

Equality and Opportunity 2009 Planned Grants for Docket II

Racial Justice

Applied Research Center

\$100,000 over one year

To provide general support to the Applied Research Center (ARC). Built on rigorous research and creative use of new technology, ARC is a racial justice think tank and home for media and activism. ARC recently completed a feasibility study to assess its programs and rethink strategy in its three core areas of journalism, research, and racial justice movement-building. It concluded that the current political moment requires the expansion of its most media-friendly products, and a focus on those projects that address the economic crisis from a racial justice standpoint. It also plans to take up projects that help to explain racism in its modern day form by telling the stories of everyday people and the structures that shape their lives.

Accordingly, ARC plans to develop the following areas of its work:

1. Using the Compact for Racial Justice (released at its Facing Race Conference last year) as an organizing framework for its projects;
2. Expanding its Legislative Report Cards for Racial Equity to eight states (11 altogether) over the next two years; and
3. Building a new web magazine (a cross between Color of Change and the Huffington Post) to break down political and cultural news on race for a large audience of millennials (those who came of age around the turn of the century).

ARC has requested a general operating support grant of \$200,000. EOF is not able to meet this request at this time, but plans to determine whether D&P has any interest in co-funding ARC.

Equal Justice Society

\$125,000 over one year

To provide renewed project support to the Equal Justice Society (EJS) for its *Dismantling Intent* program. EJS is one of few organizations explicitly focused on overturning current barriers to implementing protections in the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Currently, U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence requires plaintiffs to prove a perpetrator's discriminatory intent in order to win an anti-discrimination claim. Because contemporary discrimination is frequently structural in nature, unconscious, and/or hidden beneath alternative excuses for a decision maker's behavior (despite the fact that a tangible harm has resulted from their actions), the showing of "intent" becomes a near impossible burden. EJS supports advocacy organizations that are litigating cases addressing structural racism and engaged in broader advocacy to overturn the intent doctrine.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, EJS will begin expanding its legal strategy, which will include trainings on litigation approaches, amicus support for litigators, and educational briefs. EJS will begin systematically monitoring discrimination cases and increase research analysis activities. It will also conduct lawyer, judicial, and legislative education sessions on existing social science and persisting structural racism to seed content for legal arguments, opinions, and policies.

To coordinate EOF's support of EJS with the Transparency and Integrity Fund's support of EJS's work on judicial nominations, EOF will attempt to move this grant to the third docket of the year.

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

\$150,000 over one year (plus possible project support from CBMA in amount to be determined)

To provide renewed general support to the Kirwan Institute. The principal mission of the Kirwan Institute is to contribute meaningfully to the field of research and scholarship on race, ethnicity and social justice, to assist in reframing the way we talk about, think about and act on race and ethnicity. In order to advance its mission and strengthen its organizational capacity, Kirwan requests renewed support to achieve the following objectives:

1. improve administrative operations, including fund development;
2. strengthen its communications capacity;
3. deepen and expand its research and technology capacity;
4. expand and reinforce links with other advocacy groups; and
5. strengthen capacity to respond to community leaders, government agencies, elected officials, and policy makers.

Kirwan has also requested project support from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) for a two-year mapping, research, community engagement, and community advocacy initiative that would focus on six metropolitan areas. The goals of this project include:

1. raising awareness of the structural barriers impacting black males;
2. identifying communities where black males are succeeding (with exploration as to why) and identification of policy issues (e.g., housing, education, etc.) linked to black male achievement;
3. providing a model of mapping, advocacy and community engagement to inform other black male initiatives in metropolitan regions;
4. strengthening local resources to identify areas of greatest need in a handful of metropolitan regions and assess gaps where need is not being met by on-going advocacy, local investments, or policy initiatives; and
5. using mapping to inform local advocacy campaigns.

Kirwan has requested \$496,420 for the mapping project. CBMA plans to speak to Kirwan to discuss the scale, cost, and need for its proposed work. If there is a fit between Kirwan's proposed work and CBMA's priorities, the funding will be combined with the racial justice general support grant described above.

