

U.S. PROGRAMS
Seize the Day
Summary of Recommended Grants
June 26, 2009 Docket

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Term</u>
<u>U.S. Programs, Seize the Day Initiative, T1:21079</u>			
<u>Advancing the Hardest Issues: Criminal Justice and Drug Policy Reform</u>			
Legal Action Center	\$600,000	\$600,000	2 years
Trust for America's Health ¹	\$155,000	\$155,000	18 months
<u>Advancing the Hardest Issues: Fair and Independent Judiciary</u>			
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	1 year
TOTAL		\$ 955,000.00	

Angel News

June 29, 2009

Approval Signature

Date

¹The total grant to the Trust for America's Health is to be split between Seize the Day Fund T1:21079 (\$65,000) and Public Health Program's International Harm Reduction Development Policy Initiative T1: 14822 (\$90,000).

Memorandum

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg
Re: Seize the Day Fund Docket
Date: June 19, 2009

On behalf of the Seize the Day Initiative's U.S. Programs grantmaking committee, we're writing to share information on seven grant recommendations for Seize the Day funding. The recommendations include \$2.545 million, of which \$1.53 million would come directly from the Seize the Day Fund and \$1.015 million from co-funding with other U.S. Programs funds.

Attached you will find write-ups for three recommendations. Two would be solely funded through the Seize the Day Initiative: the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (for judicial nominations work) and the Legal Action Center (for drug policy reform). One would be funded through the Seize the Day Initiative and Public Health Program's International Harm Reduction Development Policy: Trust for America's Health.

Additionally, in the current dockets of the Criminal Justice and Democracy and Power Funds you'll find four recommendations for Seize the Day co-funding. These include: Justice Policy Institute, a Criminal Justice Fund recommendation, and the Center for Civic Policy, National Council of La Raza (for Democracia U.S.A.), and Urban Justice Center (for the Right to the City Alliance), Democracy and Power Fund recommendations. For your convenience, brief descriptions of all seven Seize the Day Initiative recommendations are included below.

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 advocacy openings that have emerged at the national level. Should you approve these seven recommendations, since March 20th we will have granted \$6.615 million in new Seize the Day Initiative funding to 20 organizations. The organizations are key leaders in efforts to elevate the hardest OSI priority issues, including criminal justice and drug policy reform, on the national stage; advance transparency, equity, and accountability in the economic recovery; ensure public participation in policy making from constituencies that face the greatest challenges to achieving true equality and justice; and integrate advocacy and organizing innovations from the 2008 campaign into the open society organizational ecosystem.

Thank you for your time reviewing our Seize the Day Initiative recommendations. We look forward to meeting with you on Friday, June 26th, to discuss your questions and comments.

Advancing the hardest issues: Criminal justice and drug policy reform

Legal Action Center

\$600,000/ 2 years from the Seize the Day Initiative

To support the Legal Action Center's efforts to conduct public education, policy analysis and development, and advocacy at the federal and local levels to reform national drug and criminal justice policies. Seize the Day funding will enable LAC to complement the efforts of the Criminal Justice Fund and the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap initiative (CATG) through advocacy to shift U.S. drug policy from international interdiction and domestic law enforcement to a health model that views addiction as a chronic disease and supports expanded treatment. In particular, LAC will focus on including addiction services in universal health care reform as well as on expanding the availability of treatment for veterans and people in the criminal justice system. As part of CATG, LAC will organize citizen and family interests around increased treatment by partnering with Join Together (now merged with the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse) to sponsor public policy panel hearings in five to seven selected communities across the nation, including some CATG sites. LAC will also advocate for: reducing legal and statutory barriers to employment, higher education, and public benefits faced by people with criminal records; and, targeting federal funding, especially the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other initiatives aimed at stimulating the economy, to expand alternatives to incarceration and programs for people after prison.

