

Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation **Proposed Grants Docket for July 11, 2011**

The Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation (SFPA) is proposing the following grants totaling \$407,500 for consideration on the U.S. Programs docket scheduled for June 27, 2011. All investments represent new grants.

- **Education**
 - ReServe
- **Advocacy**
 - Social Impact Exchange

Education

ReServe

\$107,500; 9/1/11 – 4/30/13 (new; project support)

To create a program structure that broadens educational and economic opportunities for low-income youth by recruiting, training and deploying a corps of older adults who will use their professional skills and social capital to help students get into and succeed in college. Founded in 2005, ReServe is an innovative nonprofit that matches continuing professionals age 55+ (ReServists) with organizations that need their expertise for a small stipend leveraging the AmeriCorps mentoring program. ReServists will provide one-on-one assistance to help 600 high school seniors navigate the college and financial aid application process. ReServe will expand their current project with New Visions for Public Schools to help low-income minority and immigrant students get into college and successfully complete their first year, making sure that these young people are on track academically, financially socially and emotionally. A summer transition program and a “13th year” individualized coaching program will also support 150 of the highest need, community college-bound students from six New Visions schools during the summer after high school graduation and throughout their first year of college. This project will help reduce the gaps in college completion rates for low income, minority students that currently perpetuate economic insecurity and inequality in this country. SFPA’s investment will be matched on a 2:1 basis via public and private funds, leveraging investments from the Corporation for National and Community Service, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Hearst Foundation, the Berk Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and additional leverage partners to be determined.

Advocacy

Social Impact Exchange

\$300,000; 7/1/11 – 12/31/12 (new; project support)

To increase collaborative funding to create a consistent financing system (a “growth capital marketplace”), which efficiently connects funders to non-profits that meet a high standard of evidence of effectiveness and are ready to expand. The nonprofit field struggles with how to help some of the country’s most successful organizations achieve meaningful, large-scale and sustainable impact. A primary cause of the failure to reliably expand effective social solutions remains a lack of accessible growth capital. To address this, Growth Philanthropy Network – in partnership with Duke University’s Center for Strategic Philanthropy at the Sanford School of Public Policy and the CASE Center at Fuqua Business School – launched the Social Impact Exchange to serve as a national, cross-sector membership community of foundations, philanthropists, wealth advisors, intermediaries, practitioners, government officials and researchers interested in helping effective nonprofits build their capacity and secure financing to expand their impact. Using a robust technology infrastructure, the Exchange creates opportunities for funder groups across the country to connect to investment opportunities that match their interests, as well as foster local, state and federal government participation in scaling efforts and pursue policy initiatives related to scaling effective models. An investment in the Social Impact Exchange will help generate the level of resources required to make large-scale progress on some of the biggest barriers to effectively serving disconnected youth, the formerly incarcerated and low-income individuals, on a large scale, ultimately improving the lives of millions of marginalized citizens. SFPA’s investment will leverage a 1:1 private match from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and additional private leverage partners to be determined. In its first several years, the Exchange will directly assist hundreds of nonprofits, collaborate with several hundred foundations, philanthropists and corporations, and work with more than 50 intermediaries and funder affinity groups. This investment compliments and supports SFPA’s other grants, such as the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) and the Innovative Solutions for Increasing Self-Sufficiency (ISIS) project, which focus on taking youth and career programs to scale, thereby creating a body of evidence for the field.