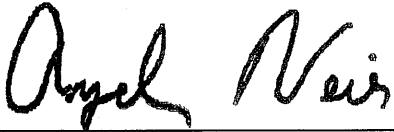


**U.S. PROGRAMS**  
**Seize the Day**  
**Summary of Recommended Grants**  
**May 18, 2009 Docket**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Term</u>
<b><u>U.S. Programs, Seize the Day T1:21079</u></b>			
<b><u>Hardest Issues - Structural Inequality</u></b>			
Ms. Foundation for Women	\$1,096,500	\$300,000	1 year
Tides Center (Opportunity Agenda)	\$200,000	\$200,000	18 months
Poverty and Race Research Action Council	\$185,000	\$400,000 <sup>1</sup>	2 years
<b><u>Economic Recovery - Equity</u></b>			
Institute for Policy Studies	\$400,000	\$400,000 <sup>2</sup>	2 years
New America Media	\$650,000	\$650,000 <sup>3</sup>	2 years
Partnership for Working Families	\$100,000	\$100,000	7 months
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$ 2,050,000.00</u></b>	



Approval Signature

Date

<sup>1</sup> The total grant to the Poverty and Race Research Action Council is to be split between Seize the Day T1: 21079 (\$185,000) and the Equality and Opportunity Fund T1: 24431 (\$215,000).

<sup>2</sup> The total grant to the institute for Policy Studies is to be split between Seize the Day T1: 21079 (\$300,000); National Security and Human Rights Campaign T1: 21095 (\$50,000); and Strategic Opportunities Fund T1: 21081 (\$50,000).

<sup>3</sup> The total grant to the New America Media is to be split between Seize the Day T1: 21079 (\$500,000) and the Equality and Opportunity Fund's Immigration Innovation fund T1: 24441 (\$150,000).

## Memorandum

To: Aryeh Neier  
From: Ann Beeson and the Seize the Day committee  
Re: Seize the Day Fund Docket  
Date: May 15, 2009

Enclosed are six grant recommendations through our Seize the Day fund. The recommendations total \$2.05 million, of which \$1.585 million would come directly from the Seize the Day fund, and \$465,000 from co-funding with other U.S. Programs funds.

As you know, we are working to move Seize the Day funds into the field as quickly as possible so that recommended grantees can act with the strategic mobility and speed required to take advantage of this moment. We have not scheduled a meeting to discuss these recommendations, but would be happy to do so should you have any questions on this docket, summarized below:

### **Advancing the Hardest Issues: Structural Inequality**

#### **Ms. Foundation**

*\$300,000 over one year*

The recommended grant would provide Ms. Foundation with project support for its efforts to ensure that marginalized populations, specifically low-income women and women of color, benefit from the opportunities presented in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Specifically, Ms. Foundation proposes to re-grant to organizations working to impact policy decisions related to ARRA implementation and to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to grantee organizations.

#### **Opportunity Agenda**

*\$200,000 over 18 months*

The recommended grant would provide project support to the Opportunity Agenda (OA) for its efforts to elevate structural inequality concerns and promote equal opportunity policy solutions in the current political environment. OA proposes to work with national and regional partners to ensure that publicly funded and regulated projects provide equal and expanded opportunity to all the communities they serve. Specifically, it would engage in strategy development and coordination with allies, provide resources to state and regional advocates working to hold state governments accountable to equity rules in the economic recovery, and develop and disseminate communications tools to advocates and policymakers highlighting structural equity and promoting equal opportunity in the economic recovery.

#### **Poverty and Race Research Action Council**

*\$400,000 over two years (\$185,000 from Seize the Day and \$215,000 from Equality and Opportunity Fund)*

The recommended grant would provide project support to the Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) from Seize the Day and general support to PRRAC from the

Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF). The project support would allow PRRAC to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the new Administration to achieve meaningful change in the largest federal housing programs. In this regard, PRRAC proposes to engage in multiple strategies, including direct advocacy, policy analysis and research, and coordinating coalition efforts, to advance civil rights rules in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and restore housing mobility incentives under the Section 8 “Housing Choice Voucher Program.”

General support from EOF would support PRRAC’s mission, which is to generate, gather, and disseminate research on the relationship between race and poverty and to promote the development and implementation of policies and practices that alleviate conditions caused by the interaction of racial discrimination and poverty.

### **Ensuring Transparency, Equity, and Accountability in Economic Recovery**

#### **Institute for Policy Studies**

*\$400,000 over two years (\$300,000 from Seize the Day, \$50,000 from National Security and Human Rights Campaign and \$50,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund)*

The recommended grant would provide general support for the Institute for Policy Studies’ (IPS) efforts to build a more transformative economic recovery agenda in partnership with grassroots organizations. As Washington D.C.’s first “progressive multi-issue think tank,” IPS has served as a policy and research resource for visionary social justice movements for four decades: from the anti-war and civil rights movements in the 1960’s to the peace and global justice movements of the last decade. Through independent research, visionary thinking, and linking grassroots to elected officials, IPS is supporting new efforts to increase public participation, transparency, and equity in the economic recovery. OSI funding would support IPS’s work in partnership with the Inter-Alliance Dialogue, a promising new effort that includes five national, grassroots organizing networks that are rooted in people of color, low-income and/ or immigrant communities, and represents domestic workers, janitors, day laborers, housing activists, worker rights advocates and others from the front lines of the economic crisis. Additionally of interest to OSI, IPS includes a focus on national security and art, culture, and social change issues. Accordingly, the recommended grant would be co-funded by the Seize the Day fund, National Security and Human Rights Campaign and Strategic Opportunities Fund.

#### **New America Media**

*\$500,000 over 21 months for Economic Stimulus Package Newsbeat (Seize the Day fund)*

*\$150,000 over two years for Four Pillars Project (Immigration Innovation fund)*

The recommended grant would provide support for two New America Media (NAM) projects, the: (1) Economic Stimulus Package Newsbeat, which would increase the ethnic media sector’s capacity to inform ethnic minority and immigrant audiences about the impact of stimulus funding on their communities; and, (2) Four Pillars Project, which would broaden and deepen the links between the ethnic media sector and immigrant rights organizations, supporting the Four Pillars campaign.

