their gender identity; and 42% reported experiencing sexual and/or verbal harassment on the job due to their gender identity. The effects of low employment and high discrimination rates were also bleak, with 22.1% of respondents experiencing homelessness and 23.4% having worked in the street economy since their gender transitions. In 2009, TLC plans to use the survey findings to develop and implement a comprehensive set of recommendations to improve the economic status of transgender adults.

Staff recommends a grant of \$100,000 over two years to provide general support to TLC. The recommended grant amount constitutes an increase in the level of OSI support to TLC. We believe this funding increase is warranted to bring TLC into parity with other grantees doing comparable work within EOF's portfolio. TLC is under-resourced compared to other organizations engaged in effective advocacy with an equivalent scope in other fields.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION GRANTS

Name of Organization: Local Initiatives Support Corporation

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

Purpose of Grant: To design and launch workforce development programs in neighborhoods with concentrated numbers of foreclosures in Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Los Angeles and to cull best practices to benefit communities across the country

Previous OSI Support: N/A

Organization Budget: \$110,685,400

Project Budget: \$1,810,000

Source of Support: Ford Foundation; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; Walton Family Foundation, Inc.; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; corporate and individual donors (partial list).

Amount Requested: \$560,000

Amount Recommended: \$560,000

Term: Two years, beginning April 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

LISC was founded in 1980 to help local residents realize change from the bottom up. Their mission is to support the efforts of community groups to increase affordable housing and economic development opportunities by providing them with grants, loans and equity capital, as well as technical and management assistance, training opportunities, and policy support. Since 1980, LISC has financed more than 230,000 units of affordable housing, 32 million square feet of retail and community space, including education, health care and recreational facilities, and created over 91,000 jobs for neighborhood residents.

In 2006, LISC began implementation of a “Sustainable Communities” plan, through which it has supported programs in workforce development, green building, and education in sixteen local sites around the country.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

LISC proposes to design and implement a two-year pilot program to develop transitional employment initiatives in four LISC sites: Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Los Angeles. Each of these pilots will be locally tailored to the particular market, partners, resources, and needs of the local communities. However, the pilots will share several common elements:

- Providing job training and skills development, supported by workforce development groups and team leaders;
- Advancing the goal of neighborhood stabilization in foreclosure hot spots, including addressing community safety problems;
- Building local partnerships; and
- Leveraging local funding and programmatic resources.

Highlights from each of the local sites include:

Detroit: Detroit LISC has recently formed a partnership with the Architectural Salvage Warehouse (ASW) of Detroit, which trains individuals in deconstruction, primarily formerly incarcerated people, low-skilled workers, and youth. The program provides workers with skills valuable for future jobs in maintenance, renovation, and restoration. As the demand for demolition and deconstruction grows in Detroit neighborhoods as a result of the foreclosure crisis (Detroit’s proposal for a federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant allocates 30% of funds for demolition), Detroit LISC believes that ASW could play a key role in employing neighborhood residents in green deconstruction jobs.

Indianapolis: Indianapolis LISC proposes developing a transitional employment program that would initially target the Near Eastside and would employ formerly incarcerated people and other vulnerable populations to deconstruct foreclosed and abandoned homes. The Near Eastside neighborhood is a foreclosure hot spot and a target area for the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Near Eastside is also the community selected for the Super Bowl Legacy Project, which provides \$24 million to redevelop 285 homes and small commercial buildings. The transitional employment pilot program would be developed as part of the larger Super Bowl Legacy Project. The program would provide entry-level jobs for community residents, focusing on young people coming out of prison. One of LISC’s Program Officers in Indianapolis is an expert in reentry workforce development who will guide the design of this program.

Milwaukee: The City of Milwaukee recently announced that it is launching a Deconstruction Initiative, which will identify properties appropriate for demolition and deploy work crews to disassemble them, funded in part by NSP dollars. Milwaukee LISC will work with two local partners to enhance the Deconstruction Initiative’s community safety and workforce development components: Northcott Neighborhood House and Milwaukee Community Service Corps. Northcott Neighborhood House combats community deterioration and juvenile delinquency and provides comprehensive social services. Milwaukee Community Service Corps helps low-income youth through individual preparation in work skills, education, job training, and life skills.

Los Angeles: LISC will support a foreclosure response and stabilization effort in the Vernon-Central neighborhood of South Los Angeles that integrates public safety, workforce development, and neighborhood beautification activities. LISC will direct technical assistance and funding to the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD), a non-profit development corporation based in South Los Angeles, which will serve as the lead agency and convener for the

project. The target area currently has a high concentration of foreclosed properties, several of which have already become havens for gang operations following foreclosure. CRCD will develop a Foreclosed Properties Maintenance Plan for the target area in collaboration with key community partners that targets young people disconnected from the workforce—those most at risk for gang involvement in Vernon-Central—with skill-building and employment opportunities linked to foreclosure response. LISC and CRCD have already identified leverage funding opportunities through the United Way and Pfaffinger Foundation, and will pursue resources through the federal Second Chance Act and NSP as well.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project supports NSI’s general goal of stabilizing communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis and its specific interest in linking neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities for residents of those communities. It also advances EOF’s interest in lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life; the Campaign for Black Male Achievement’s efforts to promote economic opportunities for black males; and the Criminal Justice Fund’s interest in eliminating employment and other barriers faced by people returning to their communities from prison.