Trust For America's Health

\$155,000/ 18 months (\$90,000 from OSI's International Harm Reduction Policy and \$65,000 from the Seize the Day Initiative)

To support the Trust for America's Health's efforts to conduct public education about the scientific basis and effectiveness of needle exchange programs and to broaden the coalition of organizations supporting needle exchange. Specifically, OSI funding would enable TFAH to step up its efforts to expand the public health responses to addiction, by working to reframe the needle exchange debate from strictly an HIV/AIDS/substance abuse issue to a general public health issue; conducting systematic outreach to a broad range of policymakers and organizations focused on healthcare, public health, criminal justice, and other related issues; educating the Obama Administration and Congress about the effectiveness of needle exchange in disease prevention; and creating a broad public-health-based coalition by expanding its outreach beyond the HIV/AIDS advocacy community to leading organizations and individuals representing health, public health, and public safety, among others.

Justice Policy Institute (JPI)

\$340,000/ 2 years (\$175,000 general support from Criminal Justice Fund and \$165,000 in project support from the Seize the Day Initiative)

To further the project's mission to reduce instances of adult and juvenile incarceration through research, communications, organizing, and policy advocacy; to support an emerging network of criminal justice advocates in Maryland to significantly advance policy reforms at the state and national levels; and to develop a policy report which contextualizes and

compares incarceration rates and social structures of the United States with other Western to encourage reform that reduces incarceration rates.

Advancing the hardest issues: Fair and independent judiciary

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

\$200,000/ 1 year project support from the Seize the Day Initiative

To support the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund's project on federal judicial nominations, including providing one-time funding to take advantage of the opportunities created by the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court for education and engagement of diverse and important constituencies. Specifically, this funding would allow LCCREF to establish and sustain three to four state-level nominations coalitions for one year in states of long-term value for nominations advocacy. The goal of the grant will be to build state-level capacity that can then be supported by longer-term funding from the Transparency and Integrity Fund in collaboration with the Democracy and Power Fund and state-level funders.

Expanding public participation in advocacy and organizing

The Urban Justice Center (fiscal sponsor) / Right to the City Alliance

\$500,000/ 2 years (\$300,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund and \$200,000 from the Seize the Day Initiative)

To the support the Brooklyn-based Right to the City Alliance (RTTC), an emerging national alliance of more than 50 urban base-building organizations and allies committed to building a movement for urban justice, human rights, and democracy. RTTC partner organizations are predominantly led by center city residents who are largely from people of color and lower-income economic backgrounds. RTTC emerged in 2007 in response to a call for a united response to gentrification, the displacement of low-income people of color from their historic neighborhoods, and the need to confront negative fiscal and social policy changes occurring in cities across the country. Operating in seven states and more than a dozen urban jurisdictions, RTTC is building a national urban agenda and network of low-income families and communities. Its overarching goal is to elevate locally initiated work around housing, racial justice, urban development, and civic participation to shift national public opinion and lead to urban policy changes. This general support recommendation follows a Democracy and Power Fund planning grant to RTTC in 2008. Seize the Day Initiative co-funding would support capacity building for the RTTC nationally and for its local anchor organizations, specifically helping the alliance increase national staffing for training new community leaders on issue advocacy and developing new, national economic justice policy campaigns.

National Council of La Raza (fiscal sponsor) / Democracia U.S.A.

\$500,000/ 2 years (\$350,000 to be dispensed in year one and \$150,000 in year two; \$300,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund and \$200,000 from the Seize the Day Initiative for capacity building)

To support Democracia U.S.A. (D-USA), a Miami-based national organization that advances civic engagement among the nation's fastest growing demographic group by

conducting nonpartisan voter registration and voter education in Latino communities. D-USA also conducts Leadership Academies to train and educate local leaders to promote sustained civic engagement by working beyond the electoral cycles to keep Latinos engaged on issues and the American political process. Widely recognized in the field as one of the highest quality large scale civic engagement organizations, D-USA is expanding to serve other parts of the country where the Latino population is growing and also seeking to build the internal capacity it needs to ensure that it will grow sustainably. In addition to a renewal of its Democracy and Power Fund general support grant, additional funding has been recommended by the Seize the Day grantmaking committee for D-USA's capacity building efforts, including senior staff and board development and enhanced communications capacity.

