

Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation **Proposed Grants Docket, September 27th 2010**

The Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation (SFPA) is proposing the following grants totaling \$28.25 million for consideration on U.S. Programs docket scheduled for September 27, 2010. All ten of these grants are new grants.

- **Benefits Access:**
 - Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)
 - United Way of Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) for the Michigan Benefits Access Initiative (MBAI) – **see Michigan**
 - The Community Builders for CHOICE Neighborhoods (in partnership with the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development)

- **Workforce Development**
 - National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, GHHI (in partnership with the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development)
 - Abt Associates for the Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency (ISIS) Project (in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
 - Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City for replication of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) – **see Social Innovation Fund**

- **Education**
 - Jobs for the Future (JFF) for the Back on Track/GED to College Pathway Initiative
 - DTI and Abt Associates for the Policy to Performance: Transitioning Adults to Opportunity Initiative (in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education)
 - New Profit Inc. for their Pathways Fund – **see Social Innovation Fund**
 - Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to scale promising youth development organizations – **see Social Innovation Fund**

- **Michigan**
 - United Way of Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) for the Michigan Benefits Access Initiative (MBAI)

- **Social Innovation Fund**
 - Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City for replication of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO)
 - New Profit Inc. for their Pathways Fund
 - Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to scale promising youth development organizations

Benefits Access

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

\$750,000.00 for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)

To support FRAC's multi-state benefits access initiative to drive improvements in states' food stamp policies and practices and to facilitate the connection between access to food stamps and benefits like WIC, school breakfast and lunch, and summer feeding programs. FRAC will also help states take advantage of new federal/state options to connect enrollment in health (Medicaid and CHIP) and nutrition programs (many of the 15 federally-funded food and nutrition programs under USDA/FNS). This work will benefit hundreds of thousands of people by boosting enrollment among eligible, non-participating populations – specifically, immigrants, children, and the elderly – by increasing benefit levels for individual households and, generally, by reducing hunger and poverty and improving food security, nutrition, health and education. FRAC will conduct intensive technical assistance to spur reform in 8-12 targeted states. Priority states will be identified based on their low program participation rates (states where <60% of the eligible population is participating in food stamps), as well the capacity, readiness, and leadership present to effect change in those states. Possible states include: California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. SFPA's investment will be matched on at least a 1:1 basis by the Walmart Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Community Builders for CHOICE Neighborhoods (in partnership with the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development)

\$3 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)

To demonstrate, in 2 to 4 communities, how to use housing as a platform to leverage a continuum of community services as a means to create viable, thriving communities responsive to residents' needs. SFPA will partner with The Community Builders and HUD to select 2-4 cities that are poised to augment their current HOPE VI efforts by building more robust benefits access, education and workforce development programming for individuals living in public housing as a means to model what HUD is hoping to accomplish through its upcoming CHOICE Neighborhoods demonstration. HUD's three goals for CHOICE are: 1) Transform distressed public housing into energy efficient, mixed income housing that is physically and financially viable over the long-term; 2) Support positive outcomes for families who live in the target development and surrounding neighborhood, particularly their health, safety, employment and educational outcomes; and 3) Transform neighborhoods of poverty into mixed-income neighborhoods with access to quality services, effective schools and education programs, and improved transportation and access to good jobs. Likely candidate cities include: Milwaukee, New Orleans, Charlotte and Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Dallas, Texarkana and Beaumont, Texas. Successful candidate sites will be able to demonstrate some prior capacity to work with a range of community stakeholders to provide residents with effective services as well as have local philanthropic support behind their work. SFPA will also consider supporting sites' evaluation of these efforts. SFPA's investment will be matched on at least a 1:1 basis by local philanthropy and will target sequential leverage of (large-scale) implementation funding from HUD, under CHOICE Neighborhoods, to be awarded in the Spring of 2011.