Staff believes that employing transitional employment program participants to clean and improve public spaces, and secure and repair abandoned homes represents a novel solution to two major public policy problems that OSI seeks to address – neighborhood stabilization and economic opportunity for difficult-to-employ populations. Pairing investments in the human and physical infrastructure of struggling communities is an intervention that can help slow the cycle of community disinvestment and abandonment, while providing transitional employment for hard to employ individuals. Transitional employment through supported work has proven to be an effective strategy in providing individuals marginally attached to the workforce – especially those with histories of poverty and formerly incarcerated people – with starting jobs and the work skills they need to enter the labor force.

In November 2008, NSI provided a matching grant to the Center for New York City Neighborhoods (CNYCN) for a demonstration project that uses a transitional employment model to prevent deterioration in Jamaica, Queens, a neighborhood with high rates of foreclosure. In recommending that grant, we indicated that this demonstration effort could be scalable to other major U.S. cities with neighborhoods facing high concentrations of foreclosure. As a leading national community development intermediary with extensive experience in both neighborhood stabilization and workforce development, LISC is uniquely positioned to bring this model to scale and to test new models better suited to stagnant or declining housing markets.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant of \$560,000 to LISC for two years.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST)
<u>Tax Status:</u>	A project of Housing Partnership Network, a 501(c)(3) public charity ⁵
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To provide general support
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	N/A
<u>Organization Budget:</u>	\$5,000,000
<u>Project Budget:</u>	N/A
<u>Source of Support:</u>	Bank of America; Chase Home Finance; Enterprise Community Partners; Fannie Mae; Ford Foundation; Freddie Mac; Housing Partnership Network; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; MacArthur Foundation; National Urban League; NeighborWorks America; Wells Fargo
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$200,000
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$200,000
<u>Term:</u>	One year, beginning April 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Driven by the immense scope of the current foreclosure crisis and the destabilizing impact of these foreclosed properties upon America’s neighborhoods, four of the nation’s leading housing and community development intermediaries—Enterprise Community Partners, the Housing Partnership Network, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and NeighborWorks America—came together in an unprecedented collaboration to create the National Community Stabilization Trust (“NCST”) in 2008. NCST coordinates the transfer of foreclosed and abandoned property from financial institutions to local housing organizations in order to facilitate the productive reuse of property and the stabilization of distressed neighborhoods. NCST works to ensure that these properties are returned to the stock of ownership and rental housing available primarily for low and moderate income families.

The key activities of NCST are to:

- *Transfer foreclosed properties to localities.* NCST provides a single entity with which to negotiate large-scale programs for the efficient and cost-effective transfer of foreclosed properties to local programs working in targeted communities.

⁵ NCST is a newly formed LLC entity that has filed a request for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the IRS. Housing Partnership Network, a 501(c)(3) public charity, is serving as NCST’s fiscal agent while its application for tax-exemption is under review.

- *Provide financing to support local efforts.* NCST aggregates capital from governmental, private philanthropic and social investment sources to support financing needs of local community stabilization programs.
- *Organize local collaborations.* NCST works with state and local governments, HUD, and nonprofit and for-profit local organizations to help build capacity to effectively acquire, manage, rehabilitate and deliver these REO⁶ properties to new owners and renters.
- *Serve as a national voice.* NCST also serves as a national “voice” on behalf of the Sponsors and the housing industry focused on program, policy and resource issues related to national neighborhood stabilization programs.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NCST requests general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project supports NSI’s general goal of stabilizing communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis and its specific grantmaking priorities of: 1) creating sound valuation models to facilitate efficient transfer of foreclosed properties to local ownership; and 2) linking neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities for residents. It also advances EOF’s interest in lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

By providing workable models for the transfer, financing and productive reuse of foreclosed properties, NCST’s mission is aligned with the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative’s goal of stabilizing communities with high concentrations of mortgage foreclosures. In the short time since its creation, NCST has established itself as the principal point of contact for lenders seeking to transfer foreclosed properties to responsible local ownership. It successfully negotiated “first look” agreements with seven national financial institutions that hold or service approximately 65 percent or more of foreclosed properties in any give locality. NCST has also played a critical role in elevating public awareness of the devastating impact that foreclosed vacant properties are having on communities across the country and in shaping national policy solutions.

NCST’s work specifically advances two of NSI’s grantmaking priorities:

Create and adopt sound valuation models to facilitate efficient transfer of foreclosed properties to local ownership. NCST has developed and promoted a model for pricing REO properties that balances the fiduciary obligations of servicers with the need to acquire properties at a fair price, in light of downward trends in values. Working closely with appraisers, servicers and HUD, NCST has established a “net realizable approach” to valuation that balances these concerns. Under this approach, buyers offer to purchase property on an all-cash basis with a quick closing at a price that reflects an adjustment from the current market appraised value of the property. The adjustment includes benefits that accrue to the seller by selling property directly to participants in the NSP program including: 1) avoiding the risk of further price declines during the marketing period; and 2) avoiding costs of insurance, real estate taxes, maintenance and other holding costs. NCST advocates for the adoption of this valuation model across the industry.

⁶ REO (Real Estate Owned) property is property that goes back to the mortgage holder after foreclosure.

Link neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities for residents. One of the key goals of NCST is to catalyze a high volume of economic activity within communities hard hit by the foreclosure crisis. Much of this local economic activity will be coordinated by local non-profit organizations and will provide significant opportunities for permanent and transitional workforce development opportunities at a range of skill and experience levels. This will include the need for crews to clean-up and secure vacant property, demolition, a wide range of homebuilding and repair activities including framing, drywall installation, finishing, window replacement, masonry, plumbing and electrical work, painting and decorating, appliance installation, project management, property management, landscaping and provision of on-site security. NCST works with its nonprofit partners to assure that the employment opportunities created by “brick and mortar” neighborhood stabilization projects accrue to local residents.