New America Media is a news and communications agency whose mission is to increase and improve the flow of news and communications connecting America's diverse communities by working with ethnic media and developing youth media. NAM serves 3,000 ethnic media outlets, reaching more than 51 million people.

**Partnership for Working Families**

*\$100,000 over seven months*

The recommended grant would provide project support for a Partnership for Working Families' (PWF) convening, *Advancing the New Urban Agenda*, and follow-up coalition and policy development work in 8-12 cities. The convening and related efforts would build local capacity to track development and design of economic stimulus related projects.

PWF is a Denver-based national organization that was founded in 2006 to provide research, build coalitions, and increase the engagement of low and middle income workers and communities in efforts to impact economic development so that the benefits are broadly shared. It is dedicated to mobilizing low- and moderate-income families to push for a role in economic development and land use decision making and conducting public education on policies that enhance corporate accountability and community benefits. PWF emphasizes the creation of high quality jobs, affordable housing, environmental health, and career pipelines for shared prosperity, and is a current Democracy and Power Fund general support grantee.

**Name of Organization:** Ms. Foundation for Women

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To resource grassroots organizations and coalitions to engage in advocacy to ensure that the jobs, services and supports generated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reach vulnerable populations

**Previous OSI Support:** \$1,221,963.34  
\$1,019,857.34 from Reproductive Rights (1998 – 2003)  
\$60,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2005)  
\$7,000 from Charitable Events Fund (2006, 2008)  
\$30,030 from USP General Grants (2003)  
\$25,076 from President’s Grants (1997)  
\$71,000 from PDIA Grants (1997)

**Organization Budget:** \$11,336,704

**Project Budget:** \$1,536,500

**Sources of Support:** California Wellness Foundation, Ford Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Women’s Funding Network, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Elton John AIDS Foundation, The John Merck Fund (abbreviated list)

**Amount Requested:** \$499,735

**Amount Recommended:** \$300,000 over one year (Seize the Day T1:21079)

**Term:** April 1, 2009 – March 30, 2010

**Description of Organization**

Founded in 1973, Ms. Foundation for Women is the first and leading women’s fund engaged across the United States to build women’s collective power to ignite change. Ms. Foundation delivers strategic grants, capacity building and leadership development to organizations at local, state, Tribal and national levels working for policy change and culture change across the broad areas of women’s health, economic justice, ending violence and building democracy. With its long history of bringing the leadership and perspectives of women who are most marginalized to the center, and building the capacity of diverse women and their organizations to connect across issues, geography

and with other social justice groups, Ms. Foundation strengthens social movements and brings our nation closer to its democratic ideals.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

Ms. Foundation seeks project support for its efforts to ensure that marginalized populations, specifically low-income women and women of color, benefit from the opportunities presented in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Specifically, Ms. Foundation proposes to do the following:

#### ***Re-granting***

Ms. Foundation plans to fund approximately 30 organizations working to: a) move gender closer to the center of progressive organizing; and b) impact policy decisions related to ARRA implementation. It has invited proposals from its current and former grantees as well as other organizations identified through its networks. Selection criteria for the proposed grantmaking include: established capacity to influence policy debates; a commitment to engaging and mobilizing communities most affected by the economic downturn; and active participation in cross-issue, cross-level coalitions. Ms. Foundation expects to fund a range of projects directly related to the economic recovery, such as workforce development and green jobs, child care and unemployment insurance, as well as projects related to evolving debates on health care and immigration. Possible grantees include: National Council of La Raza, Apollo Alliance, Right to the City Alliance, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger, Kentucky Jobs for Justice and Wider Opportunities for Women.

#### ***Capacity Building***

Ms. Foundation will provide capacity-building support to the cohort of organizations funded through its re-granting efforts described above. Ms. Foundation will facilitate active networking among this grantee cohort through a listserv and monthly conference calls between grantees working on similar issues and/or in similar political climates. Further, Ms. Foundation will support peer learning opportunities and collaborative activities and campaigns as identified by grantees or Ms. Foundation staff.

#### ***Power Analysis***

Working with a consultant, Ms. Foundation and its grantee partners will conduct a power analysis to identify existing and potential opportunities for grassroots leadership and marginalized constituencies to gain additional influence in the national progressive policy arena. Specifically, this analysis will identify opportunities where the voices of affected women will have most the most impact, help establish personal relationships with influential advocacy and policy players, and craft key policy goals.

In the fall of 2009, Ms. Foundation will host a three-day convening in Washington of a cross-section of grantees from across the Foundation's program areas, and particularly those with regional and national scope, as well as other selected organizations. The purpose of the gathering will be to use the power analysis to develop a set of initial strategies and activities for narrowing the gap between grassroots organizations and marginalized constituencies and the new progressive tables.

## **Rationale for Recommendation**

Ms. Foundation's proposed work advances a number of OSI priorities. Consistent with the goals of the Seize the Day fund, it will advance strategies to challenge structural inequality as part of a transformative national agenda. It will increase public participation in policy reform efforts by those most impacted, including people of color, women and low-income communities. It will also work to ensure transparency, accountability and equity in the development and implementation of economic recovery plans. Beyond this, Ms. Foundation's ongoing work advances the broad goals of the Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social and political life, as well as EOF's specific interest in promoting gender equality. It advances the Democracy and Power Fund's interest in supporting organizations that engage critical constituencies and nurture new leaders.

The current political moment presents a critical opportunity to ensure that equitable policies are adopted and implemented. What is particularly compelling about Ms. Foundation's proposal is that it seeks to build the capacity of multi-issue progressive advocacy organizations to address gender equity in the context of the economic recovery. To truly address structural inequity and its many facets, staff believes it is important to address the blind-spots of progressive advocacy organizations. For many organizations, gender is a blind spot. For others, race or immigration is the issue that remains unaddressed. Increasingly, however, groups are linking a wider range of equity concerns and in this way building broader constituencies and sharpening their advocacy. Support of Ms. Foundation's proposal will help strengthen this brand of equity advocacy by offering financial support and comprehensive technical assistance.

