

To: U.S. Programs Staff
From: NSHR Campaign Staff – Nancy Chang and Emma Greer
Date: January 17, 2012
Re: NSHR Campaign Grant Recommendations for the Early 2012 Docket

The NSHR Campaign plans to recommend the following four grants on the early 2012 docket.

Government Accountability Project

Approximately \$500,000 (approximately \$400,000 from TIF; approximately \$100,000 from NSHR) over two years for general support. (Note that TIF's previous support to this organization has been in the form of general support, while NSHR's past support to this organization has been in the form of project support.)

Founded in 1977, GAP's mission is to ensure government and corporate accountability by advancing occupational free speech, defending whistleblowers, and empowering citizen activists. GAP's major program initiatives focus on both government and corporate accountability related to worker health and safety, corporate and financial accountability, nuclear and environmental oversight, food and drug safety, international anti-corruption reform, and national security. Through its Homeland Security Program, GAP advocates on behalf of national security whistleblowers and pursues policy reforms pertaining to illegal surveillance, excessive government secrecy, and politically based discrimination. This grant would advance the Transparency & Integrity Fund's goal of guaranteeing broad and equitable access to information by supporting coordinated, targeted efforts to establish open government policies and practices and efforts to expose government corruption. In addition, this grant would advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's priorities of protecting the rights of national security whistleblowers, strengthening the capacity of watchdog organizations to document government abuses, reducing excessive government secrecy in national security policy, and holding government officials and private actors accountable for past abuses and violations of the law.

Islamic Society of North America

Approximately \$250,000 over 2 years for renewed project support

A grant to the Islamic Society of North America would renew support for the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, an interfaith coalition of national religious organizations dedicated to ending anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. Shoulder to Shoulder is administered by the Islamic Society of North America and governed by a steering committee of 27 Christian, Jewish, Muslim and interfaith groups. Since its inception in late 2009, the coalition has shared its message with policymakers, the press, and the general public, and has engaged 150 local faith communities and congregations in its efforts. Renewed grant support would enable the coalition to expand its national media presence and grassroots outreach, develop and promote effective strategies for countering anti-Muslim bigotry in diverse religious contexts, and continue urging policymakers to denounce intolerance. This grant would advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's priorities of promoting the acceptance of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian individuals and communities in American society, and supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy.

National Security Initiative

Approximately \$200,000 over 1 year for renewed project support

A grant to the National Security Initiative would support the next phase of a project designed to prepare influential government and civil society leaders to speak out for civil liberties, human rights, and religious tolerance in the event of an attempted or successful terrorist attack. NSI will draw upon its extensive network of policymakers, national security experts, human rights advocates, and journalists to identify gaps in knowledge and develop a national public opinion poll. In partnership with Hattaway Communications, NSI will conduct this poll, analyze its results, and develop a set of communications tools that federal officials, governors, mayors, first responders, police commissioners, and community leaders can use following a terrorist attack to defuse a backlash against American Muslims. NSI plans to present these research findings and materials to a range of leaders through a series of briefings and trainings. In addition, NSI would also host a conference of journalists to showcase this research and discuss responsible communication with audiences about terrorism. Finally, the grant would allow NSI to work with the NSHR community to develop rapid response messaging in support of progressive national security policies that promote human rights and counter anti-Muslim bigotry. The National Security Initiative and its (c)(4) sister organization, the National Security Network, were founded in 2006 to revitalize America's national security policy by bringing cohesion and strategic focus to the progressive national security community through the development of innovative, pragmatic, and principled national security solutions. This grant would advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's priorities of supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy, cultivating persuasive messengers and thought leaders to challenge and dismantle the flawed "war on terror" paradigm, and promoting the acceptance of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian individuals and communities in American society.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

Up to \$200,000 over one year for renewed project support

Renewed funding to Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors would support the next phase of a project on improving perceptions of American Muslims. In 2011, the Woodcock Foundation established a donor advised fund at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to launch this project. During the first phase of this work, the Washington, D.C.-based firm Hattaway Communications conducted public opinion research and developed a set of messages designed to help propel a positive narrative of Muslims in America. This winter, Hattaway will present its messaging guidance at a set of trainings tailored for Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian organizations, interfaith coalitions. In the second phase of this project, Hattaway will respond to requests from representatives of American Muslim communities, advocacy organizations, and grassroots networks for additional messaging research and strategies. Hattaway plans to conduct a national public opinion poll in partnership with the National Security Initiative that will be useful in addressing the community's pressing messaging needs. Hattaway will also work with these groups on an ongoing basis to provide rapid response guidance and build the communications capacity of American Muslim organizations. The Woodcock Foundation remains enthusiastic about this project and has informed OSF staff that it is prepared to match an OSF grant for the next phase of this work. This grant would advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's priorities of building the capacity of Muslim, Arab and South Asian organizations to fight abusive national security policies that are disproportionately directed at them and promoting the acceptance of these communities in American society.