For these reasons, we recommend a general operating support grant to NCST of \$200,000 over one year.

Name of Organization: National Consumer Law Center

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

Purpose of Grant: To improve foreclosure mediation by (1) thoroughly examining the foreclosure mediation programs that are already operating in various parts of the country; (2) preparing a set of best practices for foreclosure mediation; and (3) working on an ongoing basis to support advocates as they develop and implement new mediation programs around the country

Previous OSI Support: \$750,000
Emma Lazarus Fund: \$50,000 (1998)
L&S Access to Legal Counsel: \$100,000 (2001);
\$100,000 (2002)
Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative: \$500,000 (2008)

Organization Budget: \$8,012,548

Project Budget: \$200,000

Sources of Support: AARP; Boston Foundation; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Energy Foundation; Fannie Mae Foundation; Ford Foundation; Freddie Mac; W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation; Sandler Family Supporting Foundation; state and local governments; IOLTA-Boston Bar Foundation; individual and law firm donations; earned income from attorney fees, publications (partial list)

Amount Requested: \$150,000

Amount Recommended: \$150,000

Term: One year, beginning January 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Since its founding in 1969 as a resource center for legal aid programs, the National Consumer Law Center, Inc. (NCLC) has helped low-income and economically disadvantaged Americans who struggle with financial and consumer problems. NCLC has grown beyond its legal aid roots and now stands at the center of a growing national community of consumer lawyers and related class action firms. NCLC attorneys have written and advocated extensively on all aspects of consumer law affecting low-income people, conducted trainings for tens of thousands of legal services and private attorneys on the law and litigation strategies to deal with predatory lending and other consumer law problems, and provided extensive oral and written testimony to numerous

Congressional committees on these topics. Staffed by 37 permanent employees, NCLC is based in Boston and operates a branch office in Washington, D.C.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NCLC has developed a Foreclosure Mediation Project that will promote the use of effective mediation procedures in mortgage foreclosure cases. Its project has three components. First, NCLC will thoroughly examine the foreclosure mediation programs that are already operating in various parts of the country. After analyzing this information they will document how effective these programs actually are in preventing foreclosures. Second, NCLC will use that empirical data and its expertise in foreclosure law to prepare a set of best practices for foreclosure mediation. Third, NCLC will work on an ongoing basis to support advocates as they develop and implement new mediation programs around the country. Its overall goal will be to improve existing mediation programs and to channel developing programs into designs that really work to preserve homeownership.

The first stage of the proposed project focuses on collecting, analyzing and disseminating detailed information from the foreclosure mediation programs that are already underway, including programs in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Florida, Ohio, and California. By June 2009, they will issue a report summarizing critical elements of each program including: legal and administrative structure; participation by borrowers and lenders; initial outcomes of mediation and settlement conferences; key determinants of successful outcomes; the role of community groups, counselors and attorneys; qualifications of mediators; and program funding and cost allocation. Simultaneously with release of the initial written report, NCLC will make related documentary information available on its web site, including program descriptions and forms in use in each jurisdiction.

In the second stage, NCLC will recommend model programs and model legislation for judicial and non-judicial foreclosure jurisdictions based on the results of its analysis of existing programs. In the fall of 2009, NCLC will release its second report containing the models and recommendations, which will address key legal, administrative, and programmatic questions.

Finally, NCLC will continue to work with advocates around the country who are developing foreclosure mediation programs or working to improve existing ones, and to provide back up and support for advocates in the field. They will also provide trainings and conduct educational workshops with policymakers, judges, and court staff to ensure that knowledge gained and lessons learned from local experiments in foreclosure mediation are shared among key decision makers.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project advances the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative's strategic grantmaking priorities: 1) supporting innovative efforts to overcome the "bottleneck" in loan modifications by encouraging greater transparency and accountability in the mortgage servicing industry; and 2) supporting emerging efforts to improve the legal foreclosure process in order to improve outcomes for distressed borrowers. It also advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund's broader interest in

lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

NCLC's Foreclosure Mediation Project will address one of the overriding problems that has evaded any effective solution in the current foreclosure crisis: the pervasive refusal of mortgage holders and servicers to modify overvalued home mortgages. Investments in mortgage-backed securities have suffered losses in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Property values nationwide have dropped more than twenty percent over the past two years, in some areas up to thirty percent or more. Yet, mortgage holders and servicers refuse to engage in large scale, systematic actions to acknowledge the loss of value of their investments. Instead, they persist in making irrational decisions to foreclose.

The failure of the servicing industry to engage in meaningful and effective loan modifications is driven largely by two major defects in existing loss mitigation programs. First, mortgage holders' participation, even to consider the viability of a loan modification, is voluntary. Second, the programs make no provision for a net present value analysis that compares the likely loss from foreclosure to the likely loss from a loan modification. A major goal of the proposed project will be to require use of a net present value ("NPV") model similar to the FDIC's successful "loan mod in a box" program in foreclosure mediation programs. The significant benefit of loan modification models such as the FDIC's is that they produce a tangible record of a valid calculation of the loss severity the mortgage holder will encounter if it proceeds with a foreclosure. This evidence presents a compelling basis upon which courts may apply their traditional equitable powers to restrict foreclosures.

