

## **Equality and Opportunity 2012 Planned Grants for Docket I**

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 that people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The two priority issues are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF supports two targeted initiatives that address urgent equal opportunity concerns. These are the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative.

The following are the planned EOF grants for Docket I, totaling 26 grants and \$6,490,000. Included in this docket are: 14 recommended grants from EOF totaling \$3,555,000; 1 recommended grant from the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative totaling \$125,000; and 11 recommended grants from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement totaling \$2,810,000.

### **Immigrant Rights and Racial Justice**

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#### **National Immigration Forum, Inc.**

Washington, D.C. (national)

\$300,000 over one year (renewal; general support)

A general support grant to the National Immigration Forum (the Forum) will support the organization's efforts to create immigration policy that honors America's tradition as a nation of immigrants and realistically responds to the country's economic demands. The Forum is well known for building unusual alliances, engaging in direct advocacy, and conducting effective media outreach. The Forum has a membership of 250 national and local groups that include ethnic, religious, civil rights, labor, direct service, and business organizations. In the coming year, the Forum will continue to focus on strengthening the immigrant rights movement by integrating its three core competencies – policy advocacy, communications and coalition building. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific immigrant rights grantmaking priority of promoting fair immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation policies. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

### **America's Voice Education Fund**

Washington, D.C. (national)

\$300,000 over one year (renewal; general support)

A general support grant to America's Voice Education Fund (AV) will support its ongoing efforts to create a voice in support of immigration reform rooted in the American values of earned citizenship, the rule of law, and the promise of the American Dream. Since the failure to secure comprehensive immigration reform, AV has focused on crafting a narrative on fair and just immigration policy that resonates with a broad range of audiences. It operates through English, Spanish, and other ethnic media outlets. AV continuously monitors policy and field changes. As conditions change and issues shift, it adapts its narrative and media efforts. To complement these efforts, AV will continue to recruit new leaders and unusual allies to advocate for immigrant rights. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific immigrant rights grantmaking priority of promoting fair immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation policies. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

### **National Immigrant Law Center**

Los Angeles, CA (national)

\$400,000 over 2 years (renewal; general support)

A general support grant to the National Immigrant Law Center (NILC) will support the organization's leadership role as one of the key national legal advocacy organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants and their families. Growing anti-immigrant sentiment coupled with the economic recession have led to attacks on poor people (especially those of color and immigrant families) and heightened the need for NILC's leadership and expertise. Through its policy and legal advocacy, NILC has led campaigns to: address workplace exploitation of low-wage immigrant workers; secure the right of undocumented youth seeking higher education; challenge state and local enforcement of immigration laws; ensure due process rights for immigrants in detention; and restore federal funding for pregnant immigrant women and their children in need of critical health care. The recommended general support grant advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund's goal of challenging the structural racism and exclusion faced by people of color and immigrants and supporting the development of structural policy solutions that address widespread inequality. Further, it advances the specific immigrant rights grantmaking priority of promoting fair immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation policies. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

**LatinoJustice PRLDEF**

New York, NY (national)

\$200,000 over 2 years (renewal; general support)

A general support grant to LatinoJustice PRLDEF will further its efforts in using litigation, community education and advocacy to protect the rights of all Latinos and create opportunities so that they can succeed and sustain their families and communities. LatinoJustice PRLDEF's efforts are framed by three guiding principles – protecting civil rights, cultivating Latino leadership, and increasing civic participation. In the past, LatinoJustice PRLDEF has brought innovative impact litigation to combat laws, ordinances, policies and activities that unfairly discriminate against Latinos. Over the next two years, LatinoJustice PRLDEF will continue to pursue impact litigation, increase its immigrant workplace justice initiatives, expand organizational efforts to protect Latino voting rights, and sustain community outreach including education initiatives that encourage Latinos to enter the legal career pipeline. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific racial justice grantmaking priority of challenging racial barriers and structural racism. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

**Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund**

Los Angeles, CA (national)

\$300,000 over two years (renewal; general support)

A general support grant to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) will further its efforts to improve the lives of Latino families, the communities in which Latinos live, and the economic opportunities available to them. Founded in 1968, MALDEF promotes social change through advocacy, communications, community education, and litigation in the areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, and political access. It strives to implement programs that are structured to bring Latinos into the mainstream of American political and socio-economic life; provide better educational opportunities; encourage participation in all aspects of society; and offer a positive vision for the future. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific racial justice grantmaking priority of challenging racial barriers and structural racism. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

**NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.**

New York, NY (national)

\$300,000 over 2 years (renewal; general support) – Co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund (lead, \$150,000) and the Criminal Justice Fund (\$150,000)

A general support grant to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) will further its efforts in addressing discrimination, ensuring equality of opportunity, and promoting inclusion of those who have been excluded from full participation in American society. LDF is a leading legal advocacy institution dedicated to advancing issues related to race and justice in the education, economic justice, voting rights, and criminal justice arenas. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific racial justice grantmaking priority of challenging racial barriers and structural racism. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

**Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity**

Columbus, Ohio (national)

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

A project support grant to the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity (Kirwan) will advance the organization's mission to deepen understanding of the causes of, and solutions to, racial and ethnic disparities. Established at the Ohio State University in May 2003, Kirwan brings together a diverse and creative group of scholars and researchers from various disciplines to focus on the histories, present conditions, and the future prospects of racially and ethnically marginalized people. Informed by real world needs, its work strives to meaningfully impact policies and practices. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific racial justice grantmaking priority of challenging racial barriers and structural racism. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

**Applied Research Center**

New York, NY (national)

\$200,000 over 1 year

A general support grant to the Applied Research Center (ARC) will support the organization's research and advocacy to address issues of structural racial inequality in the United States. Built on rigorous research and creative use of technology, ARC is a racial justice think tank and home for media and activism. Through its three programs - Media, Research, and Network Facilitation - ARC offers a continuum of educational and training tools that engage people at all levels, uncovering the hidden racial dimensions of the economy, environment, health care, and other crucial issue areas. ARC has also been recognized for its online publication, Colorlines.com

which reached over 2.5 million readers in 2011. The recommended grant advances EOF's overarching goal of 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. Further, it advances the specific racial justice grantmaking priority of challenging racial barriers and structural racism. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a steady amount.

## **Gender Justice and LGBTQ Rights**

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### **Asian Americans / Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy**

San Francisco, CA (national)

\$50,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; project support)

A project grant will support the Queer Justice Fund. The Queer Justice Fund aims to increase philanthropic resources for LGBTQ Asian American and Pacific Islander community organizations. Founded in 1990, AAPIP is a national philanthropic advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Through grantmaking, research, and donor education, AAPIP highlights opportunities to support community organizations serving vulnerable Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at a decreased annualized amount, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

### **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**

New York, NY (national: makes grants to community organizing groups around the US. Astraea also has a robust international grantmaking program that is beyond the scope of this recommended grant.)

\$750,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; two projects)

A project grant will be applied to two areas of work. First, OSF's support will enable Astraea's US Programs to continue to fund LGBTQ organizations working to advance racial justice and LGBTQ rights. Astraea's key strategies in this area include issuing small grants (under \$10,000) to LGBTQ organizations focused on advancing racial justice, providing intensive capacity building and organizational development resources to grantee partners, and donor education to underscore the needs of LGBTQ people of color. Second, the recommended grant will provide renewed support for an OSF grant-making partnership that provides larger grants (in the \$25,000 to \$75,000 range) to small and/or emerging organizations working to address the needs of LGBTQ communities of color. Founded in 1978, the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice is an international leader in grantmaking in support of lesbians, transgender people and other communities marginalized due to discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender

identity. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at an increased annualized amount, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

### **Immigration Equality**

New York, NY (national)

\$130,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; general support)

Immigration Equality works to end discrimination in U.S. immigration law, reduce its negative impact on the lives of LGBTQ and HIV-positive people, and help obtain asylum for those persecuted in their home countries based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. Informed by the discrimination its constituents face, Immigration Equality advocates for policy changes throughout the immigration system, brings impact litigation, builds coalitions, and drives media attention to the human toll of discrimination against LGBTQ immigrants. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at an increased annualized amount but decreased total grant, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

### **State Equality Fund** (administered by the Tides Foundation)

National donor collaborative, making grants to statewide organizations

\$250,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; project support)

To support the State Equality Fund (SEF), a funder collaborative aimed at advancing state-level LGBTQ policies in the areas of: non-discrimination, parenting rights, safe schools, and relationship recognition. Established in 2007, SEF is a partnership between the Arcus Foundation, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, the Gill Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and Wellspring Advisors, LLC. Together, these donors represent the largest funders of LGBTQ equity, making SEF a powerful vehicle for developing and resourcing a coordinated state-based strategy for LGBTQ rights. SEF invests in policy change achievable in a one to five year period and works closely with grantees and prospective grantees to develop viable work plans. Priority is given to grantees proposing work that emphasizes coordination with other LGBTQ organizations and non-LGBTQ identified allies, engagement with communities of color and faith-based communities, and investment in long-term advocacy infrastructure. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at a decreased amount, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

