

**U.S. PROGRAMS
SEIZE THE DAY
Summary of Recommended Grants
October 16, 2009**

U.S. Programs, SEIZE THE DAY (Tt: 21079)

Organization	Requested	Recommended	Term
<u>California</u>			
PowerPac Foundation	\$500,000	\$500,000	2 years
<u>New York</u>			
Make the Road New York	\$500,000	\$500,000	2 years
<u>Texas</u>			
Texas Impact Education Fund	\$500,000	\$500,000	2 years
<u>Wisconsin</u>			
State Voices	\$500,000	\$470,000	2 years
<u>Mississippi</u>			
Community Policy Research Training Initiative	\$500,000	\$442,000	2 years
<u>Maryland</u>			
Progressive Maryland Education Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	2 years
Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations	\$80,000	\$80,000	2 years
Casa de Maryland	\$80,000	\$80,000	2 years
Job Opportunities Task Force	\$80,000	\$80,000	2 years
Safe and Sound: Baltimore's Campaign for Children and Youth, Inc.	\$160,000	\$160,000	2 years

RECOMMENDED: \$2,912,000

Approval Signature

Angela Nee

Date

10/27/09

Memorandum

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg
Re: Seize the Day Fund Docket
Date: October 20, 2009

On behalf of the Seize the Day Initiative's U.S. Programs Grantmaking Committee, we're writing to share information on six grant recommendations for Seize the Day funding. The recommendations include \$2.403 million. Write-ups for one Seize the Day co-funded grant – to the Center on Law and Social Policy – will go through the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's docket. They include recommendations for an additional \$375,000, of which \$200,000 would be co-funded by the Seize the Day Fund.

Attached in this docket you will find write-ups for seven organizations. Three recommended grantees – The College and Community Fellowship, Inc., National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the NAACP, and Faces and Voices of Recovery – seek to elevate federal criminal justice and drug policy reform advocacy. The Transportation Equity Network, a project of the Gamaliel Foundation's congregation-based organizing network, works in 34 states to advocate for the prioritization of social equity in state and federal transportation policy and funding in the economic recovery. The Inter-Alliance Dialogue, another recommended grantee, is an emerging national grassroots alliance that seeks to expand public participation in economic recovery advocacy from the most marginalized communities, particularly excluded classes of workers like housekeepers and farmworkers. Our final recommendation, the Main Street Alliance, is building a dynamic small business advocacy network that provides an alternative to regressive, anti-government business groups by amplifying the voices of business owners nationwide who will speak out for equity, justice, and the common good. For your convenience, brief descriptions of all Seize the Day Initiative recommendations are included below.

We thank you for your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to your questions and discussion.

Advancing the hardest issues: Criminal justice and drug policy reform

College and Community Fellowships, Inc.

\$203,000 over two years

To support College and Community Fellowship, Inc.'s (CCF's) work to expand the availability of quality, publicly-funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison. Seize the Day funding will enable CCF to direct a campaign including public education, policy analysis and development, grassroots and grasstops organizing, and advocacy at the national and local levels to: 1) educate the public and policymakers about the importance of making higher education available to people in and after prison; 2) remove barriers that limit access to higher education for people with criminal records; and 3) promote the expansion of higher education programs and financial assistance for people in and after prison.

National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA)

\$400,000 over 2 two years

To support the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's (NLADA's) federal campaign to ensure a meaningful right to counsel in the United States. The federal campaign intends to address deficiencies in the constitutional protection of the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of counsel and the Supreme Court's ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which placed the responsibility for ensuring this right on states. NLADA's federal campaign has two primary goals to address this deficiency. First, it will launch a communications strategy to educate the public and advocates about the problems with indigent defense systems. Second, it will mobilize existing and new grassroots supporters to act as voices for federal reform including: 1) adherence to national standards for indigent defense established by the American Bar Association's (ABA) *Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System*; and 2) ensuring adequate federal resources to states to support the implementation of fair and reliable indigent defense systems.

Faces and Voices of Recovery

\$325,000 over two years

To support Faces and Voices of Recovery, a national organization that supports local, state, regional and national advocacy on issues affecting people in recovery. The organization has led successful grassroots efforts, which helped to pass national mental health and addiction health care parity legislation and to repeal policies that banned federal financial aid to students with drug convictions. The organization seeks to create and build the capacity of grassroots recovery organizations to participate in local and statewide advocacy campaigns to promote addiction treatment and recovery. The request is quite timely as the battle for health care reform rages and there are not enough recovery voices at the table to ensure that an equitable and meaningful addiction treatment benefit survives the negotiation process. In addition, despite a change of leadership even the stimulus funding had discriminatory language which does not allow people with drug convictions to access educational tax credits and, on a local level, ten states are trying to require drug testing of TANF recipients.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

\$900,000 over two years

To support the NAACP's mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination and to support its federal criminal justice reform priorities. OSI funding will advance a number of USP priorities, including promoting racial equality and reducing racial disparities and the NAACP has long been an advocate of criminal justice reform. Promisingly, the NAACP is now launching its new national criminal justice policy platform intended to change the frame from criminal justice policy discussions from "Tough on Crime" to "Smart on Crime." The NAACP's national prison project also supports policies which positively impact recidivism, felony re-enfranchisement, and the reduction of racial disparities in sentencing. This grant is collaboratively funded by the

Criminal Justice Fund (\$100,000), Equality and Opportunity Fund (\$150,000), Seize the Day Fund (\$500,000), Campaign for Black Male Achievement (\$150,000).

Advancing the hardest issues: Confronting structural inequality

Gamaliel Foundation, for the Transportation Equity Network

\$250,000 over two years

To support the Transportation Equity Network, a project of the Gamaliel Foundation, a Chicago-based confederation of 60 local and regional grassroots affiliates in twenty states. The Transportation Equity Network (TEN) is a coalition of over 300 grassroots and national partner organizations from 34 states that works to shift the public debate so that equity and the environment become part of the discussion around transportation and stimulus spending, specifically advocating for: 1) increased funding for public transit, 2) job provisions for people of color, women, and those with low incomes, and 3) making transportation planning more democratic. A Seize the Day grant will assist in TEN's ability to monitor and respond to the implementation of federal policy around the ARRA in the field, including coordination of a series of "Field Hearings" in targeted states in the country to introduce its agenda to stakeholders, civic leaders, public officials, grassroots leaders, and clergy.

Expanding public participation: Supporting emerging advocacy networks

Jobs with Justice Education Fund, for the Inter-Alliance Dialogue

\$125,000 over one year

The Inter-Alliance Dialogue (IAD) is a dynamic new partnership of six national, people of color and immigrant led grassroots organizing networks that seek to advance an urban agenda on economic recovery, structural inequality, and green equity issues. Through a unique partnership with the Institute for Policy Studies, the IAD seeks to address racial indicators as a central benchmark for how the economic recovery impacts education, employment, housing, and transportation. IAD will also work to develop policy that guarantees inclusion of all workers – particularly excluded classes of workers like housekeepers and farmworkers – in the right to organize. Seize the Day has previously provided this promising new alliance with a \$70,000 grant to support a national convening this summer.

Expanding public participation: Innovations in advocacy and organizing

Main Street Alliance

\$200,000 over one year

Founded in 2008, the Seattle-based Main Street Alliance (MSA) is a national network of small business coalitions working to build a new advocacy voice for small businesses. While only one year old, MSA's state-based organizers catalyze participation on federal level advocacy – currently on health care reform – and the Alliance has grown quickly to represent more than 8,000 businesses in 10 states. Perhaps most significantly, MSA is already providing a strong counterweight to the national lobby groups, like the National Federation of Independent Business, that claim to represent small businesses but take

uniformly regressive positions on the role of government. This innovative coalition has the potential to shift public debates and shift policy on a range of issues and an OSI grant would provide capacity building support to the Alliance so that it can prepare for advocacy efforts that extend beyond health care to additional issues of OSI interest.

We look forward to meeting with you on Tuesday, October 27th, to discuss your questions and comments. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Name of Organization: The College and Community Fellowship, Inc.

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

Purpose of Grant: To conduct research, coalition-building, public education, and advocacy to promote the importance of quality, publicly-funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison

FPOS Grant Description: To provide \$203,000 project support grant over two years to The College and Community Fellowship, Inc. to conduct research, coalition-building, public education, and advocacy to promote the importance of quality, publicly-funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison.