NCLC's Foreclosure Mediation Project also addresses the need to improve the legal foreclosure process through court innovation. In response to rising foreclosure rates and burgeoning dockets, courts are increasingly revisiting court rules and procedures to identify opportunities for a more meaningful and efficient process. While experiments in foreclosure mediation have gained in popularity, local courts and advocates have been working in isolation and there has not yet been any systematic effort to document them.

NCLC is well positioned to lead the national effort to document experiments in foreclosure mediation and provide technical assistance to advocates and policymakers seeking to adopt or improve mediation programs. NCLC's legal and policy experts have become the nation's leading authorities in all aspects of foreclosure law and borrower protections. NCLC publishes the most widely used legal treatises and advocacy guides on foreclosure prevention and defense. NCLC also recently released "Foreclosing a Dream: State Laws Deprive Homeowners of Basic Protections," an extensive review of all 50 states' foreclosure laws, with recommended changes to make these laws more protective for homeowners.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant of \$150,000 to NCLC for one year.

Name of Organization: National Housing Law Project

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

Purpose of Grant: To increase the capacity of the national Housing Justice Network to protect tenants in foreclosed properties, and to identify and implement strategic uses of neighborhood stabilization funds that maximize creation of affordable housing and economic opportunities for low-income people, particularly those traditionally challenged with access to housing

Previous OSI Support: N/A

Organization Budget: \$1,268,967

Project Budget: \$300,000

Source of Support: N/A

Amount Requested: \$300,000

Amount Recommended: \$300,000

Term: Two years, beginning April 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) is a national housing and legal advocacy center. It was established in 1968 to provide specialized legal assistance on housing and urban development issues to attorneys working for the then newly created legal services program. Since then, NHLP has expanded its mission to advance housing justice for poor people by increasing and preserving the supply of decent, affordable housing; by improving existing housing conditions, including physical conditions and management practices; by expanding and enforcing low-income tenants' and homeowners' rights; and by increasing housing opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

NHLP requests \$150,000 annually over a two-year period to launch a national Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative. The Initiative will focus on addressing three critical needs arising from the current foreclosure crisis: 1) protecting and expanding the rights of tenants in foreclosed properties; 2) maximizing affordable housing opportunities for low-income and special needs populations under the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and related local efforts; and 3) strengthening emerging workforce development and economic opportunities associated with the NSP and economic recovery programs.

First, NHLP will enhance the quality and availability of legal representation for tenants in foreclosed properties and advocate for expanded protections to prevent displacement. NHLP will draw on its nationally recognized expertise and resources garnered from its extensive networks to

advise and assist housing advocates and their communities nationwide on issues including eviction defense, utility service interruptions, and neglected maintenance. In particular, NHLP will provide technical assistance and support on legal rights of tenants in foreclosed properties to members of its Housing Justice Network (HJN), a national group of approximately 700 legal services attorneys and other housing advocates who work to secure housing justice for low-income residents. It will also work with the federal agencies responsible for oversight of the government-sponsored entities (GSEs), such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to expand protections for tenants living in foreclosed properties owned by the GSEs.

Second, NHLP will ensure that federal NSP funds and related local efforts are used to increase housing opportunities for low-income families. To date, the NSP program has allocated \$5.92 billion in total to state and local governments to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed properties. Communities must allocate at least 25% of these funds to house families whose incomes do not exceed 50% of area median income. These communities have few applicable models for maximizing productive reuse of foreclosed properties to create affordable housing opportunities. NHLP will advise advocates and local governments on the most effective strategies for using NSP funds throughout the planning and implementation processes.

Third, NHLP will promote the use of NSP funds and affiliated efforts for the creation of economic opportunities for low-income residents under HUD's Section 3 program⁷ and innovative local programs designed to increase job opportunities and training for disadvantaged local residents. NHLP will provide information and training on the HUD Section 3 program to HJN members and key local stakeholders responsible for NSP implementation. NHLP will also identify and promote innovative local programs, such as San Francisco's CityBuild program, which have successfully trained and created job opportunities for disadvantaged residents in the housing and community development field. They will advocate for local neighborhood stabilization projects to create jobs for low income-people, people of color, and special needs populations.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project supports NSI's general goal of stabilizing those communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis and its specific grantmaking priorities of: 1) protecting the rights of renters in foreclosed properties; 2) developing and testing models aimed at the productive reuse of foreclosed properties; and 3) linking neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities. It also advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund's interest in lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

Each of the activities proposed by NHLP addresses critical needs that NSI staff has prioritized in our strategic grantmaking response to the foreclosure crisis, which emphasizes protecting the rights

⁷ HUD's Section 3 program requires that federal funds for community development and affordable housing are linked to the creation of training and employment opportunities for low-income people, particularly public housing residents. Under Section 3, at least 30% of new hires and training opportunities created as a result of HUD funding should be filled by low- and very-low income people. Because NSP funds are administered by HUD, all such funds used for housing construction and rehabilitation are subject to Section 3 requirements. Unfortunately, due a host of administrative and regulatory obstacles (including understaffing and lax enforcement by HUD), Section 3 has not lived up to its potential as a stimulant for job creation. In its proposal, NHLP specifies points of regulatory advocacy it will engage in to improve the overall effectiveness of the Section 3 program.

of the most vulnerable populations impacted by the foreclosure crisis. Although it is estimated that more than 20% of properties facing foreclosure nationwide and almost 40% of households displaced by the foreclosures are renters,⁸ few states and localities have legal protections in place to protect renters against summary evictions, and resources dedicated to tenant services and relocation assistance remain scarce. Renters displaced by foreclosure are much more likely to be low-income households and families of color⁹ than the foreclosed owner (who may be either owner-occupant or investor, but typically have greater access to resources). As a result, the foreclosure crisis is exacerbating preexisting rental market imbalances, and low-income families and communities of color disproportionately bear the brunt.

