

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Aryeh Neier  
**From:** Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani  
**Cc:** Erlin Ibreck  
**Date:** March 25, 2009  
**Re:** JEHT Emergency Fund Grant Recommendations

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Please find attached the first docket of emergency grants related to the sudden closure of the JEHT Foundation. The three groups in this docket are grantees of the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF) and were promised funds from JEHT through the first quarter of 2009.

OSI worked closely with JEHT's Fair and Participatory Elections Program, which was a major supporter of the **Brennan Center for Justice**. Brennan's fair courts project is a key grant in TIF's Judicial Independence portfolio. Its voting rights work has been central to TIF's election administration funding. The group's felony disfranchisement work and community-oriented defender projects align closely with the goals of the Criminal Justice Fund. Additionally, Brennan's Liberty and National Security project has been a core partner in the OSI National Security and Human Rights Campaign. As a result of these many shared priorities; support for Brennan in this funding crisis is a high priority for U.S. Programs.

**The National Institute on Money in State Politics** has long been a key grantee of U.S. Programs. OSI funding made possible its now invaluable collection, analysis, and dissemination of state judicial election contribution data. The Institute is playing a major role in tracking economic stimulus spending, serving as a watchdog to spot political corruption in the allocation of much needed dollars.

The general support grant from JEHT would have allowed the **Center for Public Integrity** to significantly increase its organizational capacity and maintain the flexibility to undertake unanticipated investigations. The Center is developing a consortium of state-level projects that would bring added oversight to state capitols and government. OSI's support would allow the Center to build capacity and test new innovations while it seeks additional support from other funders to fill the gap left by JEHT's closure.

Finally, the Transparency and Integrity Fund has engaged JEHT's former Fair and Participatory Elections Program manager as a consultant. Rachel Leon is helping TIF develop a strategy for supporting state level transparency work.