

To: U.S. Programs Board
From: Geoffrey Canada
Re: COMMENTS ON THE EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND PROPOSED BUDGET
Date: September 23, 2009

I have reviewed the proposed budget for the Equality and Opportunity Fund and wanted to share a few comments with Board Members. The budget briefing book was thorough and well written. The presentation was clear and gave enough background information so that I could gain a sense of past priorities and budgets, as well as current increases/decreases and major changes within the different campaigns and initiatives in this proposed budget.

In summary the Equality and Opportunity Fund core grant making is increasing from \$7.5 million in 2009 to \$9 million in 2010. There are not major changes in funding amounts from 2009 to 2010, but two new initiatives (Gender Justice and Rapid Response) account for most of the increase. The rationale behind each of the funding decisions was clear and well thought out.

The Equality and Opportunity Fund's Special Initiatives projects had one significant decrease (Immigration Innovation from approximately \$8.9 million to \$3 million). The explanation that this was what remained after a three-year, \$15 million grant, made this seemingly large reduction understandable. The two other Special Initiatives were recommended for slightly reduced funding. In each case the proposed budget matched the plans and goals as laid out in the briefing book.

After talking with staff and other advisors about the proposed budget in our conference call on September 15, 2009, I endorse and fully recommend the proposed 2010 budget for the Equality and Opportunity Fund.