OSI has supported Ms. Foundation in the past. One such grant was made to Ms. Foundation's Katrina Women's Response Fund. Similar in its design, the Katrina project was a strategy initiative to ensure that the leadership and perspectives of low-income women of color were included in policy decisions related to relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts. Given its success with its Katrina project, the Ms. Foundation has the capacity and experience to implement a large scale project such as the one proposed.

Accordingly, staff recommends a project support grant of \$300,000.

**Name of Organization:** Opportunity Agenda (fiscal agent: The Tides Center)

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** to support the use of advocacy and communications strategies to address structural inequality, promote equal opportunity and increase economic mobility for more Americans

**Previous OSI Support:** \$930,000  
\$400,000 from Equality and Opportunity Fund and Democracy and Power Fund (2008 – 2010)  
\$150,000 from US Justice Fund (2007 – 2008)  
\$380,000 from Racial Justice Initiative (2005 – 2008)

**Organization Budget:** \$2,344,855

**Project Budget:** \$200,000

**Sources of Support:** The California Endowment; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Ford Foundation; Libra Foundation; Marguerite Casey Foundation; Oak Foundation; OSI; Starry Night Fund; Unbound Philanthropy; US Human Rights fund; ZeroDivide

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$200,000 over eighteen months (Seize the Day T1: 21079)

**Term:** May 1, 2009 – October 31, 2010

**Description of Organization**

The Opportunity Agenda (OA) was founded with the mission of building public will to expand opportunity in America. Through active partnerships with advocates, organizers, researchers and policymakers, it is developing strategies to persuade all Americans of the shared stake they have in equality and opportunity. Specifically, it synthesizes and translates policy analysis and research on barriers to opportunity. It trains and supports social justice leaders. It identifies and advocates for policies that expand opportunity, such as the opportunity impact statements described in this recommendation.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

OA requests project support to do the following:



***Shaping and Tracking Public Spending at the Federal Level.*** OA will work with national and regional partners to ensure that publicly funded and regulated projects provide equal and expanding opportunity to all the communities they serve. A principal tool it will use to achieve this goal is the Opportunity Impact Statement. On both the federal and state levels, impact statements are a well-established tool intended to ensure that policymakers have full awareness of the impact of proposed rules before taking major action. Fiscal impact statements from the Congressional Budget Office outline the costs and benefits of federal policies, and many states have adopted similar financial analyses for state policies. Iowa, Connecticut and Minnesota have established impact statements that review proposed changes in criminal justice policy to determine whether such action will exacerbate or reduce racial disparities in sentencing and incarceration. The best-known impact statement is the federal Environmental Impact Statement that federal agencies must prepare when a major construction or other project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Similar to the way the Environmental Impact Statement operates, the Opportunity Impact Statement will use empirical data as well as community input and investigation to assess the extent to which new projects receiving any government resources will expand or contract opportunity – e.g., would jobs be created or lost? Would affordable housing be created or destroyed? Would displacement or environmental risks be shared equitably by all affected communities?

Beyond promotion of the Opportunity Impact Statement, OA's work in this area will also include educating federal regulators and policy makers regarding opportunity gaps and enforcement best practices; tracking stimulus and related spending and the extent to which it does or does not provide greater and more equal opportunity; and pushing for enforcement of existing equal opportunity laws as part of economic recovery.

***Coordination and Strategy for Diverse Organizations and Leaders.*** Soon after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 became law, OA convened a strategy call that included: ACLU, Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Center for Community Change, The Center for Social Inclusion, 9to5 National Association of Working Women, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, National Council of La Raza, Kirwan Institute, National Women's Law Center and many others. What emerged were a commitment and a process to act in greater coordination with a shared set of goals and complementary strategies.

Going forward, coordination and strategy development will include bi-monthly conference calls, as well as a series of convenings hosted by regional organizations that coordinate grassroots partners. OA will provide assistance to these state and regional advocates, including Insight Center, Heartland Alliance and the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations, as they work to hold state governments accountable to current and future equity rules, and to propose new policy solutions to expand opportunity. OA sees the greatest opportunities for supporting state-based work and strongest potential partners in Colorado, Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

***Communications Tools, Training and Support.*** To support the work of its state, regional and national partners, OA will develop and disseminate communications guidance, talking points, model press releases and model op-eds. It is currently developing *A Guide to the Opportunity Impact Statement and Other New Policy Ideas* and *A Field Guide to Existing Opportunity Laws and their Application*.

OA will conduct a number of regional communications trainings and actively place spokespeople (primarily at the state/regional level) in news stories and commentary to build public and political will for structural equity particularly in the recovery context. These are methodologies OA has used successfully on a range of issues, from equity in the Gulf Coast, to defending affirmative action in Colorado, to developing “shared fate” talking points on immigration reform to defuse tensions between native-born black workers and immigrant workers.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

OA’s proposed work advances a number of OSI priorities. Consistent with the goals of the Seize the Day fund, OA will advance strategies to challenge structural inequality as part of a transformative national agenda. It will increase public participation in policy reform efforts by those most impacted, including people of color and low-income communities. It will also work to ensure transparency, accountability and equity in the development and implementation of economic recovery plans. Beyond this, OA’s ongoing work advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund’s interest in supporting efforts to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social and political life. It also advances the Democracy and Power Fund’s interest in supporting organizations that engage critical constituencies and nurture new leaders.

The historic nature of the economic crisis, as well as the unprecedented sums of money being invested to encourage recovery, will inevitably reshape the U.S. economy in dramatic ways. If implemented correctly, the stimulus and related efforts could serve as a down payment on an economy in which opportunity is full and equal. Conversely, if attention is not paid to the most vulnerable communities, to structural inequality and to basic rights protections, the massive recovery investment could perpetuate or even deepen inequality and leave many Americans stranded further from opportunity.