Employment

National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, GHHI (in partnership with the U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development)

\$3 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new: project support)

To invest in the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, led by the National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, in partnership with the White House, HUD, the Department of Energy and the Council on Environmental Quality, which will directly employ 1400 un- and underemployed neighborhood residents from 14 pilot cities, many of them formerly incarcerated, in full-time jobs that pay a living wage and provide benefits. GHHI will demonstrate how to blend funding for weatherization, energy efficiency and lead abatement into a single model that delivers higher quality green jobs, healthier and more sustainable housing, and better health outcomes for children living in poverty. GHHI will launch this model in 12 cities and two Native American communities (Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Flint, New Haven, Oakland, Philadelphia, Providence, San Antonio, Spirit Lake Tribe and Cowlitz Indian Tribe). GHHI will simultaneously certify these 1400 workers under a new standard for green housing rehabilitation preparing them to compete for good jobs beyond the scope of the demonstration. GHHI will assess 3,500 low-income homes occupied by families with young children or pregnant women with a Comprehensive Health and Housing screening. Through GHHI training, workforce development, and intervention work, GHHI will generate a minimum of 7,000 Green and Healthy Homes related jobs nationally. SFPA's investment will be matched on at least a 1:1 basis by more than a dozen national and local philanthropies and the Federal government.

Abt Associates for the Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency (ISIS) Project (in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

\$8 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)*

(\$2.5 million in 2010; \$5.5 million in 2011)*

To identify 4 to 6 career pathway models serving low-literacy, low-skilled participants and test the effectiveness of these models using random assignment evaluation. SFPA will invest in efforts such as the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative; the Instituto Progreso Latino for the Carreras en Salud program, in Chicago; VIDA and Project ARRIBA, in Texas; and the replication of Washington State's I-BEST model in Maryland and Wisconsin. SFPA will also co-invest in a pooled fund to support benefits access initiatives alongside these career pathways to test the impact income supplements have on participants' employment outcomes. Selected programs will become part of a national effort to increase employment and self-sufficiency among low-income populations. Once tested, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is interested in scaling and sustaining these programs in additional cities around the country and adjusting policy and regulations to support such programs. SFPA's investment leverages \$17 million in HHS evaluation funding to conduct rigorous, randomized control trials of programs, as well as other programmatic funding from foundations including Ford, Casey, Joyce and Gates.

Education

Jobs for the Future (JFF) for the Back on Track/GED to College Pathway Initiative

\$3 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)*

(\$1.5 million in 2010; \$1.5 million in 2011)*

To support JFF's work to establish a more effective and efficient Back on Track/GED to College pathway for vulnerable 18-26 year olds. JFF will work with groups, such as YouthBuild USA and the Civic Justice Corps (SFPA grantees), to begin to scale key components of its GED to College pathway in lead programs in the youth-serving sector, school districts, and community colleges. First, JFF will demonstrate the scalability of the Back on Track/GED College pathway by developing and replicating exemplar pathways in three, key sectors: districts/states; national youth-serving organizations; and community college systems. Second, JFF will work with partners to develop metrics and data accountability systems, a public policy agenda and a financing plan to sustain these models. JFF anticipates impacting 9,800 dropouts, over the next three years, through select youth development organizations, supporting them to earn a high school credential and enter a postsecondary education or training program that allows them to persist to a credential with value in the labor market. SFPA's investment will be matched on at least a 1:1 basis by the following foundations: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Walmart Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Texas Education Agency, and the Lumina Foundation.

DTI and Abt Associates for the Policy to Performance: Transitioning Adults to Opportunity Initiative (in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education)

\$3 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)

To invest in adult literacy and career pathway efforts underway in up to eight states (Alabama, California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin) participating in the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education's (OVAE) Policy to Performance Initiative. SFPA's partnership with OVAE will address the low-literacy levels of individuals entering sector-based career pathways, specifically targeting education and job readiness interventions for incarcerated individuals pre-release. Through its contract with DTI and Abt Associates, OVAE is already providing these states with technical assistance to strengthen the connection between adult basic education, post secondary education, and employment, and to develop policies and systems that will enhance college and career readiness for low-literacy individuals and align current adult transition policies to broader policy initiatives. State workgroups include state directors of education, policymakers, and community-based providers. SFPA's investment will be matched on at least a 1:1 basis by OVAE and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Michigan

Michigan was given a \$15 million challenge grant. The Board has already approved the Mo' Bucks Double Coupon initiative (\$3 million), being led by the Fair Food Network as well as the

grant to the Mott Foundation for the Earn and Learn Initiative (\$7.5 million). Below, the Special Fund recommends a grant to the United Way of Southeastern Michigan (\$2 million) to support a third Michigan project designed to engage community based organizations, community colleges, and the Michigan Re-Entry Project, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Human Services, to connect low-income families to public benefits. In total, SFPA's investments in Michigan are designed to connect low-income, un/underemployed individuals to education, employment and the social safety net. SFPA is actively working with Michigan on investment strategies for the remaining \$2.5 million commitment.

