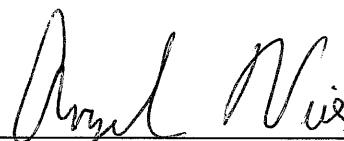
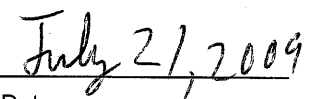


**U.S. PROGRAMS
STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FUND (SOF)
Summary of Recommended Grants
Docket II - July 24, 2009**

Staff	Organization	Requested	Recommended	Term
U.S. PROGRAMS, STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FUND (SOF Program Code 21081)				
<u>Gulf Region/Place-Based</u>				
Erlin/Tim	Greater New Orleans Foundation - Bridge Funding		<u>\$ 89,489</u>	4 months
		Recommended:	\$ 89,489	
<u>OSI-DC Community Initiatives</u>				
Erlin/Lisa	The Family Place		<u>\$ 30,000</u>	1 year
Erlin/Lisa	The National Center for Children and Families		<u>\$ 30,000</u>	1 year
Erlin/Lisa	Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.		<u>\$ 30,000</u>	1 year
Erlin/Lisa	Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)		<u>\$ 30,000</u>	1 year
Erlin/Lisa	Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers		<u>\$ 80,000</u>	1 year
		Recommended:	\$ 200,000	
<u>Special Projects</u>				
Erlin/Sophia	Public Interest Projects (U.S. Human Rights Fund)		<u>\$ 500,000</u>	2 years
		Recommended:	\$ 500,000	
		(SOF) TOTAL RECOMMENDED:	<u>\$ 789,489</u>	


Approval Signature


Date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson & Erlin Ibreck
DATE: July 17, 2009
RE: Strategic Opportunities Fund - July 24, 2009 Docket Recommendations

The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) recommends seven grants in this docket, five of which are from OSI-DC for the DC Community Grants Initiative that receives an annual allocation of \$200,000 from SOF. The DC office makes these grants in consultation with SOF.

The priorities for the current DC Community Grants Initiative cycle remain the same as last year with the following as their two priority areas:

Youth Leadership and Development – organizations that build leadership skills, foster civic engagement and/or promote development among diverse young people

Need of Low income Families – organizations that provide direct services, engage in advocacy, and offer solutions to the unique problems faced by low and no-income families

The process for selecting organizations is that each year OSI-DC selects 3 grants administrators who solicit suggestions from staff, meet with local funders and engage in their own research to compile a pool of organizational candidates for funding. Recommendations are made to a staff advisory board including the grants administrators who then decide on which organizations to invite to submit proposals. Their five funding recommendations that appear in this docket are to support two organizations that serve the needs of low-income families; two organizations that provide youth leadership and development activities and a recommendation for renewed funding of the Washington AIDS Partnership.

The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) and the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF) are jointly recommending a bridge grant to the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) which is the conduit for the re-granting and oversight of an emerging coalition of local organizations working on transparency issues. The coalition - known as New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance (NOCOG) - is focused on three areas: building greater civic support for good governance; enhancing the oversight of revenues and expenditures; and developing additional transparency in information and media. SOF and TIF recommended a grant earlier this year to build on momentum that catalyzed around several meetings that were held between TIF and SOF staff on the one hand, and key local organizations working on transparency issues, as well as with GNOF staff, on the other. The bridge grant will enable the coalition members to continue developing a longer term strategic plan of action that they will likely submit to OSI and other funders to support its implementation.