Expanding public participation/ Integrating advocacy innovations

Center for Civic Policy / General Support

\$200,000/ 2 years (\$100,000 Democracy and Power Fund and \$100,000 Seize the Day)

To support the Center for Civic Policy, an Albuquerque-based organization that utilizes innovative strategies to build 501c3 non-partisan civic engagement capacity and to advance social justice issues from the state level up. CCP has piloted a high impact and well regarded model of building state-based capacity in New Mexico in order to effectively shape the state issue landscape and shift public will toward social justice issues, including criminal justice reform, governmental transparency and accountability, and climate change issues. Specifically, the Center engages ordinary people in the policy debates that affect their daily lives through increasing voter turnout; educating and mobilizing the public on issues; and training new leaders for civic life. At a time when building state-based capacity is vitally important to advancing more social justice friendly local, state, and federal agendas, CCP is in heavy demand nationally for its state power building expertise. Following CCP executive director Eli Il Yong Lee's participation on a post-election strategies panel at the USP December board meeting, CCP was recently invited to speak with OSI-Baltimore about state power building strategies, too. Seize the Day Initiative funding – through matching support from the Democracy and Power Fund – would underwrite the Center's work to provide strategic consulting assistance to state-based organizations around the country that are seeking to build ground up power to impact local, state, and federal policy agendas.

Name of Organization: Legal Action Center of the City of New York

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

Purpose of Grant: To conduct public education, policy analysis and development, and advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels to reform national drug policies, expand addiction treatment, minimize the collateral consequences of convictions, and expand alternatives to incarceration and reentry programming

Previous OSI Support: \$2,217,048
 \$1,528,500 from OSI-Baltimore Closing the Drug Addiction Treatment Gap Initiative (2008)
 \$100,000 from U.S. Justice Fund (2007)
 \$25,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2005)
 \$105,000 from Criminal Justice Initiative (2003)
 \$40,000 from OSI-Baltimore Tackling Drug Addiction Program (2001)
 \$413,548 Center on Crime, Communities & Culture (1997-2000)

Organizational Budget: \$3,660,285

Project Budget: \$1,270,000

Sources of Support:

Public Welfare Foundation	\$90,000
State Associations of Addiction Services	\$75,000
Individual Donations	\$50,000
OSI-Baltimore Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap	\$45,000
Rockefeller Brothers Fund	\$30,000

Amount Requested: \$600,000

Amount Recommended: \$600,000 (Seize the Day Grantmaking, T1: 21079)

Term: Two years, beginning June 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Established in 1973 by the Vera Institute of Justice to address the intersecting problems of addiction and crime and to provide direct advocacy on behalf of those most affected, the Legal Action Center of the City of New York (LAC) is a nonprofit law and policy organization whose mission is to fight discrimination against people with criminal records, histories of addiction or HIV/AIDS, and to advocate for sound policies in these

areas. For three decades, LAC has been a pioneer and leader in overturning unfair statutory and practical barriers preventing people with criminal records or histories of addiction from full participation in society. Beginning with impact litigation that won landmark victories in enforcing the rights of people with criminal records to obtain employment for which they are qualified, LAC expanded its initiatives beyond legal services and now provides technical assistance and training to criminal justice agencies and other stakeholders working on these issues, develops model legislation and other policy reforms, and leads campaigns to promote the adoption of those reforms.

The Legal Action Center has been an OSI grantee since 1997. With OSI funding in 2001, LAC launched the National HIRE Network (HIRE) as the primary national information clearinghouse on and technical assistance provider related to the employment of people with criminal records. With OSI-Baltimore funding awarded in 2008, LAC takes the lead in providing technical assistance to the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap regional sites, in linking the regional sites' work to national advocacy efforts, and in developing and conducting a national campaign to expand treatment for drug-dependent individuals.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

The Legal Action Center requests project funding over two years to conduct public education, policy analysis and development, and advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels to reform national drug policies, expand addiction treatment, minimize the collateral consequences of convictions, and expand alternatives to incarceration and reentry programming. Specifically, OSI Seize the Day funding will expand LAC's capacity over the next two years to partner with national, state, and local advocates to:

Advance national drug policy reform. LAC will work to shift U.S. drug policy from its focus on international interdiction and domestic law enforcement to a health model that views addiction as a chronic disease and supports expanded addiction prevention, treatment, recovery, and research. Taking advantage of an historical opportunity to debate and adopt universal health care reform, it will also advocate for the integration of addiction treatment with primary and other specialty care as well as work to expand the availability of treatment for veterans and individuals in the criminal justice system.

