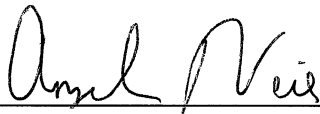
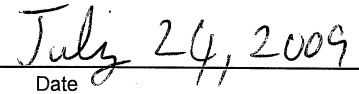


**U.S. PROGRAMS**  
**Seize the Day**  
**Summary of Recommended Grants**  
**July 24, 2009 Docket**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Term</u>
<b><u>U.S. Programs, Seize the Day Initiative T1: 21079</u></b>			
<b><u>Economic Recovery - Equity</u></b>			
Good Jobs First	\$350,000 / 2 years	\$150,000 <sup>1</sup>	1 year
Harvard University (Transparency Policy Project)	\$91,000 / 1 year	\$91,000	1 year
<b>TOTAL RECOMMENDED:</b>		<b>\$ 241,000.00</b>	



Approval Signature



Date

<sup>1</sup> The total grant to Good Jobs First is to be split between Seize the Day, T1: 21079 (\$50,000), Transparency and Integrity Fund, T1: 21093 (\$50,000), and Democracy and Power Fund, T1: 21091 (\$50,000).

**Name of Organization:** Good Jobs First

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

**Purpose of Grant:** To organize States for a Transparent and Accountable Recovery and provide technical assistance to that coalition's member organizations

**Previous OSI Support:** \$100,000  
\$100,000 from U.S. Justice Fund (2003)

**Organization Budget:** \$955,000

**Project Budget:** \$1,000,000 over two years

**Major Sources of Support:**

Ford Foundation	\$250,000
Arca Foundation	\$50,000
Ottinger Foundation	\$40,000

**Amount Requested:** \$350,000 over two years

**Amount Recommended:** \$150,000 over one year  
(\$50,000 Transparency and Integrity Fund, T1: 21093)  
(\$50,000 Democracy and Power Fund, T1: 21091)  
(\$50,000 Seize the Day Fund, T1: 21079)

**Term:** June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010

**Description of Organization**

Good Jobs First (GJF) is a national research, advocacy, and resource center dedicated to promoting corporate and government accountability in economic development and smart growth for working families. Based in Washington, DC, GJF's mission is to empower constituency-based groups and pro-reform public officials with high-quality research and technical assistance to make government spending more transparent, equitable, accountable, and effective. GJF produces research reports, maintains websites, conducts trainings for local activists, and provides technical assistance and consulting to allied individuals and organizations. In response to its efforts to focus greater effort and resources on the economic recovery effort, GJF recently closed its offices in New York and Chicago.

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

Good Jobs First seeks funding for its work as a leader and organizer of the States for a Transparent and Accountable Recovery (or STAR) coalition. Created in March 2009, the STAR coalition is playing the lead role in coordinating and providing technical assistance

to the evolving state and local coalitions tracking the spending of federal dollars at the state and local levels, assuring that such funds are spent equitably and transparently. The project's stated goals are to:

- Actively encourage and facilitate the formation of state coalitions composed of constituency-based groups organizing to make the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and any subsequent stimulus spending programs more transparent, equitable, and accountable;
- Strengthen those coalitions by providing them with high-quality research, technical assistance, and ally/peer networking through the use of a website, blog, list-serv, conference calls, individual contacts, and other methods;
- Carry out these activities under the banner of the STAR coalition in close coordination with the federal research and advocacy efforts of the Coalition for an Accountable Recovery (CAR, co-chaired by GJF and OMB Watch).

GJF will pursue these goals through a combination of strategic research, technical assistance, and coordination of the many organizations and coalitions working on this issue. It will engage in strategic research on the Recovery Act, on best practices for greater state-level transparency and equity in spending, on the outcomes of the Act, and on other issues identified by coalition members. GJF will provide technical assistance to groups seeking to form coalitions and to state-level coalitions once they have formed. Such assistance, in addition to research, will primarily take the form of communications and organizational support (website creation, conference call organizing, governance best practices, etc.). Finally, GJF will assist with state-to-state and organization-to-organization coordination and networking, helping state coalition organizers connect with allies in their respective states; the Coalition for an Accountable Recovery; national resource centers and organizations with relevant expertise in specific issues related to access to information, equity, and accountability; and peers in other states.

