

Equality and Opportunity Fund 2010 Planned Grants for Catch-up Docket

The Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) makes grants across four core areas: racial justice; immigrant rights; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) rights; and gender justice. EOF also works to increase support for an intersectional equality agenda by supporting advocacy efforts that address two or more of EOF's core areas and may also implicate the concerns of other U.S. Programs funds and campaigns. To strengthen its intersectional grantmaking, EOF has identified two issues that highlight the shared stake people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The two priority issues are low wage workers' rights and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF supports three targeted initiatives that address urgent equal opportunity concerns. They are the Campaign for Black Male Achievement; the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative; and the Immigration Innovation Fund.

The following are the grants that EOF recommends for funding for the Catch-up Docket, totaling 8 grants and \$1,520,000. Included in this docket are: 3 recommended grants from EOF totaling \$370,000; 4 recommended grants from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative totaling \$900,000; and 1 recommended grant from the Campaign for Male Achievement totaling \$250,000.

Gender Justice and LGBTQ Rights

Queers for Economic Justice, *New York, NY*
\$100,000 over 2 years (*new: general support*)

To provide general support. Queers for Economic Justice (QEJ) was established in 2000 by LGBTQ poor and homeless people and anti-poverty organizers. A capacity building grant from OSI in 2000 was the first source of foundation support for QEJ. QEJ seeks to address the unique economic challenges low-income and homeless LGBTQ people face. Such challenges include a higher likelihood of homelessness, vulnerability to employment discrimination, lack of access to well-paying jobs, and discrimination within shelters and public assistance sites. QEJ's primary constituencies are LGBTQ persons living in shelters or receiving public assistance. QEJ operates over forty LGBTQ support groups at twenty shelters across New York City. Through its work in the shelter system, QEJ has successfully advocated for changes in City policies to enable LGBTQ families to access family shelters and to allow transgender shelter residents to self-determine which shelter system (male or female) in which to live. QEJ produces reports and documentary pieces about needs of poor and homeless LGBTQ persons. Support from EOF will allow QEJ to continue working with LGBTQ shelter residents and to launch a new campaign addressing the violence and harassment directed at LGBTQ youth in the shelter system.

Anti Violence

Alliance for Educational Justice, project of the Movement Strategy Center *National Coalition*
\$50,000 over 1 year (*new: project support, possibly co-funded with CBMA*)

To provide project support to launch a collaboration between the Alliance for Education Justice (AEJ) and LGBTQ youth-focused organizations. The partnership will deepen AEJ's ongoing work challenging racial discrimination and violence in schools by incorporating the expertise of advocates versed in homophobia, gender identity and sexual orientation issues. To develop this partnership, AEJ will facilitate conversations between key organizations on school safety and violence prevention; conduct policy analysis of existing school safety measures that affect students; identify collaborative work around policy advocacy on violence prevention; develop a plan to align the strategies and efforts of racial justice and LGBTQ organizations engaged in educational justice work; and align the strategies and efforts of the educational justice and LGBTQ sectors nationwide enabling them to collectively impact school safety policies on a local, regional and federal level. Founded in 2008, AEJ is an alliance of youth and multigenerational organizing groups throughout the U.S. with a significant history and proven track record of local and regional organizing and advocacy on a wide range of education policies. The Equality and Opportunity Fund will look to this collaboration as a field leader and key thought partner as we invest in community-based solutions to preventing bias-motivated violence in schools.

Gay-Straight Alliance Network, *San Francisco, CA*
\$220,000 over 2 two years (*new: project support*)

To provide project support to Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSAN), a youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources through peer support, leadership development, and training.

During 2011 and 2012, GSA Network will do the following:

- partner with the Alliance for Educational Justice (AEJ) to engage in strategic conversations on school safety and violence prevention, develop an alliance building plan that aligns the strategies and efforts of racial justice and queer organizations engaged in educational justice work;
- build capacity to cultivate the leadership of queer youth of color in the GSA movement nationally, ensure that GSAs are welcoming and empowering to young people of color, and ensure that issues important to queer youth of color (including safety/violence, school funding and equity, culturally-relevant curriculum, push-out/drop-out, and disciplinary approaches) are addressed within the movement;
- strengthen the GSA movement's ability to engage effectively in work addressing the school-to-prison pipeline (including through a partnership with MSSC) and addressing school funding and educational equity;
- increase networking with education justice groups and LGBT youth of color organizations across the U.S.; and

- deepen its racial and economic justice analysis, building on current efforts in this area.