To ensure that all public and private insurance plans fund treatment for the more than 21 million Americans in need of addiction treatment who do not receive it, LAC will promote the inclusion of full and equitable coverage for addiction treatment in the national debate on health care reform. LAC will promote dramatic expansion of categorical funding for addiction treatment, with particular emphasis on providing care to veterans, young people, and individuals involved in the criminal and juvenile justice, welfare and child welfare systems to ensure that "gap funding" is provided to treat individuals who may fall through the cracks of health care reform and to expand treatment capacity in the event that health care reform does not occur in the near future. To organize citizen and family interests around increased treatment and recovery opportunities, LAC will partner with Join Together (which recently merged with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University) to sponsor

public policy panel hearings in five to seven selected communities across the nation, including some of the Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap regional sites. Join Together, established in 1991 with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, uses hearings and a dynamic and highly active internet site to help communities advance effective alcohol and drug policy, prevention and treatment.

Minimize the collateral consequences of convictions. LAC will work to eliminate unreasonable barriers faced by people with criminal records, especially roadblocks to obtaining employment, higher education and public benefits/food stamps. LAC will support efforts to enforce the Second Chance Act's requirement that state governments and other grant recipients conduct a review of discriminatory barriers, educate the public and policymakers about the hidden costs of unfair federal- and state-based barriers faced by people with criminal records, especially those relating to obtaining food stamps/public benefits, higher education, and employment, including the bans on: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/welfare) and food stamp benefits for individuals with drug felony convictions; student financial aid for individuals with drug convictions; and Pell Grant eligibility for people in prison.

Promote the expansion of alternatives to incarceration and reentry programming. LAC will work to expand alternatives to incarceration and programs that assist people with criminal records in successfully participating in society by targeting federal funding, especially the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus package) and any additional initiatives aimed at stimulating the economy that may be enacted. LAC will provide assistance to state and local advocates in their efforts to encourage states and localities to utilize current and future stimulus funds to expand alternative to incarceration, addiction treatment, and reentry programs and to utilize Second Chance Act funds in the most effective ways possible to assist people with criminal records in obtaining jobs, education, and housing. Where possible, LAC will support efforts in other states to replicate recent reforms to the Rockefeller drug laws that eliminate mandatory minimum incarceration sentences for drug-related crimes and give courts flexibility in sentencing individuals to treatment or other appropriate community sanctions.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant would advance the Seize the Day Fund's goal of advancing the hardest issues, including criminal justice and drug policy reform, as part of the federal policy agenda by strengthening the capacity of organizations working at the federal level and infusing into the national debate promising state-level efforts. Specifically, this grant would advance CJF's interest in reforming U.S. drug policy by reframing and linking drug policy debate to a public health approach that makes high quality addiction treatment readily accessible; increasing access to housing, health and mental health care, education, and employment for people with criminal records; and expanding alternatives to incarceration and supporting reentry infrastructure in high-incarceration communities. The grant would also advance OSI's national Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap initiative's efforts to mobilize stakeholders at the local and state level around the consequences and costs of untreated addiction, link regional support for expanded

treatment to the national debate about health care reform, and conduct a national campaign to ensure that addiction is a fully covered condition in all dimensions of healthcare reform.