To begin making the most of this period, OA has already partnered with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and other national groups to integrate equal opportunity guarantees into the federal economic recovery package. By including OA’s language in its “Initial Implementing Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” the Office of Management and Budget mandated that federally-funded projects must have neither an intentional nor an unintended discriminatory impact based on race, gender, disability, language ability and other grounds.

At the same time, OA has been working with a range of groups to develop cutting edge media and communications tools and strategies that elevate social justice and equal opportunity concerns in the public and policy discourse, and build public support for structural change. These have included opinion research, analysis of media coverage, recommended talking points, interactive online mapping, blogging and other tools designed to reach a broad audience. These tools have helped it achieve key policy victories around affirmative action in Colorado, immigrant integration in Maryland, health equity in Connecticut and school integration in communities around the country.

Given how consistent OA's goals and values are with OSI's and how effective it has been in advancing the idea that all Americans have a shared stake in equality and opportunity, staff recommends a \$200,000 grant to OA to be drawn from the Seize the Day budget.

**Name of Organization:** Poverty and Race Research Action Council

**Tax Status:** 501 (c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide 1) general operating support and 2) support the efforts of the Civil Rights Task Force on Federal Housing Policy

**Previous OSI Support:** \$515,000  
\$435,000 from Racial Justice Initiative (2005 – 2008)  
\$20,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2006)  
\$60,000 from USP (1997)

**Organizational Budget:** \$685,000

**Project Budget:** N/A

**Sources of Support:** Ford Foundation; Kellogg Foundation; Fannie Mae Foundation; Joyce Foundation; Taconic Foundation

**Amount Requested:** \$185,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$400,000 over two years (including \$185,000 from Seize the Day T1: 21079 and \$215,000 from Equality and Opportunity Fund T1: 24431)

**Term:** May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2011

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization**

The Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) is a non-partisan, national, nonprofit organization created in 1990 by major civil rights, civil liberties and anti-poverty groups. PRRAC's mission is to generate, gather and disseminate research on the relationship between race and poverty and to promote the development and implementation of policies and practices that alleviate conditions caused by the interaction of racial discrimination and poverty. PRRAC also convenes advocates and researchers to encourage and further collaboration on race and poverty issues, and supports social science research linked to local, state and national advocacy strategies. PRRAC conducts research and advocacy in the areas of housing, education and health; serves as a clearinghouse for social justice advocacy and research through its *Poverty & Race* newsletter and website; and conducts a grants program for small-scale social science research activities.

## **Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought**

PRRAC requests: 1) renewed general support; and 2) project support to take advantage of opportunities presented by the new Administration to achieve meaningful change in the largest federal housing programs. With project support, PRRAC will engage in multiple strategies, including direct advocacy, policy analysis and research and coordinating coalition efforts, to achieve change in two areas:

### ***Adoption of Civil Rights Rules in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program***

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) is a tax credit that gives incentives for use of private equity in the development of affordable housing aimed at low income people. The tax credits are more attractive than tax deductions because they provide a dollar for dollar reduction in a taxpayer's federal income tax. Almost all investors in LIHTC credits are private housing development corporations.

Since 1986, the LIHTC Program has operated with little federal civil rights oversight, which has led to a geographic distribution of LIHTC housing that is largely racially and economically segregated. Currently, the private housing industry is pressuring the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to continue business as usual. With added support, PRRAC will bring countervailing pressure to bear. By responding to requests for proposed rulemaking, advising staff at HUD and the Departments of Justice and the Treasury and advising local, state and national housing equity advocates, PRRAC will intensify the drumbeat for increased civil rights enforcement. It believes the moment is ripe to persuade federal agencies that LIHTC housing development must advance the goals of poverty deconcentration and racial integration mandated by the Fair Housing Act.

### ***Restoration of Housing Mobility Incentives under Section 8***

PRRAC has consistently argued that the nation's largest federal housing program, the Section 8 "Housing Choice Voucher Program," has the potential to help poor families voluntarily move to lower-poverty, less segregated areas. Unfortunately, the benefit of the voucher program is not automatic and highly dependent on a number of program features, including the extent to which public housing residents receive housing search assistance, how public housing agencies receive their funding and how public housing agencies interact when a voucher recipient crosses jurisdictional lines. PRRAC believes there is a new openness within a number of relevant federal agencies to expand the Section 8 voucher program, experiment with new approaches to cooperation among public housing agencies and adopt simpler systems to allow families to move from high-poverty, segregated areas to low-poverty, less segregated areas without bureaucratic complications. Using the strategies outlined above, PRRAC proposes to continue to advocate for increased housing mobility for public housing residents.

## **Rationale for Recommendation**

PRRAC's proposed work advances a number of OSI priorities. Consistent with the goals of the Seize the Day fund, PRRAC will advance strategies to challenge structural

inequality as part of a transformative national agenda. Beyond this, PRRAC's ongoing work advances the Equality and Opportunity Fund's interest in supporting efforts to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action and to lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social and political life. It also advances the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative's goals of stabilizing communities hard hit by the economic crisis.

Four decades after the 1968 Fair Housing Act became law, housing segregation in American metropolitan areas remains a serious and continuing problem. In addition to problems of lingering discrimination and racial steering in the housing market, the lack of quality, affordable housing opportunities outside high-poverty areas reinforces racial and economic segregation. Numerous social scientists have documented how families in these neighborhoods are cut off from good jobs and schools and other opportunities.<sup>1</sup>

Segregation is PRRAC's highest priority and its area of expertise. It is also a priority of the Equality and Opportunity Fund's racial justice grantmaking. As EOF refines its analysis of the strong relationship between housing and school segregation, it plans to rely heavily on PRRAC. EOF plans to continue to provide core support for PRRAC's ongoing work on segregation, but believes it requires extra capacity to take advantage of emerging opportunities to influence federal housing policy now.

PRRAC has already convened the Civil Rights Task Force on Federal Housing Policy, a coalition of civil rights, housing and legal services organizations,<sup>2</sup> which has begun to press its agenda with HUD and other federal agencies, providing detailed letters and commentary on the fair housing implications of the 2009 stimulus bill, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and the potential for residential desegregation in the new HUD-Department of Transportation joint transportation initiative. With additional support, it will be able to free up staff to track federal agency policy developments and deadlines, coordinate policy analysis, disseminate timely content to coalition partners and convene coalition partners.