The STAR coalition is governed by a steering committee of member organizations that will guide its work and help coordinate messaging and assistance to the various member groups. The steering committee is composed of representatives of the following organizations: Center for Community Change, Partnership for Working Families, the National Training and Information Center, Smart Growth America, Policy Matters Ohio, the Right to the City Alliance, the Apollo Alliance, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Common Cause Education Fund, and Progressive States Network.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The Transparency and Integrity Fund, the Democracy and Power Fund, and the Seize the Day Fund recommend a grant of \$150,000 over one year (\$50,000 from each fund). This grant would advance the Transparency and Integrity Fund's overarching principle of supporting targeted transparency efforts that disclose information not for the sake of disclosure but to provide facts that people want in accessible forms such that it enables people to act on the information and leads to equitable outcomes. It also advances TIF's goal of supporting state-based transparency, equity, and accountability efforts. The grant would advance the Democracy and Power Fund's goals of supporting organizations that

collaborate frequently with other organizations, building partnerships across communities, constituencies, issues, sectors, and levels of policymaking. Finally, the grant would advance the broader Seize the Day Fund's specific goal of ensuring transparency, accountability and equity in the development and implementation of economic recovery plans.

When President Obama took office in January 2009 he put transparency and open government at the top of his administration's agenda, promising unprecedented access to information and government data. Yet the pace of the economic crisis and subsequent legislative action related to the crisis (as well as technological challenges, bureaucratic inertia, and other factors) has compromised these commitments. Given the size and scope of the ARRA and the inequitable and corrupt spending in past economic stimulus efforts, it is essential that organizations unite across issue and interest lines to monitor stimulus spending and advocate for greater transparency and equity. This is particularly needed where federal dollars are ultimately allocated and disbursed: at the state and local level.

In response to the pressing need for oversight and advocacy of ARRA, Good Jobs First and other groups created the CAR and STAR coalitions this past spring. U.S. Programs declined to provide funding for the CAR coalition as its lead organizers are already grantees at significant levels. Furthermore, we have sought to prioritize grantmaking to support state-level advocacy related to transparency and equity in the recovery. Thus the Seize the Day fund is allocating significant resources to support state alliances to advance transparency, equity, and accountability in the economic recovery (as detailed in the recently released RFP). Recommended support for Good Jobs First will allow for greater coordination of, and technical assistance to, such state alliances.

Good Jobs First has a proven track record of working collaboratively at both state and federal levels to advance transparency and equity agendas. Greg LeRoy, GJF's Executive Director, is an experienced muckraker and organizer. Phil Mattera, the group's research director, has long been connected to the transparency and equity community in D.C. and nationally. Prior to 2009, most of GJF's work focused on state economic development spending, pushing for greater transparency in how those funds were allocated, to whom, and who benefited (or not) from such spending programs. But given the significance of federal recovery spending and the opportunity presented to advance transparency and equity goals, GJF has shifted the bulk of its efforts towards advocacy on the stimulus. Thus coordinating CAR and STAR coalitions will dominate the group's work for the foreseeable future.

We have been impressed by the rapidity with which GJF has managed to assemble the STAR coalition. More impressive, however, has been the fact that GJF has successfully brought together groups from both transparency and equity communities. Despite a lack of history working together, these groups are now making common cause in advancing shared goals. Having worked to foster similar collaborations at the state and federal levels, we recognize that this is not an easy feat. To have done so under the intense pressure of the current economic crisis makes it doubly impressive.

**Name of Organization:** Harvard University

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

**Purpose of Grant:** To support research on information disclosure and public action related to transparency in state economic stimulus spending

**Previous OSI Support:** \$3,275,466  
\$71,000 from OSI Baltimore (2008)  
\$60,000 from NSHR (2008)  
\$1,168,790 from Chairman's Programs (1996 – 2008)  
\$295,000 from China (2004 – 2007)  
\$313,993 from U.S. Justice Fund (1999, 2007)  
\$10,000 from Middle East (2006)  
\$51,573 from African Initiatives (2002, 2005)  
\$467,575 from President Grants (1997 – 2003)  
\$15,000 from OSI DC (2003)  
\$100,000 from LA Peru (2002)  
\$103,750 from SEA Education and Advocacy (2001, 2002)  
\$385,685 from Law and Society (2000, 2001)  
\$10,000 from Landmines (2000)  
\$36,150 from CEP (1999)  
\$25,000 from Iran (1999)  
\$81,950 from Burma (1999)  
\$75,000 from Arts Initiative (1998)  
\$5,000 from NSP Belarus (1998)