NHLP is also uniquely positioned to coordinate these efforts. The organization is widely recognized as the leading expert in affordable housing law and Section 3 enforcement. NHLP enjoys longtime alliances and close working partnerships with the nation's leading affordable housing advocacy groups, including the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Housing Assistance Council, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law, the National Consumer Law Center, and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant to NHLP of \$300,000 over two years.

⁸ See National Low-Income Housing Coalition *enters in Foreclosure: Defining the Problem, Identifying Solutions* (December 2008), *available at* www.2398.ssldomain.com/nlihc/doc/renters-in-foreclosure.pdf.

⁹ Even at the peak of the U.S. homeownership rate in 2004, African-American and Latino households were much more likely to rent than White households. See U.S. Census Bureau, *2007 Housing Vacancy Survey, Table 20* (2008), *available at* www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/annual07/ann07t20.html.

Name of Organization: National Law Center for Homelessness & Poverty

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

Purpose of Grant: To prevent homelessness resulting from foreclosure-related evictions by advocating for the expansion and replication of model homeless prevention programs and informing policymakers, legal services providers, advocates and the public about the legal rights of renters in foreclosed properties

Previous OSI Support: N/A

Organization Budget: \$1,494,900

Project Budget: \$75,000

Source of Support: Butler Family Fund; Community Foundation of the National Capital Area; Freddie Mac Foundation; Herb Block Foundation; Oakwood Foundation; Trellis Fund; US Human Rights Fund; law firm and corporate funders; individual donors; and attorney's fees

Amount Requested: \$75,000

Amount Recommended: \$75,000

Term: One year, beginning April 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Founded in 1989, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP or the "Law Center") serves as the legal arm of the national movement to end and prevent homelessness. Through policy advocacy, public education, and impact litigation, the Law Center works for systemic reform that addresses the root causes of homelessness, and seeks to meet both the immediate and long-term needs of homeless and poor people. By providing training and technical legal assistance, the Law Center also enhances the ability of local advocates and service providers to become more effective in their work.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The Law Center's Program to Prevent Homelessness Resulting from Foreclosures seeks to 1) prevent homelessness due to foreclosures and related evictions by disseminating information about model state programs and policies and supporting efforts to promote their adoption; 2) ensure that state and local governments, and their non-profit sub-grantees, are able to make effective use of \$1.5 billion in new stimulus funding for homelessness prevention through the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds to implement effective programs to prevent homelessness; and 3) educate

public agencies, attorneys, advocates, service providers and the public about renters' rights in foreclosure, and train and assist them in understanding and claiming such rights.

The Law Center will achieve these outcomes by focusing on two key strategies:

1) *Promoting Effective State and Local Policies to Prevent Homelessness, including Effective Use of New Federal Resources.* The Law Center will expand and update its recently published report on state homelessness prevention programs, "An Ounce of Prevention." In particular, the Law Center will expand the report to include selected city, as well as state, programs and develop model programs and recommended policies for such programs. The Law Center will disseminate its findings and models through webinars and live trainings to enable local advocates and government employees to expand or improve existing state programs or implement programs like those existing in other states that effectively address the impact of the foreclosure crisis. The Law Center will provide training to enable state and local governments, and their nonprofit sub-grantees, to apply for and effectively utilize the \$1.5 billion in available federal homelessness prevention stimulus funds through the ESG program.

2) *Protecting Renters' Rights in Context of Foreclosure.* The Law Center will expand and maintain up-to-date data and information in its recently published state-by-state report on tenants' rights, "Without Just Cause." The report will be updated regularly to reflect new state laws being considered or adopted in a very dynamic policy environment, as well as any new court cases or decisions and any new federal law or national directives. The Law Center will expand the report to include an analysis of overarching issues, such as federal statutory law, as well as any constitutional issues that apply across the 50 states. The Law Center will develop and disseminate "renters' rights alert" materials aimed at renters' themselves, for dissemination to service providers, advocates and renters groups.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project supports NSI's general goal of stabilizing those communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis and its specific grantmaking priority of protecting the rights of renters in foreclosed properties. It also advances EOF's interest in lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

Recognizing that the current foreclosure crisis is driving dramatic increases in homelessness across the country, the Law Center has taken a leadership role in advocating for federal programs and policies that minimize foreclosure-related evictions and help relocate displaced households. In particular, the Law Center was instrumental in obtaining over \$1.5 billion for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs included in the recent economic stimulus package. These funds provide an essential new tool to protect tenants displaced by foreclosure and may be used to re-house displaced tenants in foreclosed properties re-purposed as affordable rental housing.¹⁰

¹⁰ See American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111-5), signed Feb. 17, 2009 (allocating \$1.5 billion for the Emergency Shelter Grant program to provide short term-rental assistance, housing relocation, and stabilization services for families during the economic crisis).

Despite its success in advocating for the inclusion of homeless prevention funding in the stimulus package, much work remains to be done to ensure that these funds are used effectively and targeted to those with the greatest need. New homeless prevention funds are to be distributed to states and local government funds through the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) system and then re-granted to non-profit organizations. Because this constitutes a very significant increase in ESG funding, and it is directed at jurisdictions that may not be familiar with the ESG program, there is a critical need for timely and accessible information on eligible uses of the funds and how to design programs for effective implementation.