For decades, U.S. criminal justice and drug policy has over-emphasized costly and unproven approaches such as harsh punishment, mass incarceration, and international interdiction. As a result, the U.S. leads the world in incarceration, provides treatment to barely 10% of the more than 23 million Americans with drug and alcohol problems, and puts many roadblocks in the way of people who have paid their debt to society and want to lead law-abiding, productive lives. Americans from every background and demographic grouping have been affected by these punitive approaches, to the point that over 65 million Americans have criminal records,¹ or 1 out of every 5 individuals. The harmful consequences of these wrongheaded policies fall disproportionately on individuals and communities of color.

Statements and actions by President Obama and by members of his Administration, combined with increased public support and receptivity in Congress, suggest an opening for new national leadership in drug and criminal justice policy. When nominating Gil Kerlikowske to head the Office of National Drug Control Policy, President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Kerlikowske emphasized the importance of addiction treatment. In public appearances after his Senate confirmation in May, Kerlikowske has repeatedly called for an end to the “War on Drugs” and for much greater emphasis on prevention and treatment. In another clear break from past drug policy, President Obama nominated A. Thomas McLellan, a University of Pennsylvania psychologist whom many consider as the leading researcher on addiction and treatment, to be Kerlikowske’s deputy. If confirmed, McLellan will be charged with reducing demand for drugs, a part of the foreign-supply-and-domestic-demand equation that many policy experts say has been underemphasized for years.

Similarly, the passage of the federal Second Chance Act in 2008 and initial work and plans for the 111th Congress suggest a new, bipartisan openness to fairer and more effective criminal justice and drug policies. Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) recently introduced legislation with 19 bipartisan cosponsors to create a national commission charged with completing a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system and making recommendations for reform, including a focus on the effects of our country’s current incarceration and drug policy. Strong support for this bill by the Senate’s Democratic leadership and among bipartisan leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over all criminal justice-related initiatives, suggests a willingness by Congressional leaders to examine our country’s flawed policies and consider reform.

Passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has increased funding to states and local governments for a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, including through the Byrne/Justice Assistance

¹ SEARCH National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics United States. “Survey of State Criminal History Information Systems, 2006.” U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, D.C. 2008.

Grant (JAG) program. The stimulus package contains a number of funding streams that could be used to support addiction treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry services around the country, and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget recommends increases for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for individuals in jails and prisons. Currently there is a bipartisan effort in Congress, just as we saw with seeking the passage of the Second Chance Act, to ensure adequate funding for the Second Chance programs in the Congressional budget.

Legal Action Center is a nationally recognized advocacy organization that has conducted a number of successful public education and advocacy campaigns to promote drug and alcohol policy reform and the expansion of addiction treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry programming at both the local and national level. LAC's public education and advocacy will be important both to informing national, state, and local debates over the value of rethinking drug and criminal justice policy and to ensuring that reform efforts receive serious consideration, especially given the high cost of the status quo in the context of the economic crisis facing the country. Moreover, LAC is well-positioned to assist state-based advocates' effort to ensure that a portion of the stimulus dollars support meaningful services for formerly incarcerated individuals and other underserved constituencies.

For these reasons, Criminal Justice Fund and Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap initiative staffs jointly recommend a project grant from the Seize the Day Fund in the amount of \$600,000 over two years to the Legal Action Center.

Name of Organization: Trust for America’s Health

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

Purpose of Grant: To conduct public education about the scientific basis and effectiveness of needle exchange programs and to broaden the coalition of organizations supporting needle exchange

Previous OSI Support: Not Applicable

Organizational Budget: \$3,861,376

Project Budget: \$285,000

Sources of Support: Irene Diamond Fund \$130,000

Amount Requested: \$155,000

Amount Recommended: \$155,000 (\$90,000 from Public Health Program’s International Harm Reduction Development Policy T1: 14822 and \$65,000 from Seize the Day Initiative T1: 21079)