**Sylvia Rivera Law Project**

New York, NY (local: New York)

\$100,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; general support)

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free of harassment, discrimination, or violence based on their gender identity or expression. SRLP began in 2002 through a fellowship supported by U.S. Programs' New York City Community Fellowship Program. It has since grown to an independent, community-based collective with seven staff members. SRLP advocates for policy reforms that ensure transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are treated with dignity within the criminal justice system, when seeking health care, or attempting to access public benefits. SRLP provides free legal services to clients facing discrimination based on their gender identity or expression, and has established itself as a legal resource for national advocates on matters related to serving transgender clients. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at an increased annualized amount but decreased total grant, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

**Western States Center,**

Portland, OR (regional: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming)

\$125,000 over one year (renewal/tie-off; general support)

The Western States Center (WSC) builds social justice infrastructure in eight Western states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. WSC operates in a region that has served as "ground zero" for an array of right wing and religious extremist initiatives, especially violent white supremacist agitation and virulent anti-gay and anti-abortion organization. Within this climate, WSC provides training, consultation and resources to a wide range of community based organizations to enable informed civic engagement by emerging and historically disenfranchised constituencies. WSC's efforts focus on countering "wedge" campaigns that seek to create divisions between organizations working on behalf of LGBTQ people, communities of color, immigrants and women. The recommended grant will advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund'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. With this grant, staff is recommending tie-off funding, at a steady annualized amount but decreased total grant, in line with recent program direction from the USP Board.

## **Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative**

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### **Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc., on behalf of the Campaign for a Fair Settlement**

New York, NY (national)

\$125,000 over six months (new, project support)

A project grant to the Rockefeller Family Fund will support the national Campaign for a Fair Settlement. The Rockefeller Family Fund is best known for its creative and leveraged grantmaking, its role as a catalyst in the nonprofit as well as the funding communities, and its record of public policy innovation. The Fund is serving as the fiscal sponsor and lead agency for the Campaign for a Fair Settlement, a coalition of community, online and policy leaders, working toward an investigation of the illegal actions that caused the ongoing foreclosure crisis. The Campaign is staffed by members of the Leadership for the Common Good (a current grantee of the Democracy Fund) and the Working Families Organization. It works in close partnership with the national community organizing networks PICO and National Peoples Action (grantees of both the Equality and Opportunity Fund and Democracy Fund). The Campaign already has succeeded in advocating for more transparent, equitable and fair terms in the recently announced 50-state attorneys general settlement against the nation's largest mortgage servicers. It now seeks support for a second phase of its work, in which it will push for a full investigation into origination abuses and fair lending violations that contributed to the housing collapse and ask for aggressive principal write-downs for distressed homeowners as a means of jumpstarting our nation's economy. The recommended grant advances the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative's goal of stabilizing communities hardest hit by the economic crisis and its specific grantmaking priorities of 1) supporting innovative efforts to overcome the bottleneck in mortgage modifications; 2) exposing and reversing the racial biases underlying the current mortgage crisis; and 3) expanding sustainable credit options for lower-income borrowers and borrowers of color.

## **Campaign for Black Male Achievement**

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### **Attain Educational Equity**

#### **Faith Leaders for Community Change**

Washington, DC (local; project focus on Chicago, IL; Baltimore, MD; Dallas, TX; Cleveland, OH; Charlotte, NC; Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and Oklahoma City, OK)  
\$150,000 over one year (new, project support)

A project support grant to Faith Leaders for Community Change (FLCC) will provide funding to train congregational leaders to develop graduation ministry "No Drop-out Zones" in an effort to empower churches to be liaisons between parents and schools to help lower dropout rates. FLCC will use their "No Drop-out Zone" toolkits to train 36 congregations over the course of one year and assist each trained congregation with hosting events to recognize student achievement and parental engagement. FLCC's mission is to organize and create a well-resourced faith community committed to: 1) developing and implementing sound and creative programs that



assist public schools; 2) advocating for fully resourced and funded schools; 3) implementing networks between schools, houses of worship and community organizations; 4) increasing public education advocacy and direct action among congregants and students; and 5) engaging congregations and students in the decision-making processes that impact academic success. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goal to ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, prepare for college, and to learn skills essential to earning a living wage.