**Organization Budget:** *Kennedy School*  
\$2,049,227

**Project Budget:** \$90,620

**Major Sources of Support:** Harvard University

**Amount Requested:** \$91,000 over one year

**Amount Recommended:** \$91,000 over one year

**Term:** August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010

**Description of Organization**

The Harvard Kennedy School (the Kennedy School) is the public policy school of Harvard University, committed to improving public policy and public leadership in both thought and action. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Kennedy School prepares

its students for leadership positions in private, public and non-profit sectors. The Kennedy School's Taubman Center for State and Local Government (the Center) conducts research addressing state and local governance and intergovernmental relations. The Center focuses on several broad policy areas, most notably: urban development, transportation, land use, and environmental protection; education; civic engagement and social capital; and the impacts of information technologies on both government and governance. Another unit within the school, the Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation (the Institute), seeks to advance excellence in governance and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, education, international programs, and government innovations awards, the Institute fosters research to enhance creative and effective government problem-solving. The Ash Institute also seeks to catalyze democratic innovation by convening thinkers and public leaders to address public problems. The Transparency Policy Project (the Project) is a joint venture of the Ash Institute and Taubman Center.

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

The Transparency Policy Project (the Project) seeks support for a one-year research project whose primary aim is to study state-level policies and advocacy efforts related to economic recovery and transparency. The principal goal of the research is to understand what policy approaches and other factors have the greatest impact on equity outcomes of economic stimulus efforts. The Project will examine the relationship between three factors: the form and content of information provided about stimulus spending efforts; the character of community and advocacy organizations and their work around stimulus spending and data disclosure; and outcomes such as effective monitoring of expenditures, alignment of expenditures with public priorities, and equity of recovery investments.

The goal of this research is not simply to develop knowledge but also to inform future policy making and advocacy efforts with respect to transparency and equity. The Project seeks to understand what form and content are most conducive to achieving public values such as responsive spending, non-corruption, and social justice. It also seeks to understand what capacities and configurations of local civil society are most capable of engaging with economic spending data to achieving these public values. Finally, the Project will study who are the users of spending information, how, and to what effect they use this data.

The first stage of research will consist of surveying a large number of states to understand the ways in which they vary in terms of public information disclosure. At this stage the Project will consult with organizations such as Good Jobs First (also in this docket) currently working on transparency and equity in the economic recovery. The Project will then select six states for in-depth case studies. The states selected will vary along dimensions of information system type, the constellation of advocacy groups in that state, and other factors. The studies will involve interviews with officials and advocates and creation of data sets about disclosure systems and the usage of such systems. The final product will be a report on the study's findings with recommendations for future efforts

related to transparency and equity in government spending. The Project's team will present these findings to organizations working at the state and federal levels.

### **Rationale for Recommendation**

The Seize the Day Fund (SDF or the Fund) recommends a grant of \$91,000 over one year. The grant would advance the Fund's goal of ensuring transparency, accountability and equity in the development and implementation of economic recovery plans.

The size and scope of the economic stimulus package has few parallels in American history. A vast amount of time, resources, and organizational energy is now being devoted to efforts to assure transparency, equity, and accountability of federal, state, and local spending programs. Yet understandings of how best to advance these three goals are limited at best. The current recommendation to support an evaluation of transparency and equity of recovery spending at a state level will help close that knowledge gap. The hope is that this research will serve as an evaluation that can improve advocacy efforts in both the short and long term and help U.S. Programs better evaluate transparency efforts in the future.

The Transparency Policy Project is well qualified to carry out this effort. The ideas in the Project's recent book, *Full Disclosure*, have strongly influenced the development of the Transparency and Integrity Fund's strategic plan. The Project is led by Professor Archon Fung, whose two areas of expertise are transparency and civic participation. Thus he brings to the research a deep sensitivity to some of the major concerns of the Transparency and Integrity Fund and the Seize the Day Fund: assuring that transparency efforts reflect the needs and interests of those communities who need data to support advocacy campaigns; and creating an informed citizenry that is better equipped to engage in policy debates and decisionmaking. He also brings to the Project real world experience, having collaborated with Demos and America Speaks to organize trainings with federal government officials on ways to make government more open and participatory.

This recommendation is one of many grants related to state-level transparency and equity in the economic recovery in this docket and planned for the fall docket. It will complement both the current recommendation to Good Jobs First for its work leading the States for a Transparent and Accountable Recovery (STAR) coalition as well as U.S. Programs' current request for proposals to support state-level alliances to advance transparency, equity, and accountability in the economic recovery. With a significant commitment of OSI funds to these various efforts, our goal is to assure that lessons learned from these important efforts can help improve our grantmaking efforts in the future.