United Way of Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) for the Michigan Benefits Access Initiative (MBAI)

\$2 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012 (new; project support)

To support a partnership between the Michigan Department of Human Services and several United Way organizations across Michigan to provide an innovative and comprehensive approach to assisting Michigan citizens in accessing benefits. The Michigan Benefit Access Initiative (MBAI) will provide citizens in need with bundled online applications for the spectrum of benefits they may be eligible for and to leverage staff and volunteers of nonprofit partners to provide assistance to citizens and families applying for those benefits online. United Way of Southeastern Michigan will train 2,875 nonprofit "counselors" over the next three and a half years to use web-based technology to increase the number of Michigan households that receive the benefits for which they are eligible. These benefit access counselors will help families access benefits and tax credits totaling approximately \$183,000,000 in 4 years. SFPA's investment will be matched on a 1:1 basis by the Kellogg and Kresge foundations.

Social Innovation Fund

A key strategy for the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation Fund has been to partner with the Obama Administration's Social Innovation Fund (SIF) in order to leverage federal and private funds to advance the scale and growth of non-profits aligned with the Special Fund's goals. In SFPA's 2010 budget, \$10 million was designated and approved for this effort. Last month, the White House and the Corporation for National and Community Service announced the SIF winners. Awardees included three out of the four intermediaries pre-selected for SFPA investment: New York City's Center for Economic Opportunity; New Profit Inc.; and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation.

Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City for replication of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity

\$2 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011 (new; project support)

To support the overall design, implementation and evaluation of an effort, led by the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, to replicate promising anti-poverty programs in partnership with cities and foundations in eight cities nationwide. OSI's investment will leverage CEO's experience with their peers in other cities to replicate these models. As a group, these eight cities (New York City, Kansas City, Cleveland, Newark, Philadelphia, Salinas, San Antonio, and Tulsa) will undertake projects that emphasize work, skills-building, and

asset development. Projects include: 1) a conditional cash transfer (CCT) program to reduce current and future poverty, build human capital, improve health, and improve family well-being; 2) a skills-focused career advancement program for the working poor and low-income individuals disconnected from the labor market, 3) a place-based employment initiative for high-poverty public housing developments, 4) an education and employment program for disconnected young adults, and 5) an asset-building savings project linked to the Earned Income Tax Credit. OSI's investments will be directed toward the expansion and replication of successful workforce development programs serving disadvantaged adults and disconnected/at-risk youth ages 12-24. SFPA's investment will be matched by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Casey and Bloomberg Foundations, and additional TBD funders.

New Profit Inc. for their Pathways Fund

\$1.5 million for October 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011 (new; project support)

To identify and co-invest in a portfolio of results-driven organizations that are capable of providing innovative, scalable, and cost effective solutions in the areas of benefits access, workforce preparedness, and college readiness to up to 9,000 of America's most disconnected young adults. SFPA's investment will be directed towards subgrantees, such as Year Up, College Summit, and iMentor, that meet OSI's primary interest areas of employment and education for disconnected/at-risk youth ages 12-24. New Profit will test the concept of a "youth pathway" to determine what the right mix of supportive services and critical points of intervention keep a young person on a path to success. The evidence created by this work will be an important contribution to the field of youth development for at risk youth. SFPA's investment will be matched by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Sea Change Capital Partners, Blue Ridge Foundation, and additional TBD funders.

Edna McConnell Clark Foundation to scale promising youth development organizations

\$2 million for October 1, 2010 – May 30, 2011 (new; project support)

To co-invest with the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation (EMCF) in growth-ready youth development organizations that work with the most disadvantaged youth in low-income communities, building the capacity and evidence base they need to scale their programs significantly and serve more youth. SFPA's investment will be directed towards subgrantees, such as the Center for Employment Opportunities and Youth Villages, that meet OSI's primary interest to increase employment and education for disconnected youth ages 12-24, specifically adjudicated youth, youth who are homeless or who are in foster care. SFPA's investment will be matched by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, and additional TBD funders.