Term: Eighteen months, beginning July 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Established in 2001, Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and making disease prevention a national priority. Over its relatively short existence, TFAH has earned a reputation as a “go to” organization for reliable, accessible public health policy analysis because of its particular facility for framing practical, evidence-based solutions and translating complex and controversial policy issues so they are accessible to the media and policymakers. Through its work on a broad range of issues—from pandemic preparedness to obesity—TFAH has assembled a very broad and diverse coalition of partner organizations and allies, as evidenced most recently by the 140 organizations endorsing its “Vision for a Healthier America,” a framing of public health issues for the new administration. TFAH has been the lead organization in making the case for a greater commitment to community-level prevention in the context of health reform, an approach directly relevant to HIV prevention, including syringe access.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

Trust for America’s Health requests project funding over 18 months to conduct public education and coalition building to broaden the base of support for needle exchange programs as an evidence-based disease prevention intervention that should be eligible for

federal funding.² Specifically, OSI funding will expand TFAH’s capacity to reach out beyond the HIV and harm reduction communities to key public health and non-public health organizations and leaders to build a broad coalition with the ability to have a powerful influence on the debate—particularly the law enforcement and drug control communities—and to engage a broad range of Administration officials to educate them on the effectiveness of needle exchange for improving public health outcomes, including:

Public Education. To prepare the policy environment for broader support behind allowing federal funds to be used for needle exchange programs, TFAH will work to reframe the needle exchange debate from strictly an HIV/AIDS/substance abuse issue to a general public health issue. TFAH will follow the release of its Issue Brief on needle exchange programs with systematic outreach to a broad range of policymakers and organizations focused on healthcare, public health, criminal justice, and other related issues, including one-on-one meetings to larger-scale briefings. To educate the Obama Administration and Congress about the effectiveness of needle exchange in disease prevention, TFAH will conduct a series of non-partisan briefings with agency officials and congressional staffers on the scientific basis for needle exchange programs and highlight the breadth of support for this strategy beyond the HIV/AIDS advocacy community.

Coalition Building. To demonstrate to policymakers a breadth of support for needle exchange programming, TFAH will create a broad public-health-based coalition by expanding its outreach beyond the HIV/AIDS advocacy community to leading organizations and individuals representing health, public health, and public safety, among others. TFAH will collaborate with its partners in the HIV and the public health communities to identify new supporters, who TFAH will ask to sign on to a generic statement of support and to engage more pro-actively as individual organizations in integrating this issue into their ongoing advocacy work. To create “safe” opportunities for new supporters, TFAH will identify key leaders in each community to take on a central role in recruiting new supporters among their colleagues.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant would advance the Seize the Day Fund’s goal of advancing the hardest issues, including criminal justice reform, as part of the federal policy agenda by strengthening the capacity of organizations working at the federal level to mobilize a broad constituency and engage in strategic communications. Specifically, this grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund’s interest in decriminalizing drug use by reframing and linking the national drug policy debate to public health and harm reduction approaches, and pressing the public health benefits nationally and internationally of lifting the ban on needle exchange,. The grant would also advance the Public Health Program: International Harm Reduction Development Program’s interest in diminishing the individual and social harms associated with drug use—particularly the risk of HIV infection—through innovative measures based on the philosophy of harm reduction.

² In accordance with U.S. tax law, no OSI funds will be used for lobbying purposes.

Policies that criminalize drug users rather than address their health needs have had disastrous effects for the health of our nation and its citizens. For decades, the United States' declared "drug war" has emphasized costly and unproven policy approaches such as severe sentencing, mass incarceration and international interdiction to reduce drug use and abuse and has contributed to the U.S.'s shameful position in the world as a leader in incarcerating its citizens. Despite convincing evidence that public health strategies, such as needle exchange programs, can be an effective means of drug treatment and for preventing transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases, these programs remain controversial in the U.S. and subject to a ban on the use of federal funds for their support. Since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, such policy approaches have resulted in thousands of preventable infections and deaths. With a growing hepatitis problem in the U.S., the continued ban on needle exchange, in particular, compounds the suffering and resulting long-term health costs associated with treatment of HIV and chronic hepatitis.

