

REDISTRICTING
SPECIAL CROSS-FUND INITIATIVE

Brief Descriptions of Grants Recommended for 11/12/10 Catch-Up Docket
(Descriptions circulated October 4, 2010)

Advancement Project

Total budget: \$2,600,000 over two years (project support)

To provide project support for Advancement Project's activities in connection with the post-2010 redistricting cycle. Specifically, it will do the following:

- Bring together communities of color in several jurisdictions to educate, train, and assist in the redistricting process in California, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Virginia.
- Design and launch a state-of-art interactive GIS mapping system to support community-led redistricting efforts.
- Work closely with local partners to identify and collect data that will provide the basis for plans that provide an opportunity to elect representatives who will address the communities' shared interests.
- Convene trainings for grassroots partners that will address federal and state redistricting rules, strategy, data and Advancement Project's innovative mapping technology.

Asian American Justice Center

Total budget: \$884,344 over three years (project support)

To provide project support for the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) to ensure compliance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, which provides for language assistance and translated voting materials to limited English proficient (LEP) groups. Asian Americans continue to lag behind their numbers in terms of voter participation, which results in few elected officials who are responsive to the needs of the Asian American community. One reason for this gap lies in language barriers. Over one in three Asian Americans is limited English proficient. Increases in the size of Asian American populations have also meant increases in the number of LEP Asian Americans. The number of jurisdictions required to provide Asian language assistance under Section 203 increased from nine in 1992 to 16 in 2002. AAJC anticipates that 2010 Census data will yield similar results in terms of growth trends and LEP rates.

With OSI support, AAJC will work with the Department of Justice and the Census Bureau to ensure that determinations regarding which jurisdictions are covered by Section 203 are made in a timely fashion before the 2012 elections, giving jurisdiction and local communities plenty of time to properly implement language assistance programs. It will also work directly with local organizations within covered jurisdictions to provide education materials to prepare them for compliance with Section 203.

Fair Redistricting Collaborative

Total budget: \$1.9 million over 14 months (project support)

This grant would support a collaborative project of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Southern Echo and One Voice to protect the voting strength of black voters by providing training on redistricting, demographic analysis, and legal advice regarding potential redistricting plans during the redistricting process to community-based organizations and elected officials in targeted states. The Collaborative's goals are to build support for the preservation of existing Congressional districts that provide black voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, and for the creation of new Congressional districts that provide black voters the

opportunity to elect candidates of their choice where those districts are justified by population growth and patterns of racially polarized voting. The Collaborative also seeks to achieve goals 1 and 2 with respect to state legislative districts and local governing bodies (city councils, school boards, county commissions, etc.) and also to build bridges to and collaborate with Hispanic, Asian and Native American communities. Its strategies are: consultation and map drawing for minority community-based advocacy organizations and policymakers, as well as convenings, policy advocacy and coordination of efforts during the redistricting process in targeted states.

LatinoJustice/PRLDEF

Total budget: \$560,000 over three years (project support)

To provide project support for LatinoJustice/PRLDEF's Redistricting and Civic Participation Project. LatinoJustice/PRLDEF will provide the tools, resources, and assistance Latino communities will need to fully engage in the redistricting process. It aims to ensure that Latinos impact the political and fiscal decisions in their own communities.

Its project will focus on three main objectives:

1. Taking a grassroots, community-based approach to building Latino political leadership and fostering civic participation.
2. Utilizing technology to identify, analyze and share key data to empower local communities to make informed decisions about where district lines can and should be drawn to most effectively address the interests of community members.
3. Building coalitions, where it will most benefit the community, made up of ethnic and racial minorities with shared interests, issues and concerns to make sure they can draw new districts where minorities can elect representatives of their choice to Congress and the state house.

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Total budget: \$1.3 million over two years (project support)

This grant would enable LCCRUL to bring to this redistricting cycle its combined experience of over two decades in the Voting Section of the Department of Justice as well as extensive experience as a convener of coalitions and a robust *pro bono* network that can widen the reach of the work. LCCRUL's goal is to ensure that minority citizens whose right to vote is most in need of legal protection are able to effectively advance their interests during the redistricting process, while using litigation as a backstop when necessary to prevent disenfranchisement. LCCRUL will work in target states that include Texas and Mississippi, focusing principally on local redistricting plans, in 4 phases: 1) educating grassroots partners about the redistricting process and how best to become engaged; 2) engaging in the redistricting process by creating, reviewing, evaluating and proposing plans that protect the rights of identified communities of interest; 3) participating in the Department of Justice administrative review process; and 4) providing litigation support when needed to challenge discriminatory plans or to defend fair plans from unjustified attacks.

League of Women Voters

Total budget: \$200,000 over one year (project support)

Working with its state chapters in targeted states, the League of Women Voters proposes to educate the media and citizens in order to generate public interest and participation that will bring the redistricting process out from behind closed doors. Fostering media attention and interest will drive citizen interest, and vice-versa, and both will get the attention of those legislators attempting to keep extreme gerrymanders out of the public eye. Using non-OSI funds, state Leagues will also support the adoption of model redistricting legislation and/or rules that provide for greater transparency and public input in the redistricting process that the state legislative committees or commissions charged with redistricting will use.

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Total budget: \$1,000,000 over one year (project support)

To provide project support to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) to increase Latino political opportunity by engaging and informing the Latino community, Latino-serving institutions and advocates in the redistricting process and securing redistricting plans that fairly reflect Latino political opportunity. Specifically, MALDEF proposes to do the following:

- Equip Latino voters and Latino grassroots and grass top leaders with information necessary to create and advocate for fair redistricting maps at the local and state level.
- Secure local and state redistricting plans with an increased number of Latino-majority districts;
- Create capacity among community leaders to inform, engage, and mobilize the Latino community for civic engagement beyond redistricting; and
- Communicate and collaborate with other civil rights organizations to promote multi-racial cooperation and achieve fair redistricting plans in geographic areas that contain Latinos and other communities of color or marginalized groups.

NAACP LDF

Total budget: \$908,000 over two years (project support)

To provide project support to the NAACP LDF to focus on the following:

- *Effective Section 5 enforcement during the post-2010 redistricting cycle.* LDF will continue to monitor jurisdictions covered by the Section 5 pre-clearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act to ensure that they seek Department of Justice approval of any new redistricting plan prior to implementation.
- *Redistricting litigation.* Inevitably, the post-2010 round of redistricting will result in litigation of a wide variety. LDF anticipates playing a major role in any redistricting litigation that may be brought over plans that dilute or deny minority voting strength.
- *Prison gerrymandering.* The Census Bureau counts prisoners in facilities where they are housed, not as residents of the communities from which they come and will presumably return. This practice is referred to as “prison gerrymandering.” In February 2010, the Census Bureau agreed to produce a new data product that will assist state and local governments in avoiding prison-based gerrymandering. And in early April 2010, Maryland ended prison-based gerrymandering in that state. LDF will continue to work with other advocates to identify and implement a more comprehensive solution to this problem.

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

Total budget: \$512,000 over one year (project support)

To provide project support to enable the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NBCP) to advance the three primary goals of its redistricting advocacy:

- Educating and organizing its constituencies to participate in the redistricting process from start to finish;
- Building cross-constituency coalitions as well as “shadow commissions” to develop and critique maps; and
- Continuing to build a state-based strategy to change how prisoners are counted by the Census Bureau.

NBCP’s Tier I states are OH, GA, PA, IL, TX, NY, FL and LA. Its Tier II states are CA and IN.