Previous OSI Support: None

Organizational Budget: \$793,018

Project Budget: \$408,000

Sources of Support: \$132,000 Trinity Wall Street; \$40,000 Research Foundation of the City University of New York (In-Kind); \$20,000 Twenty-First Century Foundation; \$20,000 Daphne Foundation; \$20,000 The Sister Fund; \$3,000 Individual Contributions

Amount Requested: \$203,000

Amount Recommended: \$203,000 (Seize the Day Grantmaking, T1: 21079)

Term: 2 years

Description of Organization:

Founded in 2000 as a mentoring and tutoring program for formerly incarcerated women, The College and Community Fellowship (CCF) is a New York-based organization whose mission is to eliminate individual and social barriers to education, economic security, and civic participation faced by women with criminal records and their families. CCF's programming provides students the tools they need for academic achievement and for long-term economic security, including: academic counseling, financial aid counseling, access to mentors and tutors, and financial assistance. Through the civic engagement and leadership development activities of its Speaker's Bureau, CCF develops its fellows' analytic skills, helping them to articulate their individual and collective voices, function as leaders in CCF and other community-based organizations, and speak publicly about

their criminal justice system and higher education experiences to increase public awareness about the relationship between education and long-term individual and community health, productivity, and welfare. CCF's Theater for Social Change and Writers Group provide creative means for fellows to participate in public dialogue about the value of higher education as well as broader criminal justice reform issues. CCF's staff, board, and Speaker's Bureau engage in public education and advocacy locally, at the state level, and nationally to promote increasing access to higher education in and after prison. As a member of the New York City Discharge Planning Committee and the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services Service Provider Advisory Committee, CCF advises NYS criminal justice policymakers on prison and reentry issues. It has also provided technical assistance to policymakers and practitioners in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas, on how to establish similar programs as well as policy recommendations to remove barriers to higher education.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

The College and Community Fellowship requests project funding to conduct research, coalition-building, public education, and advocacy to promote the importance of quality, publicly-funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison.¹ Specifically, OSI funding will strengthen CCF's capacity over the next two years to engage in:

Research Collection and Creation. CCF will convene a research steering committee to develop a research agenda and identify the existing and missing research necessary for strengthening the case for increased access to publicly-funded higher education for people in prison and after incarceration. Capitalizing on the preliminary interest expressed by academics, especially those at community colleges, in establishing higher education programs in prisons, CCF will work with interested researchers to conduct and produce research and up-to-date reports to be used as advocacy and organizing tools.

Coalition-building. CCF will continue to develop and convene the Education Inside/Out Coalition², an ad hoc coalition of criminal justice and education advocacy organizations and individuals advocating for policy reforms to remove barriers to higher education. To diversify and expand the coalition, including adding groups from outside of NY to build support for increased access to college in prison and post release nationally, CCF will continue to reach out to a broad array of researchers, academics, funders, policymakers, victims advocacy groups, faith based organizations, labor, minority, community leaders, college students, community college trustees, college professors, academic associations, and other partners in a number of related fields.

¹ In accordance with U.S. tax law, no OSI funds will be used for lobbying purposes.

² The Education Inside/Out Coalition includes: the Fortune Society, The Correctional Association of New York, SUNY Old Westbury, the NYS DOCS, the Innocence Project, Women's Prison Association and Home, the College Initiative, Pell Grants for Public Safety, Eugene Lang College, The Prisoner Reentry Institute, The Presbytery of New York, Trinity Wall Street, the Coalition for Parole Restoration, Center for Community Alternatives, Citizens Against Recidivism, Cooper Union, The Petra Foundation, and influential academics, including Dr. Michelle Fine.

Public education and policy advocacy. CCF will mobilize its Speaker's Bureau of formerly incarcerated people who have earned college degrees in prison and post release to increase public awareness about the relationship between education, employment, incarceration and reentry; speak at national, regional, and state conferences, including reentry focused forums; publicize and promote the project's goals and policy reform recommendations; and recruit additional supporters to join the coalition. Working with the Education Inside/Out coalition, CCF will attract media attention through meetings with editorial boards, articles and stories, listservs, and other web-based and electronic technology, and other media outlets. CCF staff and students will produce educational and media materials on various issues. CCF will organize town hall meetings to educate the public about the counterproductive barriers to higher education facing people with criminal records. Finally, CCF will engage in national and state-level policy activities, working on specific policy issues at the intersection of criminal justice and higher education and participate in networking and coalition building to increase grant eligibility, programs and funding streams for students in prison and post-release.

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 infuse into the national debate promising state-level efforts by mobilizing a broad constituency and engaging in strategic communications. Specifically, this grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in eliminating harsh punishment by challenging unreasonable barriers to reentry and promoting access to higher education in and after prison.

We know from the research that higher education exponentially decreases the risk of incarceration and recidivism. So perhaps it is not surprising that even during the recent tough-on-crime decades, the restoration of higher education in prisons has enjoyed the near unanimous support of correctional system commissioners and prison wardens, as well as social scientists, health professionals and educators. Focus groups with families and neighbors of incarcerated residents—often those most affected by crime, incarceration, and community disinvestment—indicate that they want people to return from prison better educated and more prepared to work and support their families than when they went to prison. Moreover, in simple practical terms, in today's competitive labor market, successful employment outcomes cannot be divorced from access to higher education, particularly when the lack of a college degree is coupled with the stigma of a criminal conviction. Yet, ill-advised national and local policies continue to restrict access to financial assistance to support higher education for people in prison and for individuals with criminal records.

This is the right time to push for the return of higher education to U.S. prisons, and for broader access to college for the formerly incarcerated. A significant bipartisan coterie of legislators and policymakers are now supportive of smarter, less draconian criminal

justice policies. Three recent examples of bi-partisan support for reform include *The Second Chance Act of 2007*, state-based Justice Reinvestment initiatives, and federal interest in a national Justice Reinvestment Act. Earlier this year, Senator Jim Webb proposed a bill, currently in consideration in the Senate, to create a blue Ribbon panel on prison reform. In July, President Obama called for an expanded role for community colleges in preparing struggling and low-income students for participation in the rapidly changing, global labor market and unveiled the American Graduation Initiative, a 10-year, \$12 billion plan to invest in community colleges with a goal of graduating 5 million additional community college graduates by 2020. CCF's public education and grassroots mobilizing will inform these debates and demonstrate broad-based support for sensible policy reform around the availability of publicly funded higher education opportunities for people in and after prison.

The College and Community Fellowship is well positioned to carry out this campaign. CCF has engaged locally, at the state level, and nationally in the public debate about increasing access to higher education in prison and post release as well as other policy conversations and campaigns affecting the lives of people in prison and in reentry. As a member of the New York City Discharge Planning Committee and the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services Service Provider Advisory Committee, CCF is positioned to advise NYS criminal justice policymakers on prison and reentry issues. In addition, CCF staff has consulted with policymakers and practitioners in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas, to offer technical assistance on how to establish similar programs as well as policy recommendations to remove barriers to higher education. Finally, Vivian Nixon, CCF's Executive Director and former Soros Justice Fellow who came to CCF in 2001 as a student after she was released from the Albion Correctional Facility in New York, is passionate in her advocacy for restoring publicly funded higher education to people in and after prison and has become a national criminal justice reform leader.

For these reasons, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends a project grant to The College and Community Fellowship from the Seize the Day Fund in the amount of \$203,000 over two year

Name of Organization: National Legal Aid and Defender Association

Tax Status: 501(c) (3)

Purpose of Grant: To enable the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) to launch the *Federal Campaign to Ensure a Meaningful Right to Counsel* to increase federal government support for indigent defense reforms.

FPOS Grant Description: To provide \$400,000 from the Seize the Day Fund to the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) to launch the *Federal Campaign to Ensure a Meaningful Right to Counsel* to increase federal government support for indigent defense reforms. Specifically, OSI funding will enable NLADA to develop a national campaign to: 1) improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of public defense data nationwide; 2) encourage states to comply with the *ABA's Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System*, including possible funding to states that comply with the *Principles*; 3) ensure that federal dollars that support criminal justice in the states do not create an imbalance in local systems that result in negative unintended consequences for public safety; and 4) ensure that all Department of Justice (DOJ) policies and funding decisions take into consideration the defense function as an equal component of the criminal justice system.