The Law Center's work addresses many of the same needs identified in the staff recommendation for the National Housing Law Project (also included in this docket). The Law Center and NHLP will collaborate in their training and advocacy and plan to jointly develop modules that for legal services attorneys in their respective networks.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant to the Law Center of \$75,000 for one year.

Name of Organization: The Urban Institute

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

Purpose of Grant: To support empirical research on the impacts of foreclosures on children and families by linking property-level foreclosure data to public school data in Baltimore, New York City and Washington, DC.

Previous OSI Support: \$569,000
 Emma Lazarus Fund: \$50,000 (1997-8)
 The After Prison Initiative: \$80,000 (2000-1);
 \$25,000 (2000-1); \$25,000 (2000-1);
 \$46,000 (2001); \$120,000 (2001-2); \$25,000 (2002);
 \$23,000 (2003-4)
 OSI-Baltimore: \$100,000 (2001-3)
 Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative: \$75,000
 (2008-9)

Organization Budget: \$66,000,000

Project Budget: \$275,000

Source of Support: Federal government, state and local governments; foreign governments and international entities; foundations, corporations, and private organizations (full list of major funders included in proposal)

Amount Requested: \$275,000

Amount Recommended: \$275,000

Term: 15 months, beginning May 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Established as a private, nonprofit corporation Washington, D.C., in 1968, the Urban Institute (UI) has become known nationally for its objective and nonpartisan research and educational outreach on social, economic, and governance problems facing the nation. It provides information and analysis to public and private decision makers to help them address these problems and strives to raise citizen understanding of the issues and tradeoffs involved in policy making. Its goals are to sharpen thinking about society's problems and efforts to solve them, improve government decisions and their implementation, and increase citizens' awareness about important public choices.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

After conducting an initial survey of the state of research on the secondary effects of foreclosures on families and neighborhoods (funded, in part, by a prior OSI project support grant), UI requests funding to support more in-depth research to examine and expose the impacts that foreclosures have on children and families by linking property-level foreclosure data to public school student residential addresses. Its basic hypothesis is that foreclosures are stressful disruptions that negatively affect children's performance in school, their health and other aspects of their wellbeing. It also hypothesizes that the nature and magnitude of these effects are likely to differ in different types of neighborhoods.

The proposed research project will have two stages—one cross-sectional and the other longitudinal. For the first stage, each city will match the addresses of foreclosed homes with the public school records of student home addresses at the time of foreclosure. This analysis will reveal the number of school-age children in foreclosed families and their basic characteristics such as age, race, and free/reduced lunch status. It will also help identify and characterize the most severely affected schools and neighborhoods. The three sites will also be able to identify and characterize the most severely affected schools and neighborhoods with concentrations of foreclosed families with children, and where school- or neighborhood-based post-foreclosure services would be justified. Having these well-grounded numbers will raise the profile of how children are being affected by this crisis, and spur local conversations about how programs and policies could help minimize the negative effects.

The second stage of the analysis will match the records above to school records across time. This analysis will help shed light on the elusive question of “where do families go after foreclosure,” along with information on whether families stayed in their original neighborhoods and if children changed schools. In addition, Baltimore and New York City data enables the comparison of critical measures of school performance for children in foreclosed families compared to their classmates, such as attendance, test scores, and drop-out rates.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed project supports NSI's goal of stabilizing communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. It also advances EOF's interest in lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

UI's proposed research fills two critical voids in the state of our knowledge about the spillover effects or broader societal impacts of the current foreclosure crisis. First, remarkably little is known about the impacts that the crisis has had on children, particularly among low-income families and communities of color that have been hardest hit by the crisis. It is often assumed, but rarely documented, that the displacement associated with foreclosure negatively affects children's performance in school, their health and other aspects of their wellbeing. However, to date, there has been no systematic research quantifying the negative consequences of foreclosure specifically for children. As a result of this gap, policy responses to the foreclosure crisis have focused too narrowly on protecting property values, without taking full account of the strains the crisis places on a broader human services infrastructure, including child services and education.

The second critical void that this research will fill is the persistent question of where families go *after* foreclosure. While central to a host of policy questions, the post-foreclosure relocation

decisions of households are exceedingly difficult to research. There are few reliable or public sources of data available to analyze family mobility over time, and it tends to be prohibitively expensive to track families individually through surveys or other methods. As a result, advocates and policymakers have resorted to anecdotal evidence of post-foreclosure outcomes and speculation as to how housing tenure and proximity to jobs, transportation and services might change after a foreclosure-related eviction.

Public school data provide a valuable, but heretofore untapped, resource to begin to answer these critical questions. Through its network of local research partners, the Urban Institute has access to a unique set of data on foreclosures, student addresses, and school performance in three cities: New York City, Baltimore, and Washington DC. (In the first two of these cities, NSI has already made significant investments in foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization, and staff will help connect UI and affiliated researchers to community groups and local advocates). This project will produce for the first time a detailed local picture of how children are affected by the foreclosure crisis, where they move, and how they weather the disruption. The findings would not only highlight the need for services for these children and their families, but also allow policymakers to make more informed decisions.

For these reasons, we recommend a project support grant of \$275,000 to the Urban Institute for 15 months.

**CAMPAIGN FOR
BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT
GRANTS**

Name of Organization: Center for Urban Families, Inc.