National Legal Aid and Defender Association

\$125,000 over one year (final grant)

To provide renewed project support to NLADA in its efforts to expand the capacity of the civil legal aid community to advance racial justice. With earlier support from OSI and Ford, NLADA is creating a network of people committed to advancing racial equity, including lawyers, clients, community leaders and social justice advocates. This network will function as a learning community with individuals contributing their time, energy, information and resources to help each other expand capacity for racial equity. The network will be sustained through web-based resource banks, webinars, conferences, online and in-person training, and virtual connectivity through a listserv, wiki and online discussion forum.

In addition to supporting the learning community with general information, resources, and training, NLADA provides support to specific racial justice campaigns. One of those is the issue of municipal underbounding – the exclusion of poor people and people of color from city services, e.g., water and sewer services. One of NLADA’s member organizations, California Rural Legal Assistance, is representing clients in Modesto, California who have been unfairly excluded from city services. The affected Latino communities are also referred to as “colonias.”

NLADA plans to bring together lawyers, researchers, clients, community leaders and media experts for a strategy meeting focused on municipal underbounding to expand advocacy on the issue among civil legal aid programs, share information, provide leadership development, and identify potential research questions that can be addressed by NLADA’s network. The proposed grant will support the strategy meeting, development of a short film documenting the colonias, and expansion of web-based resources for the racial justice advocacy network.

Immigrant Rights and Immigration Innovation

America’s Voice Education Fund

\$700,000 over two years

To provide project support for the leading communications role America’s Voice plays in the campaign for immigration reform. This grant will cover several major efforts: 1) outreach to police chiefs and other law enforcement personnel and experts to lift their voices and make the case for a national immigration policy that aids local crime-fighting and stops undermining community policing; 2) intensive high level one-on-one media training and coaching for 25 top national and local spokespeople to prepare them for primetime cable television and talk radio where they’re likely to duel opponents and hostile hosts and have to convince skeptical questioners; 3) earned media work in several areas of the country where support for reform is needed by recruiting local faith, business, community, labor, and law enforcement groups to hold events, place op-eds, stage press conferences, and pitch stories; 4) organizing additional large-scale public events hosted by churches throughout the country; and 5) building support for immigration reform in the progressive blogosphere. This grant complements work being done by the National Immigration Forum (also funded by OSI) to organize local elected officials and law

enforcement to speak publicly in support of immigration reform, and several other grants made in Docket I.

Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services (ACCESS)

\$300,000 over two years (\$200K from NSHR; \$100,000 from Immigrants Rights)

To provide renewed project support to ACCESS for its National Network for Arab American Communities. Founded in Michigan in 1971, ACCESS is a human services and advocacy organization devoted to the social, cultural, and economic development of Arab American communities in the U.S. The Network strengthens grassroots institutions serving Arab Americans by encouraging civic participation, promoting economic empowerment, and enhancing communities' ability to advocate on issues of concern. This grant will support the Network's advocacy on two sets of issues: (a) the targeting of Arabs and Muslims for border profiling, watchlists, and police and FBI surveillance; and (b) comprehensive immigration reform and other immigration policy, field building, and civic engagement priorities identified by the Four Pillars Campaign.

Church World Services

\$300,000 over two years

To provide project support for the Church World Services' Immigration and Refugee Program to organize and mobilize mainline protestant congregations and interfaith coalition building at the state level. Past efforts to mobilize the faith community have mainly involved small pockets of faith leaders joining secular coalitions such as the Center for Community Change, or have centered around educating religious conservatives on the need for immigration reform. This effort focuses on mainline Protestant communities and religious progressives to help shift public opinion among the more conservative religious groups in the Midwest and South where they have great influence. This grant will support organizing and communications strategies to enable protestant congregations, immigrant ministries and interfaith coalitions to build support for immigration reform in 11 states where the Church World Services and their partners have capacity. This grant complements our support for the Interfaith Immigrant Coalition that is coordinated by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Other grants to support other faith-based efforts, such as Faith in Public Life, will be considered in the subsequent docket.

Faith in Public Life

\$200,000 over two years

To provide a project grant to Faith in Public Life for its role in providing communications support for the grassroots faith organizing effort of Church World Service and the United Methodist Church. This support will complement on-the-ground work by ensuring a strong earned media strategy and by linking up faith activists online through targeted online actions. In addition, funds to Faith in Public Life will support the grassroots organizing successes with a paid media campaign utilizing faith-based radio and print ads. Faith in Public Life is a progressive faith strategy center advancing faith in the public square as a positive and unifying force for justice, compassion and the common good. In order to maximize the faith community's unique ability to shape public debates, Faith in Public Life provides communications, online and

coalition building strategies to movement leaders and designs and implements innovative campaigns, timely opinion research, bold initiatives and capacity-building tools.