Previous OSI Support: \$7,292,552

\$125,000 Racial Justice Initiative 2009; \$650,000 Gideon Project 2008; \$150,000 Racial Justice Initiative 2007; \$700,000 Gideon Project 2005; \$150,000 Racial Justice Initiative 2005; \$300,000 Racial Justice Initiative 2004; \$400,000 Gideon Project 2003; \$150,000 Gideon Project 2003; \$50,000 Gideon Project 2003; \$300,000 Independence of the Judiciary 2003; \$75,000 Independence of the Judiciary 2003; \$64,230 Independence of the Judiciary 2003; \$50,000 Independence of the Judiciary 2003; \$200,000 Gideon Project 2002; \$300,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2002; \$300,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2001; \$100,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2001; 500,000 Gideon Project 2001; \$400,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2000; \$310,000 Gideon Project 2000; \$8,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2000; \$175,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 2000; \$152,000 Law & Society 2000; \$50,000 US

Justice Re-Entry 1999; \$150,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 1998; \$800,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 1998; \$120,000 Law & Society Access to Counsel 1998; \$24,000 Independence of the Judiciary 1997; \$59,253.50 Re-entry 1997; \$59,253.50 Law & Society Access to Counsel 1997; \$400,000 Independence of the Judiciary 1997; \$20,815 Law & Society Civil Justice 1997.

Organizational Budget: \$4,176,029

Project Budget: \$400,344

Sources of Support: Membership dues \$1,474,850; Insurance commissions \$424,336; Contracts \$ 50,000; Training and Conference \$165,335; Annual dinner contributions \$100,000; Royalties \$67,709; Publications and other revenue \$11,735; Investment income \$1,777; Contributions \$8,564; American Bar Association \$25,000; Ford Foundation \$190,000.

Amount Requested: \$400,000

Amount Recommended: \$400,000 (T1: 21079)

Term: Two years (September 2009 – August 2011)

Description of Organization:

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) is a national, non-profit association dedicated to quality legal representation for people of insufficient means. Created in 1911, NLADA has long played a leadership role in the development of national standards for public defense systems and processes for evaluating a jurisdiction's compliance with those standards. NLADA currently supports a number of initiatives in connection with this role, including the American Council of Chief Defenders (ACCD), a leadership forum that brings together the top defender executives nationwide, the National Defender Leadership Institute (NDLI), an innovative training project to support current managers and develop future leaders, Justice Standards, Evaluation & Research Initiative (JSERI), a research, evaluation and technical assistance endeavor that provides federal, state and local government agencies and other indigent defense stakeholders with objective indigent defense evaluations, and assistance rectifying systemic deficiencies, and the National Indigent Defense Collaboration (NIDC), whose members comprise the primary vehicles for a national infrastructure to support reform and improvement.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

Since the Supreme Court decisions in *Gideon v. Wainwright* and *Argersinger v. Hamlin*, the federal government has done little to support state efforts to provide indigent defense services, and indeed, federal dollars that have gone to the states to support criminal justice have actually exacerbated the problem by creating systemic imbalances in state criminal justice schemes. The most recent example of this is the millions of “Recovery Act” dollars that have been allocated to hire more law enforcement personnel, with no consideration of how already overwhelmed public defense systems will handle the increased prosecution that the additional police officers will generate.

To help address this imbalance, NLADA will launch a *Federal Campaign to Ensure a Meaningful Right to Counsel*. The Campaign’s overall goal is to create public awareness and mobilization necessary for the federal government to develop policies which: 1) improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of public defense data nationwide;³ 2) encourage states to comply with the ABA’s *Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System*⁴, including possible funding to states that comply with the *Principles*; 3) ensure that federal dollars that support criminal justice in the states do not create an imbalance in local systems that result in negative unintended consequences for public safety; and 4) ensure that all Department of Justice (DOJ) policies and funding decisions take into consideration the defense function as an equal component of the criminal justice system. To accomplish these goals, NLADA will: 1) cultivate and mobilize a grassroots coalition of stakeholders nationwide to support indigent defense reform and build support for the *ABA Ten Principles*; and 2) develop a national communications strategy to educate federal policymakers about the *ABA Ten Principles* and encourage them to implement policies which improve indigent defense nationwide.

By cultivating a national coalition of new voices in support of indigent defense reform, NLADA aims to increase the number of informed partners representing a variety of constituencies that can advocate for improved indigent defense delivery systems. To develop and mobilize this national network, NLADA will recruit constituencies of national and grassroots organizations. NLADA will work in states with important Congressional leaders and states that have established either official or unofficial coalitions supporting indigent defense reform. These states include Michigan, Louisiana, Ohio, New York, and Idaho. NLADA will also target states that are in need of substantial reform but with emerging reform efforts such as Texas, California, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Missouri, Ohio and Maine. Some of the targeted partner organizations include equal justice advocates, civil rights organizations, faith based organizations, criminal justice stakeholders and non-traditional allies such as the American Association of People

³ The Department of Justice (DOJ), for example, should annually collect and publish data pertaining to the following: indigent defense expenditures, caseload by provider by case type; assigned counsel rates; number of persons under the age of 18 tried in adult courts, indigency rates; disproportionate minority contact with the criminal justice system (including ethnicity of defendants and victims at all key decisions points in prosecution), number of cases in which the right to counsel is waived in criminal and juvenile courts, and staffing of public defender agencies.

⁴ The *ABA Ten Principles* distill the existing voluminous ABA standards for public defense systems to their most basic elements, which officials and policymakers can readily review and apply.

with Disabilities, American Medical Association, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination League.

Communication strategies that have played a major role in expanding state reform efforts for public defense can also be used and adapted to the federal arena. NLADA's state reform efforts have demonstrated that the ABA *Ten Principles* are both an effective public education and communication tool and a valuable resource that can support reform efforts, and that indigent defense needs can be addressed more effectively when a significant majority of policymakers in a jurisdiction reach consensus that the ABA standards are a valuable tool to measure and fix the systemic failures. NLADA will work with its existing partner, Spitfire Communications, to assist in the development of its communications plan. The primary targets of the communications strategy are congressional policymakers, federal officials, state policymakers and local bar leaders, business leaders, and community leaders who will be recruited to convey to national policymakers the need for a federal response to the crisis. For example, in Michigan, former Detroit Mayor and ABA President Dennis Archer has become one of the leading spokespersons for a federal response to the Michigan public defense crisis.

Rationale for Recommendation:

This grant advances the goals consistent with OSI's Seize the Day Fund by addressing the challenging issue of structural inequality as part of a transformative national agenda through policy advocacy, and by expanding public participation at the local, state and national levels. The grant also advances the priority of the Criminal Justice Fund to eliminate racial disparities and secure a fair and equitable system of justice by improving indigent defense services and systems.

The Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which made the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of counsel obligatory upon the states by the 14th Amendment, has failed its mandate in many ways. Many states simply passed on their new constitutional obligations to their counties as an unfunded mandate. Though passing state obligations to local government can lead to innovation, this has not proven to be the case with public defense services. Rather, the states' abdication of their constitutional obligations has produced justice systems in which results are dictated by a person's income level and the jurisdiction in which the crime is alleged to have been committed, rather than the factual merits of the case. Furthermore, the federal government has not provided funding or instructions on how to properly implement the right to counsel. In as much as *Gideon* imposes this affirmative fiscal burden on the states, and with insufficient funding being the foremost contributor to inadequate public defense services, the federal government should assist the states in meeting their obligations to provide counsel.

NLADA is perfectly poised to impact the federal government's support of indigent defense reform and to create a national network of allies supporting such reform. NLADA has played a central role in state-based indigent defense reform efforts including indigent defense evaluation and technical assistance to states; coordinating efforts of the NIDC in reform states; supporting the work of the ACCD, whose members serve as

indigent defense experts and resources to promote systemic reform; and employing the expertise of Spitfire Communications to gain media attention. As a result of the efforts of NLADA, NIDC and local coalitions, there is now major reform in states such as Maryland, Montana and Louisiana. This work is leading to reform efforts in other states such as Nevada, Idaho, Ohio, New York and now Pennsylvania. NLADA's efforts in Michigan have caught the attention of key members of Congress and secured their commitment to address the national crisis. NLADA has begun similar activities to foster reform efforts to improve indigent defense at the federal level such as: 1) convening an advisory group to assist in the development of a national strategy to increase federal support for indigent defense; 2) convening meetings of the NIDC to develop a coordinated approach to federal efforts; 3) organizing a briefing on the state of indigent defense for key Senate staffers; and 4) assisting DOJ create a planning committee for a February 2010 Indigent Defense Summit and participating on the committee.