There is a critical opportunity to advance the idea that fair housing and housing mobility are necessary components of ensuring equality and opportunity for all members of society. To allow PRRAC to continue to take advantage of the current moment and to support its ongoing general capacity needs, program staff recommends a project support grant in the amount of \$185,000 to be drawn from the Seize the Day budget and a renewed general support grant of \$215,000 over two years to be drawn from EOF's racial justice grantmaking budget.

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<sup>1</sup> See Nancy Denton & Douglas Massey, *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*, Cambridge: Harvard U. Press, 1998. See also Turner, Margery Austin and Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, "The Benefits of Housing Mobility: A Review of the Research Evidence," in "Keeping the Promise: Preserving and Enhancing Housing Mobility in Section 8 Housing," PRRAC (2005): 9 – 23.

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Civil Rights Task Force on Federal Housing Policy include the National Fair Housing Alliance, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the NAACP LDEF, Inclusive Communities Project in Dallas, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, the ACLU of Maryland and the Fair Housing Justice Center of New York.

**Name of Organization:** The Institute for Policy Studies

**Tax Status:** 501(c)3

**Purpose of Grant:** to provide general support

**Previous OSI Support:** \$88,970  
\$58,970 Chairman's Grants (2002-2005)  
\$30,000 OSI Multilateralism (2003-2004)

**Organization Budget:** \$2,808,908

**Project Budget:** N/A

**Major Sources of Support:**

Anonymous	\$475,000
Rockefeller Brothers Fund	\$250,000
Wallace Global Fund	\$100,000
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$100,000
Albert & Bessie Warner Fund	\$90,000
OSI (Warsaw Office)	\$88,000
Arca Foundation	\$75,000
Solidago Foundation	\$55,000
JKW Foundation	\$50,000

**Amount Requested:** \$400,000 over two years

**Amount Recommended:** \$400,000 over two years (including \$300,000 from Seize the Day T1: 21079; \$50,000 from National Security and Human Rights Campaign T1: 21095; and \$50,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund T1: 21081)

**Term:** June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2011

**Description of Organization**

As Washington D.C.'s first "progressive multi-issue think tank," the Institute for Policy Studies has served as a policy and research resource for social justice movements for over four decades. IPS researchers strengthen social movements with independent research, visionary thinking and links to the grassroots, scholars and elected officials. Combining research, advocacy, education and organizing, IPS works across disciplines, bringing together creative minds from varied backgrounds to provide information, analysis and action for social change specifically focusing its work around three over-arching goals: economic justice; environmental justice; and bona fide security.

IPS's work is broken down into several core operating activities, including network and coalition building, research and connecting the advocacy community with academics and elected leaders. IPS has had success in each of these areas, which have enabled it to play a key role in the social justice ecosystem.

IPS has spent decades building relationships with other research groups and with hundreds of environmental, worker, faith, farmer, women, student and civil rights organizations. Consequently, IPS staffers have a unique convening power that often helps groups multiply their impact. For example, in 2002, IPS experts were central to the convening of what became United for Peace and Justice, the largest coalition opposing the Iraq war, now with over 1,000 member organizations. In addition, IPS researchers work closely with social movements to identify and implement strategic research initiatives that influence public policy and accelerate needed social change. In one example, IPS's foreign policy "In Focus Project" has worked with OSI Democracy and Power Fund grantee, the Center for American Progress, to develop an analytical framework and specific proposals for demilitarizing U.S. foreign policy. In its six years of existence, this project has reshaped the defense spending conversation.

IPS research allows it to help organizations design constructive, practical alternatives to "broken" policy models. For example, rather than simply rejecting the financial sector bailout in the fall of 2008, IPS produced a more balanced plan for economic recovery, including proposals to pay for recovery equitably. Most recently, to mark President Obama's first 100 days in office, IPS released a scorecard by IPS and other experts rating the Administration in 23 areas of domestic and foreign policy, including several related to the Administration's economic crisis response.

Another IPS core function is its bridge building between the advocacy community and academics and members of Congress. For instance, IPS is working with the Inter-Alliance Dialogue (IAD)—a new network of grassroots organizations including Jobs with Justice, Grassroots Global Justice, Right to the City Alliance (another Democracy and Power Fund grantee), Domestic Workers United and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network—to organize a series of strategic dialogues and other joint activities aimed at helping diverse organizations exchange information, analysis and plans for addressing the economic crisis. The first IAD strategy convening, set to take place in June, is a recent Seize the Day Initiative supported effort. On May 12, IPS and the Inter-Alliance Dialogue will present a new set of ideas for economic recovery at a Capitol Hill hearing convened by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. OSI funding is not funding this activity.

In addition to the core functions described above, IPS maintains a national security program that for the next two years will work to address the new moment in U.S. foreign policy. Both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Obama have announced that they will no longer use the "war on terror" frame in U.S. foreign policy. Yet, they have not enunciated a new frame for foreign policy.



IPS foreign policy experts will lead an effort to take advantage of this moment. They will write overall thought pieces on the opportunity to shift the foreign policy paradigm, and will also commission a series of pieces on how the new human and just security frame would play out in South Asia, in East Asia and in other regions of the world. IPS also plans to strengthen its already extensive network of over 30 experts from the Muslim, South Asian and Arab-American communities, and engage them more in this analysis of shifting paradigms of foreign policy. IPS will work with these experts to write pieces for its website, and to craft op-eds for distribution through various media networks. This work is of interest to the National Security and Human Rights Campaign.