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

The Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI) will be recommending four grants totaling \$900,000 for inclusion in U.S. Programs' 2010 Catch Up Docket. All of the grants described below advance NSI's goals to: 1) prevent foreclosures, 2) stabilize communities, and 3) expand access to fair and affordable credit for communities hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis.

Boston Community Capital, Boston, MA \$250,000 over 2 years (*new: project support*)

To provide project support to Boston Community Capital (BCC), for the expansion of their Stabilizing Urban Neighborhoods Initiative to other sites outside Boston. BCC's mission is to make investments that contribute to the long-term economic and social health of the community, and thus build healthy communities where low-income people live and work. Over the past twenty-five years, BCC has committed more than \$300 million to projects that create wealth and opportunities for low-income people and neighborhoods. This grant supports their work as a crucial partner of City Life/Vida Urbana, in CL/VU's Bank Tenant Association model; a grant to CL/VU is recommended on NSI's October docket.

Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, Inc. for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, Baltimore, MD \$200,000 over 1 year (*new: project support*)

To provide add-on project support to Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) to develop a "green loan modification" model for local sites to adapt and use with local banks and housing counseling partners. The Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, working in close in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other governmental and non-profit agencies, launched GHHI last year to implement a cost-effective and integrated approach to housing interventions by combining federal and philanthropic investments in weatherization, energy efficiency, health and safety. GHHI replaces stand-alone programs with a comprehensive and seamless process that creates safer and more stable homes, improves the health of children and families and produces higher-quality green jobs. A \$3,000,000 million grant to GHHI from the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation is recommended in the September 2010 docket. NSI proposes to provide additional resources to enable GHHI to work with housing counseling agencies, banks and lower income homeowners at risk of foreclosure in the target cities to leverage "green" investments in properties to secure affordable loan modifications, stabilize housing tenure, and promote sustainable homeownership.

National Fair Housing Alliance, *Washington, DC*
\$250,000, over 2 years (*renewal: project support*)

To provide renewed project support to National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) to support 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 foreclosure relief and housing recovery efforts. 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 works to eliminate housing discrimination and to ensure equal housing opportunity for all people through leadership, education, outreach, membership services, public policy initiatives, advocacy and enforcement.

Urban Institute, *Washington, DC*
\$200,000 over 1 year (*new: project support*)

To provide project support to the Urban Institute for the What Works Collaborative. The What Works Collaborative is a foundation-supported partnership that conducts timely research and analysis to help inform the implementation of an evidence-based housing and urban policy agenda. It was launched in 2008 with support from several of the nation's leading affordable housing funders: Annie E. Casey, Ford, Kresge, MacArthur, Rockefeller, and Surdna foundations. Working with independent researchers, the What Works Collaborative builds knowledge and shares solutions with policymakers at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other federal agencies. To date, the collaborative has undertaken more than a dozen independent research projects that focus on HUD's strategic goals, including: responding to the mortgage crisis; restoring federal leadership in promoting affordable rental housing; investing strategically in rural and metropolitan communities; and catalyzing the creation of sustainable, inclusive communities.

Campaign for Black Male Achievement

Songha & Company (fiscal sponsor: Bay Area Video Coalition), *San Francisco, CA*
\$25,000 over 6 months (*new: project support*)

To provide project support to Songha & Company's *Question Bridge: Black Males* community engagement art project. Founded in 2006, Songha & Company is a multi-media company and arts collective made up of dynamic artists from diverse backgrounds whose mission is to empower community members to proactively engage with art and other forms of cultural production and representation. As part of their mission, Songha & Company launched the *Question Bridge: Black Males* project to: 1) challenge existing misperceptions and stereotypes of black males; and 2) equip community based artists and advocates with the narratives and collective stories of black males to advance broad community engagement dialogues. The Campaign for Black Achievement's funding will support Songha & Company's *Question Bridge: Black Males* project, to help seed community partnerships in the Campaign's three regions as part of its national public education and community engagement initiative. Partnering with local community organizations, nationally recognized museums, art galleries and

institutions, the *Question Bridge* project will directly engage public audiences to address the economic, political and cultural issues impacting the positive life outcomes of black men and boys.