The new Administration has presented a window of opportunity for national indigent defense reform. In September 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder met with NLADA staff and other advocates and affirmed his commitment to make indigent defense reform one of DOJ's priorities. The Obama Administration's willingness to engage the leaders of advocacy organizations in thoughtful discussion about the weaknesses of indigent defense delivery systems - and the need for federal involvement - demonstrates that now is the time to mobilize partners to secure polices which increase accountability, promote fairness, allocate more resources, and require adherence to rigorous standards such as the *ABA Ten Principles*. For the reasons mentioned above, the Criminal Justice Fund recommends a grant of \$400,000 to NLADA over two years.

Name of Organization: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Tax Status: 501(c)(3)

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

FPOS Grant Description: To provide \$900,000 in general support from the Seize the Day Fund over two years to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of the United States and eliminating race prejudice.

Previous OSI Support: \$250,000 Strategic Opportunities Fund 2008; \$25,000 Criminal Justice Fund 2009

Organizational Budget: \$23,222,000

Project Budget: NA

Sources of Support: Corporate and Foundation Contributions \$6,000,000; Individual Contributions \$4,285,000; Membership Dues \$3,000,000; Planned Giving \$500,000; Freedom Fund Assessments \$1,400,000; Convention \$3,000,000; Image Awards \$2,300,000; ACT-SO \$1,000,000; Other Events \$1,337,000; Other Revenue \$400,000

Amount Requested: \$900,000

Amount Recommended: \$900,000
\$500,000 (Seize the Day Fund, T1: 21079)
\$150,000 (Campaign for Black Male Achievement, T1: 21098)
\$150,000 (Equality & Opportunity Fund, T1:24023)
\$100,000 (Criminal Justice Fund, T1: 24027)

Term: Two years (September 2009 – August 2011)

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Founded February 1909, partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, IL, the NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and

most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. It has more than a half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world, dedicated to monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. NAACP's networks include more than 1,200 active local chapters (including dozens of military bases and prisons) and presence in all 50 states. The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. In 2008, Benjamin Jealous became the organization's most recent, and the youngest ever, President and CEO.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

The NAACP seeks general support in the amount of \$900,000 over two years.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The NAACP's work advances a number of U.S. Programs' priorities, particularly federal criminal justice reform. Consistent with the goals of the Seize the Day Fund, it will address the most challenging issues as part of a transformative national agenda through policy advocacy and expanding public participation at the local, state and national levels. Beyond this, the NAACP advances the Criminal Justice Fund's goal to eliminate racial disparities and ensure a fair and equitable system of justice; 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; the Democracy and Power Fund's interest in supporting organizations that engage critical constituencies and nurture new leaders; and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's goals of dismantling the school to prison pipeline, promoting educational equity, and improving life outcomes for black males.

The transformative power of the NAACP, as an organization and volunteer movement, is primarily due to three factors:

- The ability to turn bold dreams of social progress into big victories by pursuing them with discipline not just over years, but decades (for example, the NAACP's effort to desegregate the military took approximately 30 years, and the organization has been eliminating barriers to black political participation for more than 50 years);
- An accumulated moral authority with origins in the NAACP's historical connection to the black church, the NAACP's mission to eradicate the country's "original sin" of racial oppression, and its history of fighting on behalf of individual victims; and
- A uniquely large, credible, and well-networked base of local volunteer civil and human rights advocates, as well as an allied network of financial supporters that enable the NAACP to sustain long campaigns and take ideas to scale efficiently.

The NAACP's key program and advocacy objectives include:

1) ***Closing racial disparities in educational achievement, employment, access to capital, health outcomes, incarceration, and exposure to violence:***

- a. **Education:** Focus on improving teacher quality, resource equity and ending harsh, ineffective school discipline regimes that push kids, including a disproportionately high percentage of African American males, out of school and into jail and towards prison;
- b. **Work:** Improving employment and contracting opportunities in many of our nation's most underemployed communities by (A) increasing corporate and public support to preserve equal opportunity programs at the state and national levels through policy innovation; and (B) strategically monitoring, engaging and developing agreements with large employers and granters of contracts to increase the use of the best diversity practices in recruiting, hiring, contracting, and civil rights enforcement;
- c. **Wealth:** Reducing the scale and scope of predatory lending by (A) dropping the rate on "pay day loans," and other similar instruments; and (B) developing agreements with banks to end discriminatory lending practices;
- d. **Health:** Aggressively maximizing Black institutional leaders' level of engagement and AIDS funders' recommitment to invest in stopping the spread of the virus as its Black children increasingly represent the majority of new HIV cases; and
- e. **Justice & Safety:** Reverse national incarceration trends and increase trust between local communities and law enforcement by: (A) eliminating racial profiling, sentencing disparities, and unnecessary barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated people; (B) setting a national standard for use of force training; (C) reorienting law enforcement towards solving unsolved murders; and (D) using alternatives to incarceration for non-violent, non-serious offenses.

2) ***Reframe Discussion of Criminal Justice Policies***

- a. The legacy and fear mongering of the "Tough on Crime" paradigm haunt public decision making processes, limiting reform possibilities, and making changes in law enforcement practice and policy subject to sudden reversals. This fall, the NAACP will launch a strategy to stimulate, advance, and sustain national, state, and local conversations on and interest in improving the quality of justice in America. Entitled "Smart & Safe," this public education campaign will be led by Robert Rooks, the

⁵ A key element of the campaign includes: challenging the legacy and failures of “tough on crime” policies through programmatic, research and communications strategies;

- b. Promote “Smart on Crime” common-sense tenets for criminal justice reform, such as “When police focus on behavior, rather than physical appearance, they catch more criminals,” and “When we allow people returning from prison to work, we are all safer;”
- c. Train community leaders and public office holders (prosecutors, judges, mayors, etc) to talk about criminal justice problems and solutions, using the above frame; and
- d. Work to dismantle the perception that African American males are less ambitious, educationally unmotivated, and disinterested in progress by challenging the practices of news media outlets nationally, and in various communities.
- e.

The organization will employ the following strategies to accomplish its objectives:

- 1) **Education and Awareness** - The NAACP will leverage its broad infrastructure and national platform to educate members, policy makers and the community at large, around the issues that undergird the school to prison pipeline.
- 2) **Training** - The NAACP is currently in the process of retraining its entire network of 1,200 branches and 300 campus chapters in the arts and sciences of modern community organizing. The first mass training of volunteer field-organizing trainers was held in Virginia in spring 2009.
- 3) **Mobilization** – To mobilize its broad base of volunteers, the NAACP will leverage its strong media relations to engage constituents, utilize technology where appropriate, and encourage mobilization around issues. Specifically, the organization will provide up-to-date information on its core areas of policy advocacy through its website. The NAACP will also expand *Rapid Report*, a program launched by the NAACP utilizing mobile technology, to capture reports of civil rights abuse, as well as accompanying video documentation. This data will allow the NAACP to ensure federal prosecutors and states’ attorney generals hold law enforcement accountable and bring hate criminals to justice.

With the NAACP’s new leadership and its reinvigorated commitment to advancing criminal justice reform, U.S. Programs staff recommend that it is now an appropriate moment to make OSI’s first significant, multi-year general support grant to the organization. The Seize the Day Fund Grantmaking Committee has recommended a

⁵ Rooks is a former Soros Justice Fellow and former executive director of A Better Way Foundation, a key OSI grantee.

sizeable grant to co-fund the NAACP for its potential to elevate criminal justice reform at the federal level and engage its large chapter-based members and advocates in this and other OSI priority areas. In particular, the NAACP's newly focused agenda aimed at closing racial disparities in educational achievement, employment, access to capital, health outcomes, incarceration, and exposure to violence provides OSI with an opportunity for a powerful partnership for social change. For the reasons mentioned above, the Seize the Day Fund, Equality and Opportunity Fund, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, and the Criminal Justice Fund recommend a general support grant of \$900,000 to the NAACP over two years.