French-American Foundation

\$25,000 over one year (exploring co-funding possibility with the Network Media Program)

To provide project support for a convening of media professionals to broaden the scope of reporting on immigrant issues and provide a counter narrative to the negative characterizations of immigrants prevalent in the media. The convening will consist of two conferences that will include approximately seventy participants representing immigration reporters, editors and media executives from U.S., European, and Canadian news outlets. Findings from the symposia will be disseminated as a resource guide to identified reporters and media executives, schools of journalism, NGOs specialized in media and in immigration, immigration experts and advocates, policy-makers involved with immigration policy, and funders. Support of effort will advance EOF's immigrant rights' goals of fostering communication strategies that expand and fairly portray the contributions and role of immigrants in society. The French-American Foundation's broader project goal of improving the quality and depth of reporting on immigration issues resonates with EOF's aim of addressing barriers that hinder people from fully engaging in their communities.

Immigrant Defense Project (fiscal agent Fund for the City of New York) (IDP)

\$400,000 two years (\$200K from CJF; \$200K from Immigrant Rights)

To provide general support for the Immigrant Defense Project's work to advance the legal, constitutional and human rights of immigrants facing criminal or deportation charges. This grant advances CJF's goals of preventing harsh punishment and promoting equal access to justice, and EOF's goals to ensure justice and equality and lift the barriers that prevent people from fully participating in economic, social and political life. IDP was launched in 1997 in order to respond to the devastating 1996 immigration laws that placed hundreds of thousands of immigrants at risk of mandatory detention and deportation for virtually any interaction with the criminal justice system. The proposed grant will support advocacy efforts to scale back egregious overreaching government interpretations of the current criminal-immigration deportation laws through impact litigation and, where resources allow, coordinated communications work; support reform of the current mandatory deportation system through policy analysis and administrative advocacy focusing on the criminal immigration intersection; build the capacity of community groups to respond to immigration enforcement and support community-based advocacy efforts through community education; and establish models for systemic changes in the criminal justice system.

New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)

\$100,000 over one year

To provide general support to the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC), an umbrella policy and advocacy organization comprised of more than 200 groups in New York State working with immigrants and refugees. NYIC projects a powerful advocacy voice, analyzing the impact of

immigration policy proposals, improving newcomers' access to services, resolving problems with public agencies, and mobilizing member groups to respond to public issues and community needs. Its membership includes immigrant rights advocates, immigrant community leaders and service providers, numerous community-based ethnic and non-profit human service organizations, and leaders from labor, academia and the legal professions. NYIC has been a longtime grantee of OSI and is a core grantee of the Immigrant Rights portfolio. They continue to play a critical role in the new immigration reform campaign.

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

\$200,000 over two years (\$100K from NSHR; \$100K from Immigrant Rights)

To provide project support for SAALT as it works to challenge racial and religious profiling by law enforcement and national security agencies, and to advance comprehensive immigration reform. Based in Washington, D.C., SAALT was founded in 2000 and staffed in 2004 to foster civic and political engagement by South Asians in America. This grant will help SAALT more effectively: (a) engage in policy analysis and advocacy at the intersection of immigration, profiling, and post-9/11 policies; (b) collaborate with civil rights and immigrant rights organizations around national campaigns related to national security and immigration reform; (c) engage in community education on immigration reform and post-9/11 issues through “know your rights” publications and community-based town hall meetings; (d) deepen media advocacy by the South Asian American community; and (e) work with members of the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO) to document post 9/11 profiling and due process violations for a broader report to be released in conjunction with the ten-year anniversary of 9/11.

LGBTQ Rights

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\$120,000 over two years

To provide general support to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a New York-based legal services and advocacy organization that works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP provides a range of free legal services to transgender, intersex and gender nonconforming low-income people and people of color, advocates for transgender inclusion in and enforcement of anti-discrimination law, and works with transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people who are incarcerated.