Finally, IPS uses arts and culture to buttress their work; each of their main program areas works with poets and artists. Indeed, IPS's latest economic recovery publication is the work of a cartoonist. In 2008, IPS co-sponsored a major poetry festival around the anniversary of the Iraq war, entitled "Split this Rock," and has committed to co-sponsoring Split this Rock again in 2010. And IPS's annual human rights awards (the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards) have long integrated culture into the core of the program.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

The proposal seeks general operating support.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The Seize the Day Initiative recommends funding for the Institute for Policy Studies and is collaborating on this grant with the National Security and Human Rights Campaign as well as the Strategic Opportunities Fund. This recommendation is based on IPS's connection to several Seize the Day priority strategies, including its work to increase public participation in policy efforts and to ensure that equity and accountability will be prioritized in the economic recovery conversation. In addition, IPS's work is closely connected to the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's goal to shift the war on terror paradigm and engage credible messengers in the movement for a progressive national security policy, and the Strategic Opportunities Fund's goal of supporting the use of art and culture to engage communities in social change advocacy.

While this is a recommendation for a general support grant, IPS is already playing a key role in the debate around the economic recovery, and has shown that it can respond nimbly to both crises and opportunities that have the potential to either threaten or advance our values. It is IPS's connection to leadership in government, academia and grassroots networks that make it such a valuable player in this regard. For example, when the economic crisis escalated last September, IPS immediately analyzed the government's initial responses, produced talking points for activists and worked with other networks to craft alternative proposals.

Through our due diligence, we believe that IPS is well-positioned to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the economic crisis and the transfer of power in DC. The

financial meltdown lent strong credibility to IPS's long-held critique of "market fundamentalism," and the political shifts in the country opened new doors for IPS leaders to influence federal policy. IPS has had the opportunity to present bold policy alternatives to Obama administration cabinet members and Congressional leaders, beginning at the White House Fiscal Responsibility Summit in February and in similar high-level briefings on the crisis in the past two months. Numerous IPS staff members have developed strong relations with the White House Office of Public Liaison and other executive branch members, and IPS is a key resource center for the Congressional Progressive Caucus and other leaders on Capitol Hill.

Using its vast network and research capabilities, IPS intends to help craft a bold new tax revenue plan to pay for economic stimulus initiatives and restore greater progressivity and fairness to the federal tax code. It also plans to conduct research and outreach to policymakers on crisis-related issues, in particular the dangers of extreme inequality, speculative bubble economics and deregulation, and will partner with a network of grassroots groups to develop bold proposals for economic transformation and help bring the perspectives of grassroots activists into the economic debates in Washington.

IPS's ambitious agenda would not be realistic or feasible without a stellar staff and board. IPS is led by John Cavanagh, a former UN economist and a co-author of most of IPS's publications on economic justice. Sarah Anderson is the director of IPS's Global Economy Project and has for the last 15 years led IPS's work on trade and investment. IPS Senior Scholar Chuck Collins directs IPS's Inequality and the Common Good Program. He is best recognized for his coordination of a national campaign to defend the federal estate tax from repeal and cofounded United for a Fair Economy (a Democracy and Power Fund grantee) and its innovative Responsible Wealth program, an effort to organize wealthy Americans to reject the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy. IPS's national security work is led by Emira Woods, John Feffer and Phyliss Bennis, each of whom are experts that have written and will continue to write about shifting the national security paradigm. Additionally, IPS may be the only think tank in the United States with an award-winning poet (E. Ethelbert Miller) as the chair of its board, which also includes actor Harry Belafonte, writer Barbara Ehrenreich and visual artist and entrepreneur Anas Shallal.

We are pleased to recommend this combined grant to support IPS's work at this critical juncture.

**Name of Organization:** New America Media

**Tax Status:** 501 (c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support two projects. (1) Support for the Four Pillars campaign will broaden and deepen the links between the ethnic media sector and immigrant rights organizations. (2) Support for the Economic Stimulus Package Newsbeat project will increase the ethnic media sector's capacity to inform ethnic minority and immigrant audiences about the impact of stimulus funding on their communities.

**Previous OSI Support:** \$635,000  
\$535,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2005 – 2007)  
\$100,000 from Youth Development Grants (2005)

**Organization Budget:** \$5,436,577

**Project Budget:** Four Pillars Project: \$552,000  
Economic Stimulus Project: \$575,000

**Source of Support:** Atlantic Philanthropies, Ford Foundation, Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund, Carnegie Corporation, James Irvine, William & Flora Hewlett

**Amount Requested:** Four Pillars Project: \$150,000  
Economic Stimulus Project: \$500,000

**Amount Recommended:** Four Pillars Project: \$150,000 over two years from Immigration Innovation fund T1: 24441  
Economic Stimulus Project: \$500,000 over 21 months from Seize the Day T1: 21079

**Term:** Four Pillars Project: April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010  
Economic Stimulus April 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010

**Description of Organization**

New America Media (NAM) is a news and communications agency whose mission is to increase and improve the flow of news and communications connecting America's diverse communities by working with ethnic media and developing youth media. NAM serves 3,000 ethnic media outlets, reaching more than 51 million people.

NAM's primary goal is to develop a national AP-style ethnic media news exchange that integrates the ethnic media sector into American journalism. The model is collaborative,

linking ethnic media outlets to one another to develop a media grid connecting otherwise isolated and fragmented communities, building inter-ethnic, inter-racial and inter-generational communications and understanding.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

This recommendation describes two projects. Support for the Four Pillars project will come from the Immigration Innovations Fund and support for the Economic Stimulus Project will come from the Seize the Day Initiative.

Project 1: This grant to New America Media supports the Four Pillars campaign by broadening and deepening the links between the ethnic media sector and immigrant rights organizations. NAM proposes to do this in the three following ways:

1) Hire a full-time immigrant rights coordinator in Washington, DC to work directly with national research and advocacy groups working on immigration reform and to engage the ethnic media sector in the debate. The coordinator will identify topics related to the immigration reform debate and disseminate them to the ethnic media through press briefings, teleconference calls, op-eds, radio and TV talk show appearances. The coordinator will also update immigrant rights organizations on local and state issues reported by NAM and ethnic media partners, and provide content for their websites. Lastly, the coordinator will report on initiatives and media activities by immigrant organizations for NAM's website and syndication.

