

APPENDIX II

National Immigration Forum Write up

<u>Name of Organization</u>	National Immigration Forum
<u>Tax Status</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	To build and execute an immigration reform campaign across community, business, labor and faith stakeholders, specifically with local elected officials and low wage workers
<u>Previous OSI Support</u>	\$1,525,000 ELF (1996 through 2003) \$200,000 general support (2004-06) \$325,000 general support (2007-10) \$200,000 Four Pillars campaign kickoff (2008-09) \$257,151 transfer from NAOF (2008-1/09)
<u>Organization Budget</u>	\$2,357,960
<u>Project Budget</u>	\$7,695,915 (campaign budget for two years)
<u>Source of Support</u>	Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Haas, Jr. Fund, Atlantic Philanthropies (pending), Bloomberg Foundation (pending), Four Freedoms Fund, Unbound Philanthropies, Knight Foundation
<u>Amount Requested</u>	\$2,500,000
<u>Amount Recommended</u>	\$2,500,000
<u>Term</u>	2 years (May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2011)

Description of Organization

The National Immigration Forum is one of the leading immigrant advocacy organizations in the nation. Since 1982, the Forum has pursued its mission of advocating for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation. Under the leadership of its new executive director Ali Noorani, the Forum's vision is to create immigration policy that honors America's tradition as a nation of immigrants, realistically responds to the country's economic demands, celebrates family unity, and serves the hopes and aspirations of all of America's people. The Forum has a membership of 250 national and local groups that include ethnic, religious, civil rights, labor, direct service, and business organizations. It is well known for building unusual alliances, engaging in direct advocacy, and conducting effective media outreach.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

The National Immigration Forum is requesting support for the **overall campaign management** of the Four Pillars Campaign, and to build and execute the campaign across community, business, labor and faith stakeholders, specifically with local elected officials and low wage workers. This grant will support the central campaign staff housed at the Forum, as well as the organization's **leadership efforts in the**

Field and Policy Pillars. Funds will also support **enforcement activities** in administrative advocacy, and policy advocacy in the areas of detention, deportation and border policy.

The major components of this grant are as follows:

1. Central campaign staff will draft overall strategy for the Management Team to review and approve, facilitate the work of pillar leaders, drive forward pillar specific tasks, and ensure that campaign stakeholders are informed, coordinated and moving forward as necessary. Central campaign staff is on board and Executive Director Ali Noorani serves as chair of the Management Team, committing a substantial percentage of his time to the campaign.

2. Field Pillar activities

- The Forum and the Center for Community Change (CCC) co-lead the field work, with CCC focusing on immigrant rights and multi-racial community organizations, while the Forum focuses mainly on faith, labor, and business. Field organizers for the Midwest and the Southwest will be responsible for coordinating local execution of national campaign strategies.
- OSI resources will also support the development of two *Constituency Tables* designed to organize *local elected officials* (including law enforcement) and *low wage workers* (in partnership with the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights and CCC to organize leadership in the African American community and develop interracial alliances). These two *Tables* have already been identified by local and national partners as being necessary and important to the success of the campaign.
- In addition, the Forum will structure detailed contracts with PICO, the Gamaliel Foundation and Democracia USA to develop and execute focused actions in communities across the country where organized efforts in support of immigration reform among low wage and African American communities may be lacking. The Forum will ensure the field actions of these organizations are resourced and align with the Campaign.

PICO brings to the campaign a large faith base through affiliates in California that have recently engaged in the immigration reform debate. PICO's emerging base in Alabama spoke favorably of working with immigrant communities in the state. New efforts will be focused in Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, and Massachusetts.

Gamaliel has an impressive track record of organizing faith communities throughout the Midwest for immigration reform. It has successfully connected white, African American, Latino and Muslim communities to advocate for immigration reform. New efforts will be directed to Georgia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, and Missouri.

Democracia USA has organized Latino communities across the country through door-to-door engagement of local leadership. The focus will be on Florida, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Indiana, Michigan, Rhode Island, and other states as needed.

3. Campaign policy work and efforts on enforcement-related issues will be driven by the Forum's policy staff. The Policy Pillar is co-led by the Forum and the Immigration Policy Center.

- Staff will contribute technical expertise, legislative analysis, and advocacy materials to the campaign, and work to ensure that the principles of immigration reform endorsed by the campaign are represented in legislation.
- In addition to aggressively addressing due process, detention and enforcement issues with the Department of Homeland Security, OSI funds will support policy work and staffing of the Border Enforcement Working Group, a collaborative effort with the US-Mexico Task Force to tackle border policies which are an increasingly troublesome issue in the reform debate.

Rationale for Recommendation

The work of the National Immigration Forum under this grant will further the goals of EOF's Immigrant Rights portfolio in three areas: advancing sound immigration reform, stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants, and building a multi-ethnic, multi-constituent movement linked to a broader national agenda for social justice. This grant is being made out of the Immigration Innovation Fund to further the Four Pillars Campaign overall and in particular the Policy and Field pillars.

OSI's eight-month planning grant last fall allowed the Forum to engage diverse constituencies across the nation and enabled it to build a solid foundation of community, faith, labor and business leaders who are ready to develop and execute an immigration reform strategy. The Forum is now poised to drive the campaign into full gear, providing overall coordination and orchestrating the various elements of the plan to ensure cohesive strategies across all four pillars. Continued support from OSI will allow the Forum to manage and lead the campaign as the plan moves into execution mode.

Its Field Pillar efforts, in conjunction with the Center for Community Change, capitalize on the unique relationships that each organization brings. This partnership tightens the link between field and legislative strategies so that tactics are integrated and overall campaign goals are met. The proposed constituency tables will strengthen the engagement of fundamentally important allies such as local elected officials, low-wage workers, and the African American community. Building relationships, alliances, common strategies and mutual self-interest among immigrant and low-wage worker constituencies across race will be a critical component to the success of the campaign and to persuading Americans that immigration reform is essential to the nation's economic recovery.

In addition, the Forum will be supporting key national networks that can work in locations where there is little or no existing immigration reform organizing capacity. PICO, Gamaliel and Democracia are three of the fastest growing organizations in the country with deepening roots in low-wage, African American and immigrant communities. Working in close coordination with these larger organizing networks will bring enormous power to the campaign. These groups are key grantees of the Democracy and Power Fund and the grant recommendations here are being made in consultation with the Fund's staff.

Finally, as co-leader of the Policy Pillar, along with the Immigration Policy Center, the Forum brings to the table its expertise in policy analysis and experience in developing, executing and evaluating legislative strategies. This grant will ensure that the Forum has the support to advance the extensive reform campaign, which aligns very well with OSI interests.

The total campaign budget for the Forum is \$4 million for one year. OSI's grant of \$2.5 million for two years will go a long way in helping the Forum meet that goal. Other foundations are making significant contributions as well, including the Ford Foundation and Carnegie Corporation among the largest. The OSI recommended grant is structured as a two-year grant to allow the Forum the ability to gear up for the long haul and to be able to shift or respond quickly as events and opportunities present themselves. The Forum's budget clearly distinguishes lobbying expenses from the non-lobbying expenses, the latter of which will not exceed the OSI grant. These funds are directed to campaign execution and there is a clear understanding that year-two funds will only be disbursed after close evaluation of the state of affairs by next spring and after a mutual determination for the best use of the remaining funds.