### **Morehouse College**

Atlanta, GA (local; project focus on Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; New Orleans, LA; and Jackson, MS)

\$275,000 over one year (new, project support)

A project planning support grant to Morehouse College will allow the school to design a certified teaching fellowship program to increase the number of black male teachers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) public schools within CBMA's core investment cities. Morehouse College's Division of Sciences and Mathematics produces the nation's largest percentage of African American male graduates in the sciences and math. As a result of recent discussions with CBMA staff and its board advisors, the College is seeking to design a targeted program that will increase black male teachers' presence in CBMA cities through the development of a scholars program which will include: 1) a two-year fellowship for Morehouse students; scholarship assistance; 2) a 13-week teacher certification program; 3) participation in leadership development program; and 4) community service projects in targeted CBMA cities. CBMA support will enable Morehouse to design a plan for teacher training, including specific pedagogy in technology training for black male students, and pre-college preparation and recruitment strategies that increase the number of matriculating students who will study to become STEM teachers in CBMA cities. This grant advances CBMA's goal to ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, prepare for college and to learn skills essential to earning living wage. It also advances CBMA's goal to strengthen the field through capacity building and leadership development.

### **Expand Work Opportunities**

#### **Center for Law and Social Policy**

Washington, DC (national)

\$250,000 over one year (renewal, project support)

A project support grant to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) will provide continued support for the organization's work to expand opportunities for young black men by helping bridge its national policy work to local state and regional advocacy efforts. CLASP efforts will help keep national policy discussions focused on improving life outcomes of black male youth by: 1) identifying and recommending effective policy changes within the Workforce Investment Act, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and related federal workforce and job creation initiatives to expand opportunities for black male youth; 2) educating policymakers about the opportunities to use federal resources to respond to the particular employment and educational needs of young black men; 3) supporting the strategic use of data by community advocates,

municipal administrators, and leaders to increase public will to change the education and employment landscape for black men and boys at the local and federal levels; and 4) elevating the dialogue and awareness of labor market barriers that exist for young black males and the disparities that continue to hinder labor market success. CLASP's mission is to provide nonpartisan research, policy analysis, and targeted technical assistance to advocates, policymakers, and government administrators at the federal, state, and local levels. The recommended grant advances the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's goals of: 1) promoting education equity, and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, to ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, to prepare for college, and to learn the skills essential to earning a living wage; and 2) expanding and ensuring 21<sup>st</sup> century family supportive wage work opportunities for black males through policy advocacy and investing in labor best practices. The grant also advances CBMA's specific grantmaking priority of developing strategies that build local coalitions to marshal resources and expertise to improve life outcomes for black men and boys. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a decreased amount to match CLASP's one year proposal request.

### **National Transitional Jobs Network**

Chicago, IL (national)

\$250,000 over two years (new, project support)

A project support grant to the National Transitional Jobs Network (NTJN) will support policy advocacy, cross-sector alliance building, resource development and direct assistance to organizations working in the fields of transitional jobs and fatherhood in an effort to better address the economic and employment needs of low-income black men, their families, and their communities. Over the proposed two-year grant period, NTJN will work to: 1) increase funding to support transitional jobs and job-training programs; 2) identify and create more effective training and employment practices; and 3) ensure that more low-income black males attain employment and succeed in the labor market. NTJN is a coalition of city, state, and federal policymakers; community workforce organizations; anti-poverty nonprofit service providers; and advocacy organizations committed to advancing and strengthening transitional jobs programs around the country. NTJN's expertise in policy advocacy includes over 10 years of extensive coalition-building at the state and national levels, educating elected officials at all levels of government, and mobilizing grassroots advocacy in an effort to increase funding and support for transitional employment programming to help people with barriers enter and succeed in the workforce. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goals of strengthening low-income black families and expanding & ensuring 21<sup>st</sup> century family supportive wage work.