2) Expand opportunities for local and regional immigrant rights organizations to inform and engage ethnic media on urgent issues impacting immigrant communities. NAM's immigration reporters and DC coordinator will identify leading anchor and grassroots organizations to interview on a bi-weekly basis to generate timely coverage through its multi-media news portals. NAM will recruit more immigrant rights activists to contribute to NAM's Immigration Matters columns and bimonthly or as-needed teleconference calls with ethnic media reporters. NAM's editorial and communications team will also invite organizations in the field to speak at NAM's professional training seminars as a way to expand their relationships with ethnic media practitioners.

3) Enhance immigrant women's voices on the national debate through NAM's new survey of immigrant women. NAM will organize a press conference in May, co-sponsored with Women Media Center and Ms. Magazine, to release the results and will organize forums in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles to focus attention on immigrant women.

Project 2: Support for the Economic Stimulus Package Newsbeat project will increase the ethnic media sector's capacity to serve as watchdogs and inform ethnic minority and immigrant audiences about the impact of stimulus funding on their communities. NAM proposes three initiatives as part of the project:

1) Organize seminars for ethnic media in at least eight areas with high concentrations of immigrant and ethnic minority populations. These seminars will bring together ethnic

media practitioners, investigative reporters skilled in writing about economic policy and experts from national watchdog groups (including OSI grantees OMB-Watch, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Project on Government Oversight, Open the Government.org) that are working to ensure transparency and accountability in the disbursement of recovery funds. NAM will collaborate with Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) on this project. Each seminar will be held in a region where NAM already has an established ethnic media network, and a partnership with a journalism school. Priority areas include New Orleans, Texas, Minneapolis, North Carolina, New York, Seattle and Navajo and Todo Uno tribal lands in Arizona.

2) Recruit and coordinate 12 ethnic media fellows to track the impact of economic stimulus and recovery on immigrant and ethnic minority communities and produce stories that NAM can syndicate throughout its network.

3) Produce original stories for the Economic Stimulus Package Newsbeat and coordinate conference calls and news briefings to help build the entire sector's capacity to report on how recovery funds are affecting different communities. NAM will coordinate regularly with partner organizations at the national level such as OMB-Watch to help identify important stories and to inform the national watchdog organizations as they advocate for increased transparency, accountability and equity in the economic recovery.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The Four Pillars grant to NAM furthers the Immigrant Rights portfolio's goal of linking immigration to broader national issues and building a multi-ethnic, multi-constituent movement. NAM's efforts to engage and include immigrant women in the movement also contribute to the work EOF is developing around women's rights. The Economic Stimulus project furthers the strategies of the Seize the Day fund by helping to ensure that transparency, equity and accountability are prioritized in the economic recovery debate.

OSI's support for the Four Pillars initiative will help NAM widen the scope and improve the quality of the news coverage of immigration issues in the ethnic media sector. This work will raise public awareness of the female face of immigration and of the role of immigrant women; improve ethnic media's ability to focus their audiences' voice on crucial political debates over immigrant rights; and help improve integration between national and grassroots activists. As a journalism organization, NAM understands its role in shaping opinion, informing the debate and rallying constituents in ethnic communities via the media. NAM aligns with the Four Pillars effort by linking grassroots immigration efforts with the national movement and mobilizing pro-immigrant forces in ethnic communities. It has a direct role in comprehensive immigration reform debate through its editorial coverage of the issue, its research and its ability to galvanize constituents.

New America Media developed the Economic Stimulus project at the request of OSI Transparency and Integrity Fund staff. In much the same way as the Four Pillars

initiative, the project will help NAM improve the quality of news coverage of economic policy issues in the ethnic media sector. This project provides an important opportunity to build relationships among ethnic media journalists, national watchdog organizations and the larger journalism community. This project will help build the long-term capacity of ethnic media to report on economic policy issues and inform the communities most impacted by the recession and also most underserved by traditional and new media alike: low income, minority, immigrant, Native American and rural.

At a time when the ethnic media itself is struggling to serve its audiences with few if any of the resources available to general market media, this grant represents a strategic investment in its growth as the most important intermediary informing and engaging immigrants and ethnic minorities about the public life of this country.

**Name of Organization:** Partnership for Working Families

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** project support for *Advancing the Urban Agenda* conference

**Previous OSI Support:** \$525,000  
   \$350,000 Democracy and Power Fund (2008)  
   \$175,000 Progressive Infrastructure (2007)

**Organization Budget:** \$1,525,000

**Project Budget:** \$400,000

**Major Sources of Support:** Public Welfare - \$150,000  
   Cummings - \$100,000  
   Panta Rhea - \$100,000  
   Ford Foundation - \$65,500  
   Surdna Foundation - \$50,000

**Amount Requested:** \$100,000 over 1 year

**Amount Recommended:** \$100,000 over 7 months (Seize the Day T1: 21079)

**Term:** June 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

**Description of Organization**

The Partnership for Working Families (PWF) is a national organization based in Denver, CO that provides policy, communications, research, organizing and legal resources to a growing network of metro-based affiliates that are working to advance economic and social justice in their communities. The network’s principal mechanism for advancing economic and social justice has been the negotiation of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) with private and public developers. CBAs are legal devices that contractually obligate developers that receive public investment to create affordable housing and good-paying jobs, fund job training and provide neighborhood services, environmental mitigations and other benefits to communities. The substantive benefits of these agreements in the communities where they have been achieved are significant: they create jobs, housing and environmental improvement in communities that often face the greatest obstacles to social and economic equity.

Organizing to win these agreements also serves to mobilize diverse communities to be active and vigilant in pursuit of additional community investments. These agreements are most often fought for in low-income communities, usually with disproportionate populations of people of color. Broad based concerns about structural racism and

economic injustice are often raised in the campaigns in ways that further mobilize community residents.

PWF was formed in 2006 by four affiliates, located in Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego and Oakland, California that had been working together since the 1990s. In 2002, these affiliates created the California Partnership for Working Families, which was a precursor to the national PWF network. The national network was formed in 2006 as affiliates took shape elsewhere around the country. It became a staffed professional organization in 2007 and OSI was an early supporter of the PWF's work.