Name of Organization: Faces and Voices of Recovery, Inc

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

Purpose of Grant: Project Support to establish the National Institute for Recovery Community Organizations

FPOS Grant Description: This grant will allow a national addiction recovery organization, Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR), to build a grassroots movement to educate the public and policy makers about discriminatory regulations and practices faced by people in treatment or recovery from addiction. FAVOR will use grant funds to expand to four new states as well as continue to support existing networks. It will also mobilize an informed group of people in recovery and their families to ensure that parity legislation (ensuring that mental health and addiction are covered in parity with somatic health), and any national health reform, is well implemented.

Previous OSI Support: None

Organization Budget: \$666,700

Project Budget: \$325,000

Major Sources of Support:

Reckitt Benckiser	\$65,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment	\$75,000

Amount Requested: \$325,000 over two years

Amount Recommended: \$325,000 over two years through the Seize the Day Fund

Term: Two years, beginning November 1, 2009

Description of Organization

Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR), founded in 2001, is a national organization that supports local, state, regional and national advocacy on issues affecting people in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. The organization seeks to change public

perceptions of recovery and to promote effective public policies nationally and locally to improve the lives and opportunities of those seeking or in recovery. It began as a group of individual advocates, inspired and convened by Bill Moyers's television series on addiction, who sought to unite medical, public health and criminal justice communities around the idea that achieving recovery from drug and alcohol use is possible and should be celebrated. The group brought together advocates from around the country and developed messages, strategies and leadership to move their concerns forward so that those in recovery do not suffer discrimination or barriers to opportunity. The effort culminated in the creation of FAVOR, which, since that time, has successfully established state networks and advocated on the national level for mental health and substance use disorder parity and the eradication of barriers to educational loans for those with addiction histories. The organization has a 21 member board and four staff; it is directed by Pat Taylor, who has both extensive grassroots advocacy and national policy experience.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Because of the legal implications of using illicit drugs and the stigma of addiction, people with addiction histories have rarely felt empowered to speak out for their rights. This is slowly starting to change as people in recovery and their families realize the unfairness of encountering daily discrimination, even beyond the hardships caused by criminal sanctions, while trying to access opportunities afforded other citizens, such as education loans, food stamps and subsidized housing. FAVOR has encouraged and mobilized this nascent sense of empowerment and developed a national coalition whose goal is to give voice to the struggles of people in recovery and their families and allies. The organization's constituency includes members from diverse ethnic racial, economic, age and addiction backgrounds.

With a small staff, FAVOR initially focused its efforts nationally to educate policymakers about some of the most egregious policies and barriers; but, it realizes that many policies relating to healthcare and criminal justice are developed and implemented at the state level. With this in mind, FAVOR is now requesting support to build the capacity of locally-based recovery community networks, so they may become the local faces and voices of recovery that help the public and policymakers understand that addiction is a chronic disease and that discriminating practices serve to impair people's pursuit of long term recovery. Through its website, action alerts, advocacy training and national advocacy, FAVOR has already helped to launch small networks and initiatives throughout the country. This project, however, will allow FAVOR to develop its grassroots constituency in a more organized way and strengthen existing recovery organizations as well as work, in four targeted states, with fledgling groups. In particular, it will provide technical assistance and create a forum for these local and state-based groups to reinforce each other's advocacy work, learn from best practices, and have a safe place to think and strategize. Additionally, it will train the groups to feed their work into national movements, for example, the ongoing effort to ensure that the parity legislation, which becomes effective in January 2010, is well implemented. The work has three phases:

1. Establish a National Institute for Recovery Community Organizations that will work with the executive directors and board members of existing and emerging organizations to develop strategies for mobilizing their respective recovery communities.
2. Build the capacity of four statewide new and/or emerging networks, particularly in states that have national political importance. FAVOR will help these networks conduct a landscape assessment of their particular state and the opportunities available, guide recovery leaders to build or strengthen their current infrastructure, and provide strategic planning and leadership training. It will help the networks to put “faces” and “voices” to their recovery movements so that they represent the diverse interests and needs of their constituents. The fact that four states will embark on this at once will allow peer support and exchange of ideas.
3. Create a web-based “Recovery Community Organization Toolbox” that will describe the steps needed for other states to build a recovery movement, drawing from lessons learned in the four targeted states. Furthermore, FAVOR will establish a national network of executive directors who communicate regularly to exchange ideas, provide technical assistance, and link their organizations to national education and advocacy work.

Rationale for Recommendation

OSI staff recommend \$325,000, over two years, in funding for Faces and Voices of Recovery to advance the Seize the Day Initiative priorities of: a) elevating the most challenging issues, specifically drug addiction policy reform, as part of the transformative national agenda; and b) increasing local and state grassroots public participation in federal policy advocacy. FAVOR has a history of leading two successful national efforts that tapped local expertise and perspectives: the first culminated in the passage of national mental health and addiction health care parity legislation and the second resulted in the repeal of policies that banned federal financial aid to students with drug convictions. The organization helped to achieve these significant successes, despite limited paid staff, because it had spent many years educating policymakers that addiction is a chronic disease and was able to mobilize diverse volunteers from around the nation through strategic use of its website and other electronic publications. The organization is currently involved with the development of regulations for the implementation of parity legislation, which is to go into effect January 2010.

This particular request is quite timely as the battle for national health care reform rages. While FAVOR has been very involved undertaking education and advocacy activities to ensure that addiction treatment is a part of all health care reform proposals, there are not enough recovery voices in the debate to ensure that reform provisions include an equitable and meaningful addiction treatment benefit. If legislation does pass, there will also be a need for strong state participation as states and the nation create regulations around the reform and implement the different health care plans. Furthermore, even

beyond the current health care reform debate, these voices are needed. Despite a change of leadership in both houses, the stimulus funding contains discriminatory language which prohibits people with drug convictions from accessing educational tax credits; and, on a local level, ten states are trying to require drug testing of TANF recipients. Finally, the Obama administration seems positioned to distance itself from the war on drugs mentality, providing an important opportunity for reframing the US response to addiction. As the Office of National Drug Control and Policy develops its drug control strategy it will be essential that there is strong group of advocates pushing for government policies that truly reflect a belief that addiction is a chronic health disease.

By having more numerous and more formal organized grassroots advocacy structures on the state level, FAVOR will be able to advocate more effectively for policy changes on the national level as well as address those policies and practices over which states have control. In certain instances, it will also use state models to prod changes in national policies. While it is important to have government entities and providers at the table, the most successful health reform initiatives also have had the affected people at the table to state their true needs if they are to regain their health and stability. For this reason, OSI staff recommend a grant of \$325,000 over two years to Faces and Voices of Recovery, drawn from the Seize the Day Fund, to build a strong grassroots constituency to bolster its local and national education and advocacy activities.

Name of Organization: Gamaliel Foundation
Tax Status: 501(c)(3) public charity

Purpose of Grant/ FPOS: To provide project support from the Seize the Day Fund for The Transportation Equity Network, a sponsored project of the Gamaliel Foundation that works with more than 300 organizations in 34 states to advocate for transportation policy that promotes social, racial, economic, and environmental equity.

Previous OSI Support:

Organization Budget: \$2,633,649

Project Budget: \$650,000 (year 1)
\$1,110,000 (year 2)

Major Sources of Support: \$375,000 Surdna Foundation
\$325,000 Rockefeller Foundation
\$200,000 Ford Foundation
\$45,000 Annie E. Casey

Amount Requested: \$250,000 over 2 years

Amount Recommended: \$250,000 over 2 years; Seize the Day Fund (code 21079)

Term: Two years starting November 1, 2009

Description of Organization

The Gamaliel Foundation is a Chicago-based confederation of 60 local and regional grassroots affiliates in twenty states, which are collectively composed of roughly 1,600 dues paying congregations representing more than one million clergy and laypeople of multiple faiths. Gamaliel's mission is to assist local community leaders as they create, maintain, and expand independent grassroots faith-based community organizations so that ordinary people can have an impact on the political, social, economic, and environmental decisions that affect their lives. Affiliates work on a range of economic and social justice issues, including affordable housing, education, jobs, health care, immigration, and prison reform and, a decade ago, Gamaliel adopted a "metro-equity lens" that identifies urban sprawl, abandonment of core cities, and a fragmented tax base as root causes of the significant urban problems faced by its affiliates.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Founded by the Gamaliel Foundation and others, the Transportation Equity Network (TEN) Coalition is devoted to ensuring that transportation policy promotes social equity

and sustainable environmental protection. In the past five years, TEN has grown from five founding organizations to a coalition of over 300 organizations in 34 states. TEN started with conversations held in blighted, poverty-stricken neighborhoods where community leaders began meeting to discuss the connections between unemployment and neighborhood violence. They undertook thousands of face-to-face interviews with neighbors, residents, colleagues and members of their congregations and canvassed their neighborhoods block by block to identify the problem properties in each community. Neighbors showed up to speak out about inadequate housing, violent crime, and the scarcity of jobs. Out of these discussions came an idea to identify a compelling focal issue that could link those identified problems: developing public transit in underserved areas could improve the livability of these communities, provide good jobs for unemployed residents, and rebalance some of the stark racial and economic inequities of urban areas. Using the model of transportation policy, TEN connected with “unusual suspects” and was able to link innovative policy ideas that could address issues of unemployment, violence, neighborhood blight, and poverty all at the same time.