### **Strengthen Family Structures**

#### **Dovetail Project**

Chicago, IL (local, project focus on Chicago, IL)

\$175,000 over two years (new, project support)

A project support grant to the Dovetail Project will support the organization's efforts to provide young black fathers, ages 15-24, with the parenting, education, and job readiness skills that will

empower them to establish and strengthen their roles as fathers and advocates for themselves and their families. Specifically, the Dovetail project will: 1) help young black male fathers establish a positive parental relationship with their children and increase both the quantity and the quality of time spent with the children on a long-term basis; 2) enroll young black male fathers who have either dropped out of school or have been engaged in the criminal justice system into GED or certificate programs to obtain relevant educational and job readiness skills; and 3) lead to an evaluation of the Dovetail curriculum and programming to identify areas for growth and replication. The Dovetail Project is a 12-week curriculum-based program addressing issues of fatherhood, personal responsibility, and career development. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goal of strengthening low-income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives, policy advocacy, and supporting efforts that lift barriers facing single mothers raising black boys. The grant also advances CBMA's specific grantmaking priority of developing strategies that build local coalitions to marshal resources and expertise, to improve life outcomes for black men and boys. A portion of grant dollars will be dedicated to helping support development, capacity building and strategic planning for the Dovetail Project.

### **National Fatherhood Leaders Group**

Washington, DC (national)

\$150,000 over two years (new, project support)

A general support grant to National Fatherhood Leaders Group (NFLG) will support the organization's research and advocacy to address the positive role that fathers can play in strengthening families and communities. The grant to NFLG will specifically help strengthen the fatherhood field by: 1) enhancing and expanding NFLG's communication and website capacity to better serve and connect organizations and disseminate information, blogs, news alerts and stories about fatherhood field activities; 2) expanding NFLG's membership of fatherhood organizations to help better coordinate the field's strategic policy advocacy efforts; 3) building the organization's developmental capacity; and 4) partnering with other national non-custodial parent organizations and groups to help build a public policy agenda focused on advocating on behalf of fathers and the positive impact they have on children, youth, and families. The mission of the NFLG is to provide collaborative leadership to support individuals and organizations working to build and sustain the fatherhood field and to raise the awareness of the importance of fathers in the lives of all children and families. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goals of: 1) strengthening low-income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives, policy advocacy, and supporting efforts that lift barriers facing single mothers raising black boys; and 2) expanding and ensuring 21st-century family supportive wage work opportunities for black males. The grant also advances CBMA's grantmaking strategies to develop strategies that build local coalitions to marshal resources and expertise, to improve life outcomes for black men and boys.

## **Strengthen the Field**

### **Admiral Center**

New York, NY (national)

\$160,000 over one year (new, project support)

A project support grant to the Admiral Center (AC) will allow the organization to increase philanthropic awareness, engagement and leadership among celebrity entertainers and athletes to advance CBMA's priorities. CBMA project support will specifically allow the Admiral Center to: 1) establish and build strong relationships within the field of black male achievement to better align AC members' individual philanthropic interests to its core issues of education, strengthening families and economic development; 2) host three strategic convenings for high-profile celebrities and high net worth influencers to deepen their engagement in the field of black male achievement; 3) conduct research analysis and mapping of the sports industry and its corporate social responsibility investments in an effort to effectively mobilize direct support and investment to the field of black male achievement; and 4) convene leaders of sport industry foundations and corporate social responsibility initiatives to advance CBMA's priorities through the Admiral Center's current strategies. Founded by David Robinson, former National Basketball Association player, the Admiral Center is a membership organization that harnesses the power and influence of celebrities to accelerate social change through the following strategies: 1) identifying opportunities for members to work directly with foundation partners to advance specific initiatives; 2) increasing awareness of members' knowledge of core issues of education, strengthening families, economic development and health/wellness by connecting members with thought leaders; and 3) connecting members with a group of partners to advance an issue nationally that requires large-scale collaboration. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goal to strengthen the field of black male achievement by supporting efforts in strategic communications, philanthropic leadership and leadership development.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc.**

Baltimore, MD (local, project focus on Baltimore, MD)

\$400,000 over two years (new, project support)

A project support grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc. (Big Brothers Big Sisters) will support the organization's goal to reduce the number of young black boys on its waiting list in the Baltimore, MD region by 40% over the next two years. The project will specifically support Big Brothers Big Sisters' efforts to: 1) conduct targeted outreach and marketing to identify caring and responsible adults (i.e. black male professionals and volunteers) to serve as mentors; 2) match black male youth with caring adult mentors for at least one year or longer; and 3) provide mentors and youth with access to trained specialists who provide on-going professional support and case-management services. Big Brothers Big Sisters' mission is to help children and youth reach their fullest potential through professionally supported, one-on-one mentoring relationships that have measurable positive outcomes for youth. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goals of: 1) promoting education equity, and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, to ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, to prepare for college, and to learn the skills essential to earning a living wage; and 2) strengthening low-

income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives, policy advocacy, and supporting efforts that lift barriers facing single mothers raising black boys. The grant also advances CBMA's specific grantmaking priority of investing in mentoring and youth development strategies.