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide renewal support of the Center's *Advancing Responsible Fatherhood* strategy, a three-pronged approach including direct service, research, evaluation, and national advocacy

Previous OSI Support: \$900,000
OSI-B Workforce Development: \$275,000 (2000-4); \$250,000 (2002-5); \$125,000 (2004-6)
Campaign for Black Male Achievement: \$250,000 (2008-9)

Organization Budget: \$5,370,944

Project Budget: \$724,984

Source of Support: Krieger Fund, Knott Foundation; Baltimore Community Foundation, City of Baltimore

Amount Requested: \$600,000

Amount Recommended: \$600,000

Term: Two years, \$300,000 per year beginning May 2009

Description of Organization:

The Center for Urban Families (the Center) was founded by Joe Jones in 1999, out of the former Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development. It has delivered job readiness, career advancement, parenting education, and client advocacy services to Baltimore's disadvantaged men and women over the past nine years. The Center's core program areas are: Workforce Development; Family Services; and Responsible Fatherhood.

The Center's President, Joe Jones, is known for his ability to engage and provide hands-on services to a wide swath of Baltimore residents. He is now a national leader in workforce development, fatherhood, and family services programming. He is also a Vice Chair of the OSI-Baltimore Board of Directors.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The Center requests renewed project support to implement the *Advancing Responsible Fatherhood* initiative. This initiative will build on the Center's existing work to strengthen the national field of organizations working to promote responsible fatherhood within the African American community and beyond. It will employ multiple strategies, including direct services provision, community organizing, policy analysis and research, model development and evaluation.

The *Advancing Responsible Fatherhood* initiative is the culmination of collaborative efforts among three partners: The Center's Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project; the Columbia University Center for Research on Fathers, Children and Family Well-Being (CRFCFW); and The National Fatherhood Leaders Group (NFLG), a coalition of 13 prominent contributors to the responsible fatherhood field.

Division of labor among the three partners is as follows. CFUF's Baltimore-focused responsible fatherhood work will provide a laboratory for testing best practices in reentry programming; parenting education; workforce development and job training; Earned Income Tax Credit and money management training; and life skills training. CRFCFW, led by Columbia Professor Ron Mincy, will take the lead in conducting empirical analysis of the Center's educational and advocacy services to evaluate effectiveness in achieving positive outcomes for participants in the Center's programs and for their children. NFLG will disseminate the empirical evidence and research findings collected by the Center and CRFCFW to social service providers, policy advocacy groups, and government agencies that work in early childhood development, family support, reentry and healthcare.

Additionally, with renewed OSI support the Center will continue its policy advocacy work in partnership with NFLG to inform and galvanize practitioners, policymakers, researchers and community leaders around public policy issues relevant to the national responsible fatherhood movement. The policy advocacy strategy includes a national series of Community Conversations in designed to coordinate dialogue between policy makers and direct practitioners. NFLG will continue to serve as resource to fatherhood practitioners by alerting them to key policy developments, including anticipated responsible fatherhood initiatives emanating out of the Obama administration's Office of Urban Policy.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Center's proposed work advances CBMA's interest in promoting responsible fatherhood and in funding local demonstration efforts capable of influencing national advocacy and policy devoted to improving life outcomes for black men and boys. It also addresses EOF's interest in lifting barriers that prevent individuals from participating on an equal basis with others in all aspects of economic, social and political life, and the Criminal Justice Fund's goal of expanding reentry opportunities.

The Center is locally and nationally respected for the advances it has made in developing model approaches that address the plight of marginalized black men and their children. It is also a valuable thought partner to CBMA and broader OSI staff in considering the best strategies to address the particular needs of black men and boys. When staff first began exploring possible grantmaking strategies in this field, it was struck by the large number of organizations devoted to responsible fatherhood. We turned to the Center and Joe Jones with questions regarding whether responsible fatherhood initiatives had the potential to address the structural barriers to opportunity faced by black men and boys. After devoting the bulk of his career to black men and boys, Jones is highly persuasive in arguing that the issue of fatherhood has been singularly successful in activating the engagement of black men not only around improving life outcomes for their

children, but also for themselves. Fatherhood also underlies a range of structural policy concerns, from child support arrears to non-custodial parent tax credits to educational policy.

For these reasons, CBMA has decided to make responsible fatherhood one of its core priorities. CBMA has also decided to invest in the work of the Center as a core grantee. The Center's vision extends well beyond its direct services work to considerations of how to impact local, state, and national policy. This broad vision is reflected in the comprehensive approach of the *Advancing Responsible Fatherhood* initiative. It involves academics and national policy advocates in evaluation of the Center's work to justify and scale up what works and rethink and redesign less effective efforts. It is also plugged into a broader network of social service providers, academics, and policy advocates that can make productive use of its findings.

Given the Center's solid track record and the potential of the Advancing Responsible Fatherhood initiative to have national policy and practical repercussions, staff recommends renewed project funding to the Center for Urban Families in the amount of \$600,000 over two years.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	Young People’s Project, Inc.
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To provide support for the development of a statewide network of math literacy workers and youth organizers with a particular focus on improving educational outcomes and leadership development of African American males
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	None
<u>Organizational Budget:</u>	\$2,701,138
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$613,445
<u>Sources of Support :</u>	Kellogg (Rural People Rural Policy); Ford Foundation (Finding Our Folk); National Science Foundation; Marguerite Casey Foundation (through sub grant with Algebra Project); Southern Partners Fund (Discretionary Grant); SEIU
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$500,000
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$400,000 (\$200,000 CBMA, \$200,000 D&P Fund)
<u>Term:</u>	Two years, beginning May 1, 2009
<u>Matching Requirements:</u>	None

Description of Organization:

The Young People’s Project (YPP) was founded in Jackson, Mississippi in 1996 by former and current students of the Algebra Project whose programs help “low income students and students of color acquire mathematical skills that are a prerequisite for a college preparatory mathematics sequence in high school and full citizenship in today’s technological society.” Born out of the spirit and work of Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Bob Moses and many others, YPP strives through their learning/organizing model to create a culture among young people centered on educational excellence, equity and social justice, and community change. Today, YPP uses their math and media literacy programs and civil rights workshops as an organizing tool to engage and equip young people with the confidence and skills to *Learn, Teach, Lead* and *Organize* their peer groups in their schools and communities.