Some of TEN’s successes include:

- MCU, Gamaliel’s St. Louis, MO affiliate, proposed that 30% of the workforce for a half-billion dollar highway project should be low-income apprentices, and that half of one percent of the project budget should go to job training. When the idea became reality, after a massive project of spreading the word and talking to opinion leaders, the Missouri Dept. of Transportation was hailed for their innovative and ground-breaking program;
- ISALAH, Gamaliel’s Minneapolis, MN affiliate, with a broader coalition, educated the public about transit options and opportunities in 2007. At the end of the day, the state allocated \$6.6 billion for a light rail corridor, including specific set-asides to train minority, women and low-income workers;
- The TEN Coalition released a study on the need for Metro Planning Organizations (MPO) reform to spotlight why metropolitan planning matters for cities and regions and what are the opportunities in upcoming Congressional Legislation to put MPOs on a path to being more effective;
- Inspired by their sister organization in St. Louis, MORE2, Gamaliel’s Kansas City affiliate, promoted similar ideas in their area. In the resulting Paseo Bridge Project, more than \$1.25 million was reserved for job training and support;
- MORE2 leaders also proposed – and recently won a first in the nation ordinance – that requires construction firms bidding on public works programs in Kansas City to employ 10% minorities and 4% women; and
- In Michigan, TEN affiliates used media and public events to suggest that half of one percent of federal highway funds should go toward workforce development for low-income construction workers. They were stunned when the Governor enacted a policy directing \$15 million over four years into this sort of program.

TEN’s advocacy work includes strategic work around metropolitan equity and features partnerships between grassroots advocates and noted thinkers like Myron Orfield. Many

of Gamaliel's TEN affiliates work on multiple issues that unite disenfranchised inner-city minorities with white suburbanites to promote a more just model of metropolitan growth.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Seize the Day Initiative recommends a grant of \$250,000, over two years, to the Transportation Equity Network for its work to advance equity in the economic recovery and to inspire public participation in advocacy from the most marginalized communities. Seize the Day funds will support TEN's two-year strategy to build public support for a transportation equity agenda by organizing and mobilizing communities of faith around the values and principles of fair and equitable transportation spending.

Despite President Obama's insistence that "the days where we're just building sprawl... are over," states are continuing to use federal stimulus money to build new and wider roads that push development further from their most populous centers. TEN works to insure stimulus funds are allocated with attention paid to racial justice and equity. The massive federal transportation bill is typically the largest single appropriation made annually by the federal government, amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars. Like the broader stimulus package, the transportation reauthorization is designed to boost the local, state, and federal economy while accomplishing policy goals. Like other federal appropriations in the stimulus or annual budget priorities, transportation reauthorization can heal or hurt the environment and promote or set back social equity.

TEN promotes collaboration with other organizations to shift public opinion and build a constituency for just transportation policies. Bus riders work with transit unions; neighborhood organizations connect with church groups. The very nature of TEN's work tackles structural inequality in at least three ways. First, by forming metropolitan or regional organizations that support transportation equity, they unite divergent communities and help them to see their common interests. Second, they provide tools for people of color and other low-income individuals to build their skills. Through leadership training and skills building, TEN affiliates teach public speaking, organizing strategy, leading meetings, talking to the media, and other skills primarily to people of color community leaders. With these tools, community members can become leaders in advocating for change. Third, TEN affiliates advocate for policies that benefit a region's most marginalized people. They support highway construction jobs; training programs for women, minorities and residents of low-income communities; and public transit that can get those workers to their jobs every day. TEN's mission is to build a constituency for public policies that benefit and empower underserved minority populations.

TEN has strong leadership, especially in the efforts of Doran Schranz, the well-regarded leader of Gamaliel's Minnesota affiliate, who is traveling the country to train leaders and organizers as part of the campaign. The Seize the Day Initiative's grantmaking committee has taken note of the lack of attention paid, to date, by organizations working on transportation equity in the broader economic recovery discussion. The TEN coalition, with its broad-based coalitions at the local and national levels, thoughtful inclusion of a structural inequality analysis, and demonstrated ability to win meaningful

policy victories that favorably impact the lives of low-income and people of color communities, provides a strong advocacy model that warrants Seize the Day support.

Name of Organization: Jobs with Justice Education Fund

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

Purpose of Grant/ FPOS: To provide project support from the Seize the Day Fund for the Inter-Alliance Dialogue, a sponsored project of the Jobs with Justice Education Fund that is an emerging partnership of six national, people of color and immigrant led grassroots networks that seek to advance an urban agenda on economic recovery and structural inequality issues.

Previous OSI Support: \$75,000 from the Seize the Day Initiative (2009)

Organization Budget: \$1,737,435 (Jobs with Justice Education Fund)

Project Budget: \$596,000 (Inter-Alliance Dialogue)

Major Sources of Support: Surdna \$100,000

Amount Requested: \$250,000 over 2 years

Amount Recommended: \$125,000 over 1 year; Seize the Day Fund (code: 21079)

Term: One year beginning October 1, 2009

Description of Organization:

Jobs with Justice Education Fund (JWJEF) is a Washington, DC-based national network of 47 labor/ community coalitions in 25 states comprised of member organizations and over 100,000 individual activists that engage workers and allies in campaigns to win justice in workplaces and in communities where low- and moderate-income people live. Since its founding in 1987, JWJEF has built a base of diverse constituencies at the local level and provided training, coordination, and networking at the national level to more effectively advance economic and social justice.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

JWJEF is the fiscal sponsor for – and a key participant in – the Inter-Alliance Dialogue (IAD), a dynamic emerging partnership of six national, people of color and immigrant led grassroots organizing networks that includes Jobs with Justice, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, and National Day Laborers Organizing Network, along with current Democracy and Power Fund grantees the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Right to the City Alliance, and Pushback Network. The networks, most of which have been formed in the past five years, began meeting together at the close of 2008. Collectively, they represent more than 100 local and state grassroots social justice organizations and more than two

hundred thousand activists in low-income, people of color, and immigrant communities in over 25 states. Through a unique collaboration with OSI grantee the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), IAD is developing a national urban agenda – with complementary organizing vehicles – in order to shift the federal debate on economic recovery and structural inequality issues in a direction that has positive impact for low- and moderate-income people and communities.

This summer, with Seize the Day Initiative support, the IAD member networks convened in Washington to develop their advocacy framework. Following conversations conducted by IAD network partners and their memberships, the group focused on issues related to the stagnation of wages for low- and moderate-income communities and the subsequent dependence on credit and debt. Following the convening, IAD developed these programmatic tracks:

Advocacy for Excluded Classes of Workers

Alliance members prioritized the importance of bringing all workers under the protection of federal labor law. The National Labor Relations Act excludes many groups of workers from its protections, including farm workers, domestic workers, and others. IAD will raise awareness of the current void that leaves thousands of workers outside of the protection of the NLRA and will work with its members to develop an advocacy agenda to elevate this as a public policy priority. IAD leaders have already had high level meetings with members of the Administration, including Jared Bernstein, formerly of the Economic Policy Institute and now the director of the White House Task Force on the Middle Class, to bring this concern to light.