Largely, advocacy for needle exchange at the federal level has been limited to organizations whose primary mission is related to HIV/AIDS and/or substance use. It has been some time since a broader coalition has been brought to bear on the issue of needle exchange and policymakers are looking to see a wider net of support before being willing to take on this controversial issue. This project will build the support for needle exchange programs among policymakers and non-governmental organizations outside the traditional HIV/AIDS advocacy world, bringing skill in communicating complex health policy issues in a non-partisan way to the overall advocacy for this issue. As a public health organization not perceived as an HIV-specific organization, Trust for America's Health can play a unique role in building bridges to broader coalitions and helping the HIV community overcome the stereotype that this is an issue only of interest to HIV-associated organizations. TFAH is a nationally recognized advocacy organization that has conducted a number of successful public education and advocacy campaigns to promote drug and alcohol policy reform and the expansion of addiction treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry programming. While a relatively young organization, TFAH's executive director Dr. Jeffrey Levi has been working on HIV/AIDS policy issues since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981 in various roles, including executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, policy director of AIDS Action Council, deputy director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, and associate professor of health policy at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. He has relationships with a broad range of policy advocates and policy makers on HIV/AIDS and many other public health issues. With funding from the Irene Diamond Fund, TFAH recently completed an Issue Brief on needle exchange entitled, "Reducing Infectious Disease in the U.S.: Focus on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis,"³ which reviews the science base for needle exchange programs, how they have been implemented across the country, their cost benefit, and the broad public health and scientific consensus in support of them.

Staff is cautiously optimistic that TFAH's public education and coalition-building efforts will create opportunities for multiple elements of the Obama Administration to support

³ Trust for America's Health. "Reducing Infectious Disease in the U.S.: Focus on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis." Washington, DC: April 2009.

lifting the federal ban on funding for needle exchange programming. While the President has expressed his support for lifting the ban and scientific leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services has been a consistently supportive, past efforts at lifting the ban have been undermined by direct opposition or grudging support from other key Administration players to whom congressional staff and members may turn for advice. By working in collaboration with White House HIV leadership over the coming year, TFAH hopes to create a different environment for the debate and to assure that the Administration—from the Department of Justice and the Office of Drug Control Policy to the scientists in the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—is speaking with one voice. The International Harm Reduction Program has sought advice from experts knowledgeable in the field about the viability of the proposal. TFAH and Levi are well regarded, and external reviewers have been positive. OSI-DC office staff has also met with TFAH and is supportive of this effort.

For these reasons, U.S. Programs' CJF and IHRD staff jointly recommend a project grant in the amount of \$155,000 over 18 months to the Trust for America's Health. Staff recommends funding this grant with \$90,000 from the International Harm Reduction Development Policy grantmaking budget and \$65,000 from the Seize the Day grantmaking budget. Criminal Justice Fund and IHRD staffs have worked closely together over the past several months on how to best coordinate our programming and grantmaking to maximize OSI's domestic and international impact. We see this grant as the first of many future collaborative grant recommendations, and part of a larger effort to diversify voices working to support U.S. drug policy reform.

Name of Organization: Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

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

Purpose of Grant: To support the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary and its work around the federal judiciary

Previous OSI Support: \$4,794,400
\$700,000 from Transparency and Integrity (2008)
\$1,000,000 from Democracy and Power (2008)
\$1,365,000 from S.O.F. (2004 – 2007)
\$200,000 from US Justice Fund (2006 – 2007)
\$500,000 from Progressive Infrastructure (2006)
\$1,029,400 from Independence of the Judiciary (2005)

Organization Budget: \$6,369,017

Project Budget: \$1,148,000

Major Sources of Support:

Major gifts	\$450,000
Ford Foundation	\$350,000
Verizon Foundation	\$150,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$200,000 over one year

Term: One year, beginning May 1, 2009

Description of Organization

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (LCCREF), established in 1969, is a research organization that works to strengthen Americans’ commitment to civil rights and equality of opportunity for all. Based in Washington, DC, it is affiliated with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (a 501(c)(4) organization), the nation’s oldest and broadest civil rights coalition with over 200 member organizations representing a diverse set of constituencies.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Since 2003, OSI has provided project support for LCCREF’s leadership of the Coalition for Constitutional Values (the Coalition, until recently named the Coalition for a Fair & Independent Judiciary), a long-term, nonpartisan national public education campaign to engage Americans in discussions and advocacy efforts in support of federal judges who are committed to protecting the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. The project engages in nonpartisan research, analysis and advocacy for the benefit of the

Coalition, co-chaired by LCCREF, the Alliance for Justice (the Alliance), and People for the American Way (PFAW), and comprised of dozens of legal, civil rights, social justice, labor, and environmental organizations.