Finally, we are recommending a two year grant to support the U.S. Human Rights Fund's Sub-Fund for Domestic Human Rights Accountability to provide coordinated financial and technical support to the Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda and related human rights accountability initiatives. This grant will strengthen mechanisms for the protection of human rights and thus advances the full range of U.S. Programs priorities.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	Greater New Orleans Foundation
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501(c) 3 Public Charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To provide bridge funding for the New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	\$127,324
<u>Organization Budget:</u>	\$2,784,220
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$89,489
<u>Source of Support:</u>	In-kind
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$89,489
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$89,489
<u>Term:</u>	August 1, 2009 – November 30, 2009 (4 months)

Description of Organization:

The Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) was founded in 1983, and since Hurricane Katrina has played a key role in the area’s recovery, coordinating the local efforts of many including the State of Louisiana, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, to support the United New Orleans Plan to rebuild that city. The unprecedented challenges that New Orleans faced post-Katrina spurred GNOF into an extensive planning process resulting in a new set of strategies with four areas of focus: housing, regionalism, workforce and education. GNOF has recruited new staff and at the beginning of 2009 appointed a new president, Albert Ruesga, the former VP of Programs and Communications at the D.C.-based Meyer Foundation and current chair of Hispanics in Philanthropy, a transnational network of grantmakers committed to strengthening Latino communities. As a community foundation, GNOF administers many individual charitable funds. As a catalyst and resource for philanthropy, the Foundation undertakes strategic grant-making that invests in leaders and systemic change, builds irrevocable endowments for the community’s changing issues and opportunities, and serves as a flexible and cost-effective vehicle for philanthropists to invest in their community.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

The need for government transparency has, since the floods, become a fixed goal in the consciousness of New Orleans’ citizens. They have identified transparency as key to rectifying chronic problems such as the errant demolitions of good homes, “surprise” land use changes, budget and fiscal mismanagement, and a criminal justice system in need of reform. Non-profit organizations and developers alike that have invested private resources in the recovery are eager to access information in order to make informed investment decisions. As a result, a broad movement for change coalesced around the need for improved access to government records, driven by residents, neighborhood associations, researchers, social service agencies, activists, planners, funders, policymakers, think tanks, government reformers and news reporters. With the help of a New Orleans based consultant, the **Strategic Opportunities Fund** and **Transparency and Integrity Fund** staff convened leaders representing several of these constituencies, as well as GNOF staff, to discuss the most constructive way to identify and support a set of comprehensive and complementary strategies. Based on those discussions, GNOF requested and received a 5 month

grant from OSI to support **New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance (NOCOG)**, a cadre of non-profit organizations already working to increase governmental transparency and integrity. The grant enabled NOCOG to convene key stakeholder organizations with national transparency organizations that would inform local efforts to create transparent and accountable governance systems in New Orleans and Louisiana. TIF staff recommended several watchdog organizations that could serve as resources to the local groups and brought with them representatives of a number of such groups to a June 3-4 meeting, including staff of Maplight, the Project on Government Oversight, and Demos.

Thus far NOCOG has been able to coordinate the following activities:

- Tulane Loyola Public Law Clinic has provided legal consultation to other members on drafting of language for a Master Plan for New Orleans, a projection of a comprehensive overview of the City's future development
- LouisianaRebuilds.info website has served as a communications hub for transparency and accountability activities
- Tulane Loyola Public Law Clinic has provided legal advice to the Community Participation Project concerning policy and procedure revisions.
- Greater New Orleans Community Data Center (GNOCDC) has provided technical assistance to the Tulane Loyola Public Law Clinic concerning mapping projects
- NOLASTAT team issued interim finding on creating an open access public records system
- LouisianaRebuilds.info, NOLAStat and GNOCDC have worked together on developing usability testing and a public records survey
- The Neighborhood Partnership Network, LouisianaRebuild.info, Puentes, and the Community Participation Project have jointly identified three areas for focus related to community engagement efforts
- Public Affairs Research Council provided materials to team members on open meetings and public records request
- Individual team members have continued conversations with members of the Ethics Review Board and the Inspector General's office

The proposed activities for the bridge period include:

- Ongoing NOCOG meetings and collaboration around civic engagement, access to public information, and development of new media
- Resource development with governmental funders and foundations
- Collaboration with other civic groups concerning public education and participation in municipal elections
- Creation of a discussion document around issues of transparency and accountability/broadened outreach to community
- Further development of longer term plans to be submitted to OSI in the early Fall 2009

Rationale for Recommendation:

The proposed bridge grant to support the NOCOG coalition via the Greater New Orleans Foundation is being recommended by the **Strategic Opportunities Fund** and the **Transparency and Integrity Fund** which have been working collaboratively since 2008 to build capacity, expertise and mechanisms that will ensure a more transparent and open government in New Orleans and ultimately in Louisiana. The grant bolsters efforts to assure justice and accountability in Louisiana's reconstruction efforts and therefore aligns with the **Strategic Opportunities Fund's** commitment to fostering cross-program collaborations in the Gulf Region that deepen the reach and impact of our grant-making. The

recommended grant advances the priorities of the **Transparency and Integrity Fund** by supporting the development of a collaborative strategy at the local and state level to build a robust network of watchdog and citizen organizations focused on increasing transparency and efficiency in government.

Louisiana, with New Orleans at its core, has long struggled with an image – well supported by reality - of corrupt and ineffective governance, but it was not until the levees failed and were followed by seriously inadequate government responses that local citizens became truly outraged. The outrage has now evolved into more permanent citizen engagement and thirst for systemic change in their political environment. In the period since the floods, New Orleans' citizens have led successful campaigns to install a new majority on the city council committed to change; reformed the levee board and tax assessor systems; established the first ever Inspector General's office; and provided support and funding for a soon to be up and running Ethics Review Board. In addition, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal began his first term with a special session on ethics reform that has resulted in Louisiana adopting stricter rules for public disclosure and establishing limits on lobbyists which are important first steps to creating ethical and transparent standards. However, these rules and standards need enforcement mechanisms.

Despite these promising advances, there remain significant gaps in the capacity of civic organizations to influence increased government transparency and integrity. These gaps exist because the recovery process has been a “learn as you go” model; political processes are confounded by limited access to information and procedures—resulting in benefits flowing to those most “connected” and limited public accountability. In addition, efforts to reform city government under the current mayoral administration often encounter resistance. These issues create significant obstacles to a transparent, equitable process of re-development, both now and for the foreseeable future, but we believe efforts to reform city government should not abate. The reform-minded groups with whom we have been meeting have identified, as one tactic for achieving sustainable, long-term reform, the need for a public education campaign on transparency for candidates who may run in the 2010 municipal elections, and they underscore that the time to lay that groundwork is now.

The success of this new movement for greater transparency depends in part on timely support for the grassroots efforts already underway, work that can be shaped, informed by and modeled on the work of national watchdog organizations, and some of these groups have already developed relationships with NOCOG. OSI's commitment to longer term support for NOCOG's transparency and accountability work has been a catalyst for ongoing commitment by members. Although NOCOG members have already begun seeking additional sources of long term funding, the next four months (August – November) are critical in maintaining momentum and credibility. Many of the team members work for established organizations that are being asked to cover the costs of participation for this interim period. Others, such as The Public Record (a new media group), Louisiana Rebuilds, NOLAStat and The New Orleans Institute are emerging organizations and do not have the funds to cover their members' involvement. The group is committed to continuing and to being active in public education campaigns in the upcoming municipal elections (February 2010) - a four month break in activities would be a huge setback. We anticipate that this grant will pave the way for more extensive TIF engagement in New Orleans and Louisiana.

Name of Organization: National Center for Children and Families (NCCF)

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

Purpose of Grant: To support permanency and self-sufficiency for low-income families in Ward 7 of the District of Columbia through emergency and preventive services.

Previous OSI Support: None

Organization Budget: \$17,443,877

Project Budget: \$456,409

Source of Support: State of Maryland; HSC foundation; Montgomery County, MD; MSDE; ETHS; Gaithersburg City; Parent Education Grant; Links Foundation; United Way; Collaborative Grant; Mary Kay Foundation; Department of Justice; Freddie Mac; HUD; District of Columbia DHR; US Department of Education; City Coordinating Council; Opus Foundation; CYITC; Tiger Woods Foundation; Charity Works Foundation;

Amount Requested: \$30,000

Amount Recommended: \$30,000

Term: August 1, 2009 – July 30, 2010 (1 year)

Description of Organization:

Founded in 1915, the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF), serves victims of poverty, homelessness, abuse/neglect, and domestic violence through ten programs delivered throughout the Washington Metropolitan region. With the mission “to create total, healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth and families, and the quality of life which empowers their ability to thrive and demonstrate responsibility,” NCCF works ardently to help children, youth, and families achieve safety, well-being, and permanency. In FY2008, NCCF served 740 families comprised of 1,513 children/youth and 1,131 adults. In the past year NCCF became a member of a service coalition to reduce gang activity amongst youth living in the neighborhoods surrounding CARA House located in Wards 7 & 8 in Washington, DC. They added a youth leadership council program to serve youth in the same area and were awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to become a demonstration site for transitional housing services using the Rapid Re-housing program model. This highly competitive award from HUD added 7 additional apartments to the capacity of the NCCF transitional housing program bringing the total to 40 units.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

CARA House, developed in 1997, is a community-based, collaborative parenting education and resource center in Ward 7 of the District of Columbia that helps to prevent family involvement in the District's overloaded child welfare system, and fosters family permanency, as well as child safety and well-being. This program teaches adults the necessary skills to nurture healthy children; provides concrete, basic resource supports; and raises community standards for parenting and healthy families. In 2008, CARA House served 171 families, comprising 327 children and 492 adults.

CARA House program participants benefit from case management services that: assess children/youth who are affected by parental incarceration; connects their families to needed resources and services in the community; provides support groups for children/youth; and provides important health updates to parents and community residents. Support groups are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the community, including single parents, relative caregivers, and foster parents. Participants are also assisted in obtaining concrete resources such as food, clothing, toys, school supplies, furniture and household items. These items are donated by the community and made available to the families through their Resource Exchange Program (REP). All services and supports are provided in partnership with other service providers, a team of professional staff, and trained community volunteers. The services are offered through the following five CARA House program divisions:

Family Connections provides family mentoring services that address the needs of low-income families in order to strengthen family relationships that are central to achieving and sustaining goals of personal responsibility and self-sufficiency. By utilizing a family-centered approach to mentoring, strong, healthy families are recruited from within the community who demonstrate economic stability, appropriate child rearing and development practices, and strong and positive internal family relationships. These families then serve as mentors to low-income families who have been identified as needing emotional support and encouragement to build upon family strengths.

Nurturing Parent provides both individual and group parenting education classes that reinforce parental strengths; provide information on child development and effective approaches to supporting and disciplining children; create parent peer supports and opportunities to share and teach one another; and identify threats and assaults on healthy child development. The Parent Educator works with families individually and facilitates the parenting education classes.

Men-In-Motion (MIM) assists estranged fathers in understanding the importance of connecting emotionally with their children and exploring responsible adult/parenting behavior to support the healthy development of their children. This program assists fathers in developing positive, honest relationships with their children, where no relationship previously existed, connecting fathers with their children through frequent visits and appropriate family activities. MIM provides male mentoring through community male volunteers who co-facilitate group workshops based on the needs of the participants.

KinNet provides support groups twice a month to meet the diverse needs of single parents, relative caregivers, and foster parents. Participants include both formal and informal relative caregivers who have established childcare arrangements with family members outside of the child welfare system.

The Reaching Academic and Career Excellence R.A.C.E, Program uses innovative approaches to train and prepare youth and young adults living in Wards 7 & 8 by increasing the number of children and youth that perform at grade level; increasing high school graduation rates and GED attainment; and preparing and placing older youth into college/post secondary education, job training programs or gainful employment.

The services of CARA House are individualized and ongoing based on the specific needs of each family/program participant.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The financial crisis has had a significant and lasting negative impact on the lives of the individuals and families served at CARA House. Program participants have shown an increased need for necessity items such as food and clothing and assistance in paying utilities and rent. These families already live in one of the most resource-deprived sections of Washington, DC and a further strain on their already tight budgets

makes it even more difficult to afford transportation to obtain services that are outside of their neighborhoods.

Many of the adult clients are employed at minimum wage jobs or are unemployed; have little or no education, work experience or marketable skills; and have extended histories of residential instability. Their children are disadvantaged with poor early development, and are most likely to suffer the ill effects of inadequate, inconsistent care. Many of the families have histories of incarceration or probation, and a significant percentage of the adult population are recovering addicts who have had major brushes with the law, if not actual convictions and incarceration. The majority of the families who participate in CARA House programs are extremely poor, that is, their household income levels fall below 50% of the poverty line. As a result, these families are extremely vulnerable to economic downturns and are experiencing the negative effects of the bad economy.

As a result CARA House staff is working with community partners to increase vocational services and secure employment for clients as soon as they become unemployed. An increased focus on housing referrals and linkages to homeless shelters has become essential to prevent families from literally being placed on the street. Staff has also helped clients call the utility companies to negotiate payments and have critical services restored. In response to an increase in the need for food, the CARA House has added a dedicated food pantry and has begun to actively seek non-perishable food and seasonally appropriate clothing to redistribute to program participants. This localized resource center has become a great benefit for families that are struggling with the costs of transportation.

This recommendation is consistent with a key goal of the DC Community Initiative to support organizations that provide direct services, engage in advocacy, and offer solutions to the unique problems faced by low-income families.

<u>Name of Organization</u>	Sasha Bruce Youthwork
<u>Tax Status</u>	501(c) (3)
<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	To support expansion of the YouthLed Project and to provide training to youth in media arts and emerging technologies
<u>Previous OSI Support</u>	None
<u>Organization Budget</u>	\$6,846,300
<u>Project Budget</u>	\$30,000
<u>Source of Support</u>	Community Partnership to Prevent Homeless DC Child & Family Services Agency DC Department of Human Services US Dept. Health & Human Services US Department of Labor US Dept. Health & Human Services United Way
<u>Amount Requested</u>	\$30,000
<u>Amount Recommended</u>	\$30,000
<u>Term</u>	August 1, 2009 – July 30, 2010

Description of Organization

The mission of Sasha Bruce Youthwork is to improve the lives of runaway, homeless, abused and neglected youth and their families in the DC area. Sasha Bruce provides shelter, housing, support services, counseling, life skills training and positive youth development. Sasha Bruce’s package of activities include outreach, shelter, case management, advocacy, transitional and independent living, education, health, employment and aftercare services. Two well known programs include The Sasha Bruce House, which is the only open-access shelter for youth in the city, and YouthBuild, which provides academic training towards a GED, vocational classroom training in carpentry, and on-site experience for young people ages 18 and 24.

Founded in 1974, Sasha Bruce Youthwork is one of the largest and most experienced youth service providers in Washington, DC. The staff is dedicated, enthusiastic and has a clear vision of their programs’ goals to empower youth to explore education and career opportunities that prepare them to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Funding is sought for the YouthLed program, a youth development after-school program for high school youth in DC’s Ward 8 which is 93% black non-Hispanic and with 36% of residents living below the national poverty rate. Anacostia High School and Ballou High School students, in a partnership with

District of Columbia Public Schools, compose YouthLed participants. Sasha Bruce seeks to expand the work of YouthLed by developing a community outreach center. YouthLed will focus on promoting positive civic participation by helping young people organize their schools and communities for positive change. The participants will develop the ability to analyze organizational strengths and weaknesses, participate in community life, effect positive social change and learn to guide others on a course of action.

The program will use debate, music, media, technology and games to teach youth about the pressing socio-political issues that impact their lives. Youth will become involved in campaigns to improve the environment, education, and health-based issues. The YouthLed program has five main subprograms, including 1) rite of passage, 2) theater, 3) liberation, 4) college access, and 5) media. The new media program will provide the youth with a platform to creatively express the personal experiences they have had within the context of their community's social issues. The participants will use media as a tool for the community organizing campaigns they undertake. Funding for the community center and media tools will also build the foundation for the other four programs.

Rationale for Recommendation

Exposure to community organizing, civic engagement, debate and advocacy tools and strategies (which is part of the YouthLed program), in addition to educational programming, strengthens young people's understanding of the potential they have to become civic participants and community leaders. This is consistent with OSI's overall interest in creating a society that allows all people to participate actively and fully in the life of their communities and the greater society.

The funding will go towards completion of the center which includes a computer lab that will provide a safe and positive environment for youth to do homework as well as receive training in media arts in an area of DC where youth have limited access to computers. Sasha Bruce has a long history of filling gaps in available support services for youth in the Washington, DC area.

The recommendation meets a key goal of the DC Community Initiative which is to support youth development and organizations that build leadership skills, foster civic engagement and/or promote development among diverse young people.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League.
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To support the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League's Youth Advocacy Internship program that addresses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth issues by advocating for positive social change in the Washington D.C. community
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	None
<u>Organization Budget:</u>	\$939,592
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$66,895
<u>Source of Support:</u>	Center for Disease Control and Prevention; Children's National Medical Center; Washington Area Women's Foundation; Miller-Wehltre Family Foundation; Community Foundation of the National Capital Region; Morrison & Foerster Foundation; Dorothy Bender Foundation; Washington AIDS Partnership; Office Depot Foundation; Rocking Moon Foundation; Capitol Hill Community Foundation; United Way Community Impact Fund; Capital Group Companies
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$30,000
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$30,000
<u>Term:</u>	August 1, 2009 – July 30, 2010 (1 year)

Description of Organization:

The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in the Washington, DC area. SMYAL seeks to empower LGBTQ minority youth to understand and advocate on issues within their schools and communities which adversely affect their lives by providing them with support services, health services, life skills and leadership development, and the implementation of gay straight alliance support within local area schools. SMYAL provides safe spaces for youth who may feel alienated and alone within their schools and communities. SMYAL's programs, which occur in both their Youth Center on Capitol Hill and in area schools, include a youth support group; HIV testing, counseling and referral services; an interactive discussion group, and the Youth Advocacy Internship. SMYAL staff and youth advocates also educate local youth service providers and schools to be allies to LGBTQ youth to ensure a safer community for all LGBTQ young people. These projects combine various social opportunities while reinforcing education and advocacy as necessary tools for full civic participation.

SMYAL has been featured in the 2008-2009 Catalogue of Philanthropy for their work with HIV prevention and support services to underserved youth. SMYAL has increased youth participation in its HIV prevention education, testing and referral programming as well as in its Brotherhood University Retreats. Brotherhood University is an intervention program dedicated to HIV prevention education, testing, and referrals for young African-American gay men ages 16 – 21. SMYAL has held four retreats over the past year with 34 young men completing the program. The organization is dedicated to

promoting and supporting self-confident, healthy, productive lives for LGBTQ youth as they journey from adolescence into adulthood.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

SMYAL requests project support for its Youth Advocacy Internship. In 2008, SMYAL initiated its Youth Advocacy Internship to specifically work with LGBTQ minority and ally youth over a 9 month period, developing leadership skills, increasing knowledge of and awareness about LGBTQ issues, promoting tolerance and advocating for positive social change. The internship is designed to train 10 youth advocates to train others to advocate for the LGBTQ community; increase knowledge of LGBTQ cultural competency, rights and advocacy; increase interns skill competency in the areas of communication, group work, public speaking and leadership; co-lead LGBTQ awareness workshops for community organizations and local schools, and organize advocacy projects over the course of the school year.

The goal of the Youth Advocacy Internship program is to train youth to understand and advocate for social change that will positively impact their lives and communities. SMYAL's organizational project partners include Radio Rootz-DC, District of Columbia Chavez, Dunbar, Bell Multicultural, Eastern and Wilson High schools, the Youth Risk Survey Advisory Board and various gay/straight youth alliances throughout the Washington, DC metro area.

Rationale for Recommendation:

SMYAL has over 24 years of experience working with LGBTQ minority youth living in the Washington, DC area. It is the only organization in the Washington, DC metro region dedicated solely to supporting LGBTQ youth. Social research shows that LGBTQ youth are at greater risk than their heterosexual peers for many negative health outcomes, including HIV infection, substance abuse, physical abuse, homelessness, dropping out of school and suicide. Confirming these risk factors is the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, a bi-annual report released by the District of Columbia Public Schools, in partnership with SMYAL which included, for the first time, statistics related to LGBTQ youth. Despite increasing acceptance of gay and lesbian sexual orientation, young minority and economically disadvantaged youth continue to experience harassment and violence in schools. Programs like SMYAL are therefore vital to ensuring young people have programming that helps to empower them to raise awareness of LGBTQ youth issues while providing them with tools and opportunities to advocate for positive social change. An OSI grant would support the continuation of the leadership development opportunities provided by the Youth Advocacy Internship program and to also leverage other resources. The grant meets a key goal of the DC Community Initiative to support organizations that build leadership skills, foster civic engagement and/or promote development among diverse young people.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	The Family Place
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To provide general support
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	None
<u>Organization Budget:</u>	\$628,990
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$N/A
<u>Source of Support:</u>	Abell Foundation; Cafritz Foundation; Clark-Winchole Foundation; Community Foundation; CSG Foundation; Delmar Foundation; Fannie Mae Foundation; Gannet Foundation; Hattie-Strong Foundation; Inter-American Development Bank; Kairos Trust; Katherine Pollard Maddox Memorial Health Foundation; Mead Family Foundation; Meyer Foundation; Philip Graham Fund; PNC Foundation; Ravenal Foundation; Ronald McDonald Charities; Rotary Foundation; Target Foundation; District of Columbia Public School Event Start; District of Columbia Office of Latino Affairs; District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$30,000
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$30,000
<u>Term:</u>	August 1, 2009 – July 30, 2010 (1 year)

Description of Organization:

The Family Place (TFP) serves about 400 families a year, offering a welcoming, culturally respectful environment for families to come together, find support, enroll in classes and link to services customized to fit their specific needs. TFP programs are organized to address the physical and developmental health of children, stabilize and nurture resilient families and increase literacy and self-sufficiency. TFP provides comprehensive case management, strategic social services, drop in access and hospitality to often newly-arrived young families living in linguistically isolated households which speak little to no English. TFP helps to ensure the optimal physical and developmental health of children ages 0-5 in the Washington, D.C. area and serves low-income working and unemployed parents, the majority of who are immigrants from Central America and Mexico. Their programs include a Spanish language literacy program, *Plaza Comunitaria*; a comprehensive English family literacy program for children and adults; a domestic violence support group for Latinas, *Mujeres Truinfantes*; and a parent resource center and support group.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

TFP requests general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

In 1980 TFP was the District's first family support organization targeting the needs of low-income, minority and immigrant families through a comprehensive range of child and family-driven programs and

services. TFP provides the only Spanish language domestic violence group support program in the District of Columbia, making them the only resource for immigrant Latino families directed to participate in court-ordered anger-management treatment. Because of a lack of resources for this marginalized community and due to the economic slump, TFP has seen a rise in, and has responded to the increased need for, domestic violence counseling and financial assistance.

TFP is often the first social services contact for newly-arrived Latino families. TFP's policy of open access provides their clients with the necessary comfort to investigate and utilize TFP's various support services. Using case managers and counselors, health and education instructors, TFP assesses the evolving needs of its clients to better address this marginalized community's specific barriers to successful community integration and participation. As an acknowledgement of the effective work they are doing, TFP won a 2009 grant award from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy Grants for its Comprehensive Family Literacy Project.

This recommendation meets a key goal of the DC Community Initiative to address the needs of low-income families through support of organizations that provide direct services, engage in advocacy, and offer solutions to the unique problems faced by low and no-income families.

SOF 7/09 Docket

<u>Name of Organization</u>	Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers
<u>Tax Status</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	To support strategic grantmaking, technical assistance, public policy initiatives, and investment in youth development in the Washington, DC metropolitan region through the Washington AIDS Partnership
<u>Previous OSI Support</u>	\$235,000.00 (OSI-DC Community Grants Initiative through SOF Fund 2006 – 2008)
<u>Organization Budget</u>	\$3,827,507.00
<u>Project Budget</u>	\$1,375,700.00
<u>Source of Support</u>	Diane and Norman Bernstein Foundation, Inc., Carter and Melissa Cafritz Charitable Trust, World Bank, Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Capital Classic Tennis Event, Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, Consumer Health Foundation, CFNCR –Anonymous Donor-Advised Fund, Herbet J. and Dianne J. Lerner Foundation, Meyer Foundation, Freddie Mac Foundation, Gannett Foundation, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Corina Higginson Trust, International Monetary Fund, John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation, Jenesis Group, Kaiser Permanente, Mead Family Foundation, Moriah Fund, Morningstar Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Rocksprings Foundation, Chris and Nalini Rogers, Smith-Evans Foundation, Trellis Fund, Wachovia Foundation, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Weissberg Foundation
<u>Amount Requested</u>	\$80,000.00
<u>Amount Recommended</u>	\$80,000.00
<u>Term</u>	September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010

Description of Organization

The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers (Washington Grantmakers) is a diverse membership organization that promotes and supports effective and responsible philanthropy through: advocacy for the philanthropic community; leadership and support in the philanthropic sector; promotion of inclusion in the field; and fostering partnerships within the philanthropic community in the National Capital region. The membership consists of independent, community, operating and corporate foundations; as well as charitable trusts and corporate giving programs like the Casey Foundation, Moriah Fund, and Bank One. The association helps identify, support, and advance effective leadership in the philanthropic sector in addition to leveraging resources to effectively address regional issues through sustained action. Washington Grantmakers believes that collaborative philanthropic approaches are a more effective means of improving quality of life issues for people living in the DC metropolitan region. Washington Grantmakers works to identify and implement innovative forms of philanthropy through its collaboratives, working groups, and affinity groups, which promote new models and approaches to community needs while sharing best practices.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

The Washington AIDS Partnership (Partnership) is a collaboration of grantmaking organizations that leads an effective private-sector response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Washington, DC metropolitan area through strategic grantmaking, technical assistance, public policy initiatives, and investment in youth development through an AmeriCorps program. The Partnership works to reduce the number of HIV infections and improve the lives of those already infected by HIV/AIDS in the DC metropolitan region. One hundred and thirty organizations have received over \$14 million from the Partnership since its inception in 1989.

The Partnership is a funding collaborative that has supported social service organizations (e.g., Miriam's House), prevention programs (e.g., Us Helping Us and Metro TeenAIDS), and public policy advocates (e.g., DC Appleseed Center and Our Place, DC). Funding members include foundations like Bernstein, Cafritz, Mead, and Elton John AIDS foundations in addition to others like the Exxon Mobil Corporation, Higginson Trust, and Wachovia Foundation. The Washington Grantmakers' board of directors ratifies the Partnership's annual budget and bi-annual grant dockets. By pooling resources to support prevention, public policy, advocacy, and social service programs, the Partnership is well equipped to provide technical assistance, develop strategy, invest in projects, and advance public policy initiatives. Recognizing the need for innovative projects that reach marginalized populations, the Partnership has supported non-normative organizations that may not receive foundation funding such as HIPS (Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive), which provides education and prevention services to commercial sex workers in the District. The AIDS Partnership also has a joint venture with AmeriCorps, which provides 10-12 volunteers every year to work full-time at local HIV/AIDS organizations.

Rationale for Recommendation

OSI-DC Community Grants Initiative solicited the AIDS Partnership proposal for a fourth year for two reasons: (a) to continue to focus its grantmaking on HIV/AIDS projects, and (b) to continue to partner with local philanthropic organizations and learn about the programs