Policy Research on Expanding Job Opportunities for the Unemployed

IAD will also advocate on behalf of the unemployed – including many community members from its own grassroots networks – by exploring policy innovations related to job guarantees for people who are currently unemployed for at least 100 days of the year. These jobs could be created through an expansion of public works projects, like Vista Volunteers and AmeriCorps, to promote community economic development through a Green Jobs program that creates jobs for communities that most need them while transforming local economies in a more sustainable fashion.⁶

Building Advocacy Capacity for the Most Marginalized Communities

OSI support – through the Seize the Day Initiative – would also seek to strengthen IAD’s network coordination, internal capacity, and advocacy work by enabling it to secure a staff coordinator position to support the overall functions of the emerging network. The new position would prioritize the alliance’s programmatic coordination and fundraising along with developing a youth organizing cadre to support advocacy efforts. IAD will also conduct a survey of its partners and their member organizations to better understand the combined impact and capacity that could come from strategic collaboration. IAD would gather the size of staffs, databases, memberships, and budgets and use the information to assess their capacity to take on different priorities.

⁶ The model for this law is India’s Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which guarantees every rural family 100 days of employment per year, and government assistance if the jobs don’t exist.

Rationale for Recommendation:

We recommend \$125,000, over one year, in funding for the Inter-Alliance Dialogue from the Seize the Day Fund. The IAD's goals advance Seize the Day priority strategies, including increasing local and state grassroots public participation in federal policy advocacy; advancing equity in the economic recovery; and elevating the hardest issues, specifically confronting structural inequality. OSI support would also advance Seize the Day's interest in providing capacity building support to emerging organizations that are rooted in people of color and immigrant communities as a means to increase the participation in advocacy from the most marginalized communities.

Through our due diligence, we find IAD's collaboration with the Institute for Policy Studies and other key policy experts compelling because of their connections to certain loci of power in Washington, and view the collaboration as a unique opportunity to introduce a new national policy agenda for economic justice from the grassroots. IPS has strong research, policy development, and advocacy capacity in Washington, DC – and meaningful connections to the Congressional Progressive Caucus – and is utilizing its expertise to provide a structure for the grassroots networks to facilitate policy analysis so that they may develop a federal issue agenda in a timely and strategic fashion.

While this grant is not risk averse – the emerging alliance is comprised of well intentioned networks that are very grassroots and often scrambling for sustainable funding of their own – we see inherent value in IAD's unique coalition of diverse groups that connect hundreds of thousands of constituents in low-income communities. The six participating networks, with great breadth and significant rooting in the local and state level struggles of low-income, people of color, and immigrant communities, hold promise in bringing new voices and priorities to the advocacy community.

Additionally, we would monitor this grant – recommended at one year versus the alliance's two year request due to the emerging nature of the effort – closely since we have minor concerns about the pace at which the IAD operates. While we support the work of the individual networks and can see the enormous potential of a joint effort, realistically we do not expect major policy changes in the short-term (through early 2010) while the alliance is launching. We are committed to this recommendation, however, because – as the recent meltdown of ACORN exhibits – there is a strong and timely need to support the capacity building of organizations and networks that have authentic leadership and that build engaged bases of activism in people of color communities in order to strengthen federal advocacy efforts.

Name of Organization: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations

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

Purpose of Grant/ FPOS: To provide project support from the Seize the Day Fund for The Main Street Alliance, a sponsored project of the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations that is building an independent, state-based small business advocacy network on issues of interest to OSI and that promote equity, justice, and the common good.

Previous OSI Support: \$8,000 from U.S. Programs (2003)

Organization Budget: \$1,920,000

Project Budget: \$993,800

Major Sources of Support:

Health Care for America Now	\$325,000
Atlantic Philanthropies	\$250,000
Other Foundations/Organizations	\$135,000
Individual Contributions	\$90,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$200,000 over one year; Seize the Day Fund (code: 21079)

Term: One year, beginning October, 2009

Description of Organization

The Northwest Federation of Community Organizations (NWFCO), based in Seattle, WA, works to develop strong state-based, grassroots organizations, support capacity building for social justice advocacy, and achieve systemic change on issues related to immigrants’ rights, health care, and racial and economic justice. With its organizing, policy, and communications teams, NWFCO centralizes the tools, capacities, and alliances that build grassroots leaders’ power to effect policy change.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Founded in 2008, the Main Street Alliance (Alliance), based at NWFCO, is a national network of small business coalitions working to build a new voice for small businesses in advocacy. This innovative coalition has the potential to shift public debates and shift policy on a range of issues and OSI funding would provide capacity building support to the Alliance so that it can prepare for policy battles that extend beyond the current health

care debate – where its members are most engaged – to economic development, workforce education, and tax and budget transparency and fairness, among other issues.

While still in its early stages of development, the Alliance has grown quickly and impressively, now representing more than 8,000 businesses in 12 states. The Alliance has already provided a strong counterweight to the national lobby groups, such as the National Federation of Independent Businesses, that claim to represent small businesses but take uniformly regressive positions on the role of government.⁷ Launched as a national network of small business coalitions working with small business owners to build a new voice for health care reform, the Alliance’s outreach model is based on a classic street canvass. Instead of going “door to door,” Alliance organizers go “store to store,” recruiting small business owners to sign on as supporters and become engaged.

Since April, the Alliance and its small business spokespeople have played an active role in the health care debate at the national level. While OSI support would not fund its health care advocacy, the following recent examples from the Alliance show the type of work that it conducts:

- Invited testimony: Alliance small business leaders were invited to testify before Congressional Committees about health care reform in six hearings, including April run-up hearings in House Ways & Means, an early June hearing in House Small Business, and hearings in all three House committees of jurisdiction (Ways & Means, Education & Labor, Energy & Commerce) over June 23-25.⁸ The Alliance’s small business owners were frequently elbow to elbow with lobbyists from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and presented a compelling, common good alternative to the large business groups.

- Impacting the media debate: Various Alliance state coalitions have garnered extensive in-state coverage through report releases, pitching small business owners’ stories to reporters, op-ed placement, and letter to the editor campaigns. At the national level, the Alliance has worked to project a narrative about a new and different voice for small businesses coming direct from “Main Streets across America”. That narrative has been reflected in stories in outlets including *Kaiser Health News*, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*’ “You’re the Boss” blog highlighting the divide between actual business owners and lobby groups like the U.S. Chamber. In a short period of time, the Alliance also secured interviews for its small business leaders on three cable news networks (Fox Business, MSNBC and CNBC) and on NPR’s “The Takeaway.”

- Attending a White House roundtable: The Alliance had the opportunity to send two small business owners to a White House Office of Health Reform roundtable hosted by Nancy-Ann DeParle, Director of the White House Office of Health Reform, in late April. One of the Alliance members got to lead off the event by sharing her story about her commitment to offering health coverage for her workers and the challenges of a 40

⁷ The states are Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington.

⁸ Invited testimony is not considered lobbying.

percent rate increase. Ms. DeParle, in her closing remarks, circled back to that story to emphasize the importance of passing health care reform this year.

In the balance of 2009 and 2010, the Alliance aims to build out a multi-issue agenda in order to transition from its founding focus on health care to a multi-issue platform. To do so the Alliance will utilize the results of its 2009 Small Business Leaders Issues Survey to articulate a multi-issue advocacy agenda on issues where small business owners' values coincide with the interests of low-income communities, immigrants and communities of color. The goal is to project a small business voice into the public debate around issues like comprehensive immigration reform, corporate accountability, and other issues that will benefit small businesses and the broader community.

The Alliance will also work to expand its base and leadership and amplify its national presence. More specifically, it will expand its coalition by adding three new states (Virginia, North Carolina and Colorado) and providing media and message training for teams of 15-20 small business spokespeople in each state. Finally, the Alliance will continue to pitch stories highlighting how small business owners are impacted by key issues, and will develop lists of national spokespeople, segmented by state and issue priority, to rapidly respond to reporters' requests.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Seize the Day Initiative recommends \$200,000 in funding, over one year, for the Main Street Alliance to support its efforts to build state-level small business advocacy capacity to engage in federal policy. The Alliance advances Seize the Day and broader U.S. Programs interests by offering a compelling and innovative state-based model that, if successful, can be a game changer in federal policy battles. Over the years the leading national groups that claim to represent small businesses have taken a decidedly anti-government, anti-tax stance on a wide range of policy issues. The Alliance can shift the issue positions and worldview framing associated with small businesses in the media narrative from a strictly conservative frame to a mixed frame acknowledging that many small business owners share values of equity, justice, and the common good.