Park Square Advocates d/b/a Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

\$120,000 over two years

To support the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), New England's leading legal rights organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, HIV status and gender identity and expression. Through litigation, public education and field organizing, GLAD strives to meet five programmatic goals: end federal discrimination in marriage; establish marriage equality for same-sex couples in each New England state; expand outreach,

public education and support for and from communities of color; establish equality around gender identity and expression in each New England state; and achieve full equality in the areas of HIV, family recognition, employment and LGBTQ youth.

Immigration Equality

\$125,000 over two years

To support Immigration Equality, a national organization that works to end discrimination in U.S. immigration law, to reduce the negative impact of that law on the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive people, and to help obtain asylum for those persecuted in their home country based on their sexual orientation, transgender identity or HIV-status. Through education, outreach, advocacy, and the maintenance of a nationwide network of resources, Immigration Equality provides information and support to advocates, attorneys, politicians and those who are threatened by persecution or the discriminatory impact of immigration law.

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

The Reinvestment Fund

\$200,000 over two years

To provide project support The Reinvestment Fund's (TRF) research to evaluate the Philadelphia Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot program—the first court diversion program in the country developed in response to the current the foreclosure crisis—in order to determine the effectiveness of the program in preventing foreclosures and to identify key determinants of program success to guide the development of similar programs in other jurisdictions.

TRF is a Philadelphia-based community development financial institution whose mission is to alleviate poverty by building assets, wealth and opportunity for low- and moderate-income communities and persons through the promotion of socially and environmentally responsible development.

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development

\$250,000 over two years

To provide project support for the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development's (National CAPACD) efforts to 1) identify institutional barriers that impair the ability of Asian American and Pacific Islander homeowners to obtain timely loan modifications or other relief; 2) develop and promote alternative credit standards that provide more appropriate measures of credit-readiness for immigrant communities; and 3) engage community members in efforts to challenge predatory, discriminatory, or inequitable practices in concert with other allied organizations and communities.

National CAPACD is the first and largest national advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the community development needs of diverse and rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

National Fair Housing Alliance

\$275,000 over two years

To provide project support for the National Fair Housing Alliance's (NFHA) research and regulatory advocacy to increase transparency in national foreclosure prevention programs, improve access to quality credit for underserved populations, and promote fair lending and civil rights compliance in the financial markets.

NFHA is a consortium of more than 220 private, non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights agencies, and individuals from throughout the United States. It is the nation's only civil rights agency dedicated solely to the elimination of all forms of housing discrimination.

Campaign for Black Male Achievement

Twenty-First Century Foundation

\$575,000 over two years

To provide \$500,000 in renewed project support for the Twenty-First Century Foundation Black Men and Boys Initiative's work in New Orleans and Chicago to provide capacity-building support, technical assistance, coalition-building and leadership development to organizations working to improve the life outcomes of black men and boys in each city. The Campaign's support allows 21CF to link the Chicago and New Orleans coalitions to the national education, advocacy and policy platform initiative of the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys. This grant will also provide a one-year \$75,000 project grant to support a community engagement and educational advocacy campaign using the documentary film, *Bring Your "A" Game*, which delivers a message of achievement and encouragement to black boys and is designed to organize communities, national policy advocates and funders to help improve educational outcomes for black boys.

Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE)

\$75,000 over one year

To provide project support for ABFE's organizational strategy to increase public awareness, policy advocacy and philanthropic funding streams to improve live outcomes for black men and boys. The Campaign's support will allow ABFE to specifically engage in two core activities to advance their goal of expanding philanthropic support of black men and boys. The first activity is a communications campaign that highlights critical issues facing black men and boys and the investment strategies to address them; and the second activity is facilitating national and place-based convenings for ABFE members and funding partners to mobilize, learn about funding gaps and opportunities to leverage resources for black men and boys initiatives.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ)

\$4,000,000 over four years

To provide general operating support for HCZ's nationally-acclaimed community-building and anti-poverty strategy in Harlem that works with 17,000 children and families via a comprehensive service delivery model that includes, two K-12 charter schools, family support services, youth development and college prep programs and tenant organizing. The overarching goal of HCZ is to break a cycle of generational poverty within the 97 blocks of its operations.