### **Community Investment Network**

Morrisville, NC (local; project focus on Chicago, IL; Milwaukee, WI; Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; New Orleans, LA; and Jackson, MS)  
\$100,000 over one year (renewal, project support)

A project support grant to the Community Investment Network (CIN) to cultivate targeted community philanthropy among African American donors and local giving circles aimed at improving the life outcomes of black males. This renewal grant will support CIN's existing giving circles and enable them to create new giving circles focused on black male achievement in two additional CBMA cities. The mission of the Community Investment Network is to inspire, connect and strengthen African Americans and communities of color to leverage their collective resources and create the change they wish to see. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goal of serving as a catalyst for leveraging additional private and public philanthropic funds for the field of black men and boys. In addition, the proposed grant strengthens CBMA's support of promising practices and models aimed at improving life outcomes for black men and boys in the Campaign's targeted regions of Jackson, MS; Milwaukee, WI; Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; and Philadelphia, PA. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at a reduced amount due to a more condensed timeframe of project support.

### **National League of Cities Institute**

\$500,000 over two years (renewal, project support at increased level)

A project support grant to the National League of Cities institute (NLCI) will support the organization to further strengthen municipal leadership committed to promoting black male achievement in CBMA targeted cities. The grant will specifically allow NLCI to: 1) serve as the lead facilitator of an emerging national effort called *Cities United* which addresses a specific issue that is increasingly engaging the attention of urban mayors across the country: the crisis levels of violence and homicide that continue to plague young African American males in U.S. cities; and 2) provide technical assistance and peer-learning support to municipal officials to help them explore and adopt promising practices for improving outcomes for young black males in their cities. By providing intensive, site-level support to municipal officials in CBMA targeted cities, NLCI will help accelerate the pace of local progress by: 1) providing a city assessment that identifies strengths, challenges, and opportunities for future progress; 2) helping cities to set and reach locally defined benchmarks; 3) brokering access to federal agencies and national experts on topics such as educational equity, strengthening families, vulnerable youth in transition, and employment strategies; 4) providing a sustainable multi-city peer learning network which would allow municipal leaders to work on cross-system collaboration strategies for black males. The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. Its mission is to strengthen

and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance. The recommended grant to NLCI advances CBMA's goal to strengthen the field of black male achievement by supporting efforts in strategic communications, philanthropic leadership, capacity building and leadership development. The grant will provide renewed funding at an increased amount. With previous OSF funding, NLCI helped Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu convene fellow mayors, federal agency representatives, foundation leaders, youth leaders and youth-serving organizations to launch *Cities United*, a national initiative to identify effective strategies for reducing the number of homicides of young, African-American males in America's cities and towns. CBMA has provided philanthropic thought leadership in the initial organizing efforts of *Cities United*.

### **Opportunity Agenda**

New York, NY (national)

\$400,000 over two years (renewal, project support)

A project support grant to the Opportunity Agenda will provide support for the organization's efforts to: 1) deliver ongoing strategic communications support and trainings to strengthen the overall communications capacity for the field of black male achievement, and to address specific communications challenges facing CBMA grantee partners; 2) host a series of research briefings and public education forums in an attempt to better integrate new research findings on black men and boys into broader policy advocacy efforts; 3) partner with institutions such as the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education to offer journalists recommendations and findings on how to best address and improve media coverage of black men and boys; and 4) conduct new public opinion research that will include a national survey on topics related to opportunity, race, gender, and black men and boys. The Opportunity Agenda was founded with the mission of building the national will to expand opportunity in America for all. Through its strategic partnerships with advocates, organizers, researchers, and policymakers, the Opportunity Agenda works to develop a stronger, more strategic communications capacity for the social justice community by connecting applied research and advocacy. The recommended grant advances CBMA's goal of strengthening the field of black male achievement by supporting efforts in strategic communications, philanthropic leadership, capacity building, and leadership development. The grant also advances CBMA's specific grantmaking priority of challenging negative perceptions and stereotypes of black men and boys through the use of traditional media, social media, new technology, the arts, and film to ensure that the issues facing black men and boys remain at the center of philanthropic, policy, and public discourse. The recommended grant will provide renewed funding at an increased amount. With previous OSF funding, the Opportunity Agenda successfully conducted three research studies that examine perceptions of and by black men and boys and their relationship to the media. The research contains key initial findings on why and how to improve media coverage and public perceptions of Black men and boys.