Indeed, the Alliance is the only initiative that we've identified that is focusing resources at the state level to build an active base of small business leaders from the ground up on issues of interest to OSI. Impressively, its demographics offer another stark contrast to that of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other leading business organizations: Alliance coalitions share a commitment to strong representation of women and people of color – over half of its members are women business owners and between a quarter and one third are people of color business owners.

The Alliance is led by Sam Blair, who has worked with the Northwest Federation of Community Organizations and its state affiliates since 2002 and has served as the lead organizer with the Idaho Community Action Network where he developed grassroots leaders, coordinated leadership teams, and organized issue campaigns. His experience

working in one of the nation's most conservative states has made him an innovative and strategic thinker in building advocacy capacity.

In its short time, the Alliance has built an impressive base of 8,000 small business members, garnered significant press coverage and attention from elected leaders, and helped to shift the debate on its advocacy priorities. We are impressed with the model and the potential of the Alliance to impact a broader advocacy agenda, and are pleased to recommend this grant.

Name of Organization: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Tax Status: 501(c)(3)

Purpose of Grant: To provide general support

FPOS Grant Description: To provide \$900,000 in general support from the Seize the Day Fund over two years to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization dedicated to ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of the United States and eliminating race prejudice.

Previous OSI Support: \$250,000 Strategic Opportunities Fund 2008; \$25,000 Criminal Justice Fund 2009

Organizational Budget: \$23,222,000

Project Budget: NA

Sources of Support: Corporate and Foundation Contributions \$6,000,000; Individual Contributions \$4,285,000; Membership Dues \$3,000,000; Planned Giving \$500,000; Freedom Fund Assessments \$1,400,000; Convention \$3,000,000; Image Awards \$2,300,000; ACT-SO \$1,000,000; Other Events \$1,337,000; Other Revenue \$400,000

Amount Requested: \$900,000

Amount Recommended: \$900,000
\$500,000 (Seize the Day Fund, T1: 21079)
\$150,000 (Campaign for Black Male Achievement, T1: 21098)
\$150,000 (Equality & Opportunity Fund, T1:24023)
\$100,000 (Criminal Justice Fund, T1: 24027)

Term: Two years (September 2009 – August 2011)

Matching Requirements: None

Description of Organization:

Founded February 1909, partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, IL, the NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and

most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. It has more than a half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world, dedicated to monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. NAACP's networks include more than 1,200 active local chapters (including dozens of military bases and prisons) and presence in all 50 states. The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. In 2008, Benjamin Jealous became the organization's most recent, and the youngest ever, President and CEO.

Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:

The NAACP seeks general support in the amount of \$900,000 over two years.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The NAACP's work advances a number of U.S. Programs' priorities, particularly federal criminal justice reform. Consistent with the goals of the Seize the Day Fund, it will address the most challenging issues as part of a transformative national agenda through policy advocacy and expanding public participation at the local, state and national levels. Beyond this, the NAACP advances the Criminal Justice Fund's goal to eliminate racial disparities and ensure a fair and equitable system of justice; 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; the Democracy and Power Fund's interest in supporting organizations that engage critical constituencies and nurture new leaders; and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement's goals of dismantling the school to prison pipeline, promoting educational equity, and improving life outcomes for black males.

The transformative power of the NAACP, as an organization and volunteer movement, is primarily due to three factors:

- The ability to turn bold dreams of social progress into big victories by pursuing them with discipline not just over years, but decades (for example, the NAACP's effort to desegregate the military took approximately 30 years, and the organization has been eliminating barriers to black political participation for more than 50 years);
- An accumulated moral authority with origins in the NAACP's historical connection to the black church, the NAACP's mission to eradicate the country's "original sin" of racial oppression, and its history of fighting on behalf of individual victims; and
- A uniquely large, credible, and well-networked base of local volunteer civil and human rights advocates, as well as an allied network of financial supporters that enable the NAACP to sustain long campaigns and take ideas to scale efficiently.

The NAACP's key program and advocacy objectives include:

3) ***Closing racial disparities in educational achievement, employment, access to capital, health outcomes, incarceration, and exposure to violence:***

- a. **Education:** Focus on improving teacher quality, resource equity and ending harsh, ineffective school discipline regimes that push kids, including a disproportionately high percentage of African American males, out of school and into jail and towards prison;
- b. **Work:** Improving employment and contracting opportunities in many of our nation's most underemployed communities by (A) increasing corporate and public support to preserve equal opportunity programs at the state and national levels through policy innovation; and (B) strategically monitoring, engaging and developing agreements with large employers and granters of contracts to increase the use of the best diversity practices in recruiting, hiring, contracting, and civil rights enforcement;
- c. **Wealth:** Reducing the scale and scope of predatory lending by (A) dropping the rate on "pay day loans," and other similar instruments; and (B) developing agreements with banks to end discriminatory lending practices;
- d. **Health:** Aggressively maximizing Black institutional leaders' level of engagement and AIDS funders' recommitment to invest in stopping the spread of the virus as its Black children increasingly represent the majority of new HIV cases; and
- e. **Justice & Safety:** Reverse national incarceration trends and increase trust between local communities and law enforcement by: (A) eliminating racial profiling, sentencing disparities, and unnecessary barriers to employment for formerly incarcerated people; (B) setting a national standard for use of force training; (C) reorienting law enforcement towards solving unsolved murders; and (D) using alternatives to incarceration for non-violent, non-serious offenses.

4) ***Reframe Discussion of Criminal Justice Policies***

- f. The legacy and fear mongering of the "Tough on Crime" paradigm haunt public decision making processes, limiting reform possibilities, and making changes in law enforcement practice and policy subject to sudden reversals. This fall, the NAACP will launch a strategy to stimulate, advance, and sustain national, state, and local conversations on and interest in improving the quality of justice in America. Entitled "Smart & Safe," this public education campaign will be led by Robert Rooks, the

⁹ A key element of the campaign includes: challenging the legacy and failures of “tough on crime” policies through programmatic, research and communications strategies;

- g. Promote “Smart on Crime” common-sense tenets for criminal justice reform, such as “When police focus on behavior, rather than physical appearance, they catch more criminals,” and “When we allow people returning from prison to work, we are all safer;”
- h. Train community leaders and public office holders (prosecutors, judges, mayors, etc) to talk about criminal justice problems and solutions, using the above frame; and
- i. Work to dismantle the perception that African American males are less ambitious, educationally unmotivated, and disinterested in progress by challenging the practices of news media outlets nationally, and in various communities.

The organization will employ the following strategies to accomplish its objectives:

- 4) Education and Awareness** - The NAACP will leverage its broad infrastructure and national platform to educate members, policy makers and the community at large, around the issues that undergird the school to prison pipeline.
- 5) Training** - The NAACP is currently in the process of retraining its entire network of 1,200 branches and 300 campus chapters in the arts and sciences of modern community organizing. The first mass training of volunteer field-organizing trainers was held in Virginia in spring 2009.
- 6) Mobilization** – To mobilize its broad base of volunteers, the NAACP will leverage its strong media relations to engage constituents, utilize technology where appropriate, and encourage mobilization around issues. Specifically, the organization will provide up-to-date information on its core areas of policy advocacy through its website. The NAACP will also expand *Rapid Report*, a program launched by the NAACP utilizing mobile technology, to capture reports of civil rights abuse, as well as accompanying video documentation. This data will allow the NAACP to ensure federal prosecutors and states’ attorney generals hold law enforcement accountable and bring hate criminals to justice.

⁹ Rooks is a former Soros Justice Fellow and former executive director of A Better Way Foundation, a key OSI grantee.

With the NAACP's new leadership and its reinvigorated commitment to advancing criminal justice reform, U.S. Programs staff recommend that it is now an appropriate moment to make OSI's first significant, multi-year general support grant to the organization. The Seize the Day Fund Grantmaking Committee has recommended a sizeable grant to co-fund the NAACP for its potential to elevate criminal justice reform at the federal level and engage its large chapter-based members and advocates in this and other OSI priority areas. In particular, the NAACP's newly focused agenda aimed at closing racial disparities in educational achievement, employment, access to capital, health outcomes, incarceration, and exposure to violence provides OSI with an opportunity for a powerful partnership for social change. For the reasons mentioned above, the Seize the Day Fund, Equality and Opportunity Fund, Campaign for Black Male Achievement, and the Criminal Justice Fund recommend a general support grant of \$900,000 to the NAACP over two years.