LCCREF now seeks funding to support state coalitions working with the Coalition for Constitutional Values. The project's goal is to conduct a grassroots and public outreach and education campaign that uses public interest in the current Supreme Court nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to build longer-term capacity in select states. These coalitions will have as their goal to engage local community members in discussions and debates about the Federal courts and the future of the Constitution. The project will: 1) bring together a diverse array of institutions at the national, state and local levels to determine a campaign plan for public education in a set of key states; 2) broaden the scope of local institutions involved in conducting public and membership-base education; and 3) provide technical support and resources for the activities that are conducted.

If funded, the current project will provide funding for three or four states where there exists sufficient interest, capacity, and long-term value in building a state judicial nominations coalition. LCCREF is currently considering work in Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania. LCCREF will make sub-grants to state coalitions according to the following criteria: states where coalitions will have 1) dedicated staff (half- to full-time), 2) diverse membership (i.e. representation by Latino, African-American, Native American, faith communities, etc.), and, whenever possible, 3) connections to established state progressive coalitions with proven experience in building and leading diverse, engaged coalitions. The intent is to support state-level capacity to engage in federal policy debates not only on nominations matters, but on a wider range of issues of importance to U.S. Programs.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Seize the Day Fund recommends a grant of \$200,000 over one year. This grant would advance the Fund's goal of supporting efforts to build state-level capacity to engage on questions of federal policy. It would also advance the Fund's goal of using the opportunity of a Supreme Court vacancy to build greater understanding of and engagement on the importance of the Federal courts and the Constitution in advancing core open society values. This grant would also advance the Transparency & Integrity Fund's goal of engaging and educating key constituencies in advocacy related to the federal judiciary while building greater capacity at the grassroots level.

When Justice David Souter announced his retirement earlier this spring, the Coalition for Constitutional Values quickly put into action its strategic plan. The Coalition's DC-based members have worked together with great collaboration and a remarkable lack of territoriality. As a result of dedicated efforts to reframe and coordinate messaging on the courts, the groups have been able to better manage the terms of the debate and respond to conservative attacks on nominee Sonia Sotomayor. At the same time, grantees such as the American Constitution Society and the Constitutional Accountability Center have been working closely together to use the moment to engage the public and the media on the

meaning of the Constitution and the proper role of the courts in our democracy. The only piece needing additional attention and funding has been still needed efforts to engage grassroots communities who can speak out in favor of bold judicial choices in this confirmation fight as well as future vacancies.

Over the past year OSI has made a significant investment in building grassroots coalitions that work on judicial nominations. Grants include start-up funding to the Infinity Project, an Eighth Circuit-based project to push for greater diversity on that circuit's courts, the Equal Justice Society for work in California, and the National Council of Jewish Women to organize coalitions in three cities (Omaha, NE; Pittsburgh, PA; and Cleveland, OH). The need and opportunity remains, however, to build Coalitions in other key states. This grant would provide the seed money to make that happen. Seize the Day funding would allow for engagement at a moment of greatest public interest (particularly in the Latino community) and sustain that capacity and interest over a year's time. At the end of the year, the Transparency & Integrity Fund (in collaboration with the Democracy & Power Fund) can evaluate the health and effectiveness of the coalitions and provide continued funding as merited.

LCCREF is in an ideal position to help establish these state coalitions. In the past six months, LCCREF has played a leading role in bringing the Coalition together to move forward on the Sotomayor nomination. Ellen Buchman, the organization's Vice President for Field Operations, is chairing the Coalition's Grassroots Taskforce and is committed to building long-term, independent state coalitions.