Over the past four years, as students have moved from middle school to high school to college, the local Jackson program has expanded to include in-school, after-school, and community based components that provide direct services to over 1,500 students across 15 school, community and faith-based sites. YPP sees the classroom as the frontline of community organizing because the

classroom brings together all necessary community stakeholders (parents, teachers, educational advocates, and youth) committed to improving the life outcomes for all students, especially young Black males. Students from YPP Jackson have inspired and supported the expansion of YPP programs in Illinois, Massachusetts, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, California, Ohio, Michigan, and Louisiana. YPP currently employs over 300 college and high school students nationwide and engages over 7,000 students, family and community members through various initiatives annually.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

YPP looks to expand its early work in math and media literacy to build out their statewide Mississippi community organizing work by investing in the following:

Strategic Planning

YPP has begun work with Root Cause, The Interaction Institute for Social Change and Management Consultant Services, to develop a scope of work and comprehensive business plan that incorporates organizational and financial planning, network organizing and technology strategies. OSI funding will specifically support YPP's organizational, leadership and strategic planning in Mississippi. The strategic planning will center on how Jackson will serve as the hub of a statewide network that connects to YPP's larger developing statewide, regional and national network.

Developing a Statewide Network

By building on its past organizing and educational work in Jackson, YPP will develop a statewide network of organizing "hubs" designed to foster growth of a broader network of learners, teachers, leaders and organizers that will impact educational outcomes for elementary school-aged youth; cultivate a growing cadre of high school and college math literacy workers; and produce a statewide organizing model that could be replicated throughout the South.

YPP is interested in collaborating with local partners, communities and school districts in Mississippi to be part of a broader initiative to work with young people who are at risk of dropping out of school. By using the classroom as an organizing hub to advance excellence, YPP will help reverse the current "schoolhouse to jailhouse" pipeline feeding young Black males and others into the Mississippi criminal justice system. It plans to leverage the expertise of its partners to help reform racially discriminatory zero-tolerance school disciplinary procedures, initially in Jackson and the Delta. It is also considering efforts to address the state's failing alternative schools initiatives which serve to increase disparities in educational outcomes between black and white students in the state.

The main vehicle for bridging its literacy work to broader community organizing is its Learning, Teaching, Leading and Organizing model (LTLO). LTLO relies on the NeighborCircles organizing approach to strengthen the connection and community power-building work between YPP students, their families, and neighborhoods to help young people serve as the catalyst for civic engagement and leadership. The NeighborCircles networking approach to organizing leads community members to create organic spaces to tell stories and ultimately develop strategies to solve community problems.

Creating a Pipeline for Organizational and Youth Leadership Development

YPP will recruit a core group of young people to develop a policy and advocacy apparatus into which the literacy work and network building will feed. The group will be comprised of young people across the state, predominately African-American, and contain an even balance of young male and female students. YPP projects that up to 55% of the 300 elementary students receiving math tutoring and high school will be black males and up to 50% of the high school and college math literacy workers will be black males.

Rationale for Recommendation:

YPP's proposed work advances the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's goals of promoting educational equity, youth organizing and leadership development as strategies to improve the life outcomes of black men and boys. It also advances EOF's goal of ensuring justice and equality, and lifting barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social, and political life. Support of this project also provides CBMA with a strategic opportunity to partner with the Democracy & Power Fund, to advance their goals of engaging and mobilizing youth and communities of color, and to build the collective power of individuals and organizations to develop and demand solutions that advance open society in the United States.

Today, more than ever, YPP's innovative educational and youth organizing strategy is greatly needed in Mississippi and throughout the South. According to *Given Half A Chance*, the Schott Foundation's 50 State Report on Public Education and Black males, Mississippi is a "red alert" state which graduates only 49% of its black males. The high school graduation rate is more alarming in the city of Jackson, with a 32% graduation rate for black males. YPP's work to improve math literacy and educational outcomes as early as elementary school, while recruiting high school and college students to serve as paid math literacy workers and organizers is a logical strategy to divert the flow of black males dropping out of high school and entering the prison pipeline.

To achieve its goal of developing a durable statewide network to support its work, YPP has also enlisted a corps of reputable partners, including OSI grantee the Advancement Project, as well as Padres/Jovenes Unidos, the Mississippi Prevention of "Schoolhouse to Jailhouse" Coalition, Southern Echo, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, The Children's Defense Fund and the local chapters of the NAACP and ACLU. YPP plans through its partnerships and community organizing efforts, including the NeighborCircles outreach, to engage young people as young as 12 and 13 years old.

Since 1996, YPP has established a strong reputation for educational success and nurturing youth leaders committed to social justice. CBMA considers YPP to be a strategic youth advocacy organization in the South that marries educational equity issues with community outreach and organizing led by those who are directly impacted by misguided policed and practices. Additionally, one of OSI's key philanthropic partners, Atlantic Philanthropies, is poised to invest significantly in YPP's organizational development and capacity building on the national level. For these reasons, staff recommends project support for two years in the amount of \$400,000 to be split equally between CBMA and D&P.