In addition to providing technical and strategic support for individual affiliate campaigns, PWF connects affiliates to one another through national and regional convenings and by connecting the expertise of the more experienced affiliates to those at earlier stages of their campaigns. The PWF staff provides one-on-one technical assistance to affiliates around the uses of research, organizing, legal strategies and communications in campaigns. PWF convenes interaffiliate working groups around specific issues and industries, and it arranges for new staff to spend time visiting and learning from more mature groups in order to strengthen local and national advocacy efforts. Among the network's biggest victories is the CBA for the Los Angeles International Airport expansion, which includes over \$500 million worth of community benefits commitments, including job training for 500 neighborhood residents per year, preference to local residents in filling airport jobs, and mitigation of noise & air pollution.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought**

A Seize the Day Initiative grant will support a national convening, to be held later this spring, of over 400 activists, policy advocates, researchers and academics to plan for on the ground implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A large chunk of the spending authorized by ARRA will help low-income people, by keeping foodshare and Medicaid programs afloat and shoring up faltering state budgets. Through the PWF network's work to incorporate job quality standards and job access programs, like targeted hiring from high need communities, into infrastructure projects, school modernization, energy efficiency retrofit programs and residential weatherization, ARRA's impact on poor communities and communities of color can be maximized.

Organizations in the PWF network are working to develop a range of organizing strategies and programs to maximize the impact of ARRA public spending on low-income communities and workers. These efforts include:

- Campaigns in New Jersey, Seattle, Atlanta, Boston and Milwaukee to develop implementation strategies and guidelines for federal weatherization assistance, with the goal of creating a recruitment and training pipeline and a set of job quality standards that ensure low-income workers get access to new high quality jobs. These campaigns require engagement with state legislative and administrative processes (OSI funding will not be used to support lobbying efforts), outreach to local agencies that have historically overseen a much more



- limited weatherization program, liaisons to unions and job training entities and strong connections with the communities that need weatherization and that are home to the target workforce;
- A multi-city effort in California that will establish job quality and job access standards across a range of ARRA-funded programs, including residential weatherization, competitive energy efficiency block grants that can fund broader retro-fit programs and school modernization and construction moneys;
  - Participation in a national effort to secure executive guidance from President Obama and the Department of Labor to encourage states to incorporate job quality and job access programs into ARRA spending plans (PWF's legal team has already drafted proposed language for the guidance; OSI funding will not be used to support lobbying efforts); and
  - Participation in States for an Accountable Recovery, a coalition effort that is monitoring transparency and accountability in state implementation of ARRA spending.

The themes of this work permeate the program for the Partnership's 2009 national conference, *Advancing the New Urban Agenda*. At the conference, PWF leadership will highlight promising strategies and approaches and facilitate the development of advocacy strategies and campaigns for moving forward. The national capacity of PWF has emerged as vitally important to advancing the affiliates' goals of achieving more quality jobs, more affordable housing, a healthier environment and other social benefits in metro regions across the country – and doing it in ways that increase local community organizing capacity and public participation along the way.

In addition, PWF has built relationships with other national organizations that benefit the efficacy of broader advocacy efforts. Partnerships with the NAACP (a Strategic Opportunities Fund grantee), the Gamaliel Foundation congregation-based organizing network (a Democracy and Power grantee) and SEIU are beginning to lead to collaborative affiliate-level campaigns that combine the efforts of the labor, environmental, religious and racial justice communities. The conference will include affiliate leaders and representatives of the partner groups that are committed to maximizing their abilities to monitor and push for fair implementation of ARRA funds. Some of the topics that will be addressed at the conference include:

- Federal issues, including ongoing efforts to effect ARRA implementation, federal transportation reauthorization and Employee Free Choice, among others.
- A construction industry emphasis including 200 local union leaders and 75 community leaders, with the goal of building a broader network of collaboration among community and labor interests. Workshops will include emphasis on policy mechanisms for creating broader access to high-quality construction careers; opportunities and strategies for improving job quality and access to weatherization and other green construction jobs – many of which will be funded directly through ARRA line items; strategies for developing a workforce pipeline; and tools for developing high wage, good benefit construction careers in low-density and conservative regions of the country.

- A series of community benefits skill-building workshops that increase local capacity to track development (including stimulus-related projects) and design successful campaign strategies for maximizing the impact of development on metropolitan regions.

PWF has a strong network of community partners including: Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), Garden State Alliance for a New Economy (Newark, NJ), Georgia Strategic Alliance for New Directions and Unified Policies and Pittsburgh United.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The Seize the Day Initiative recommends a grant of \$100,000 to Partnership for Working Families (PWF) for its work to address several Seize the Day strategic priorities, including expanding public participation in advocacy on economic recovery issues at the local, state and national levels; and education and monitoring of transparency and accountability in ARRA state spending.

Since the passage of ARRA, community and advocacy groups have been racing to keep up with the pace of implementation on the ground. PWF, through its affiliates in key metropolitan regions across the U.S., is particularly well situated to move on the difficult issues that OSI prioritizes such as equality and opportunity, transparency and building power at the state and local level. Leslie Moody, the PWF's Executive Director and the founding executive director of the network's Metropolitan Denver affiliate, is well-regarded in labor and community development communities and has connected PWF to key national economic recovery alliances, including States for a Transparent and Accountable Recovery Coalition (STAR). The STAR coalition includes other OSI grantees such as the Center for Community Change, OMB Watch, National Training and Information Center/National People's Action and Progressive States Network, among others.

As the recent federal budget fight reveals, the role of organizations engaging activists and community members at the state and local levels to participate in public policy fights is an essential piece of the larger social justice advocacy puzzle. Seize the Day funding for PWF's *Advancing the New Urban Agenda* conference will greatly expand participation in the conference, through travel support for grassroots attendees from cities across the U.S., and support follow up efforts in states where stimulus accountability and transparency need national support. In particular, the PWF's work to develop models for holding ARRA funds accountable at the local and regional level and creating a peer network to share ideas, relationships and tools for advocacy success will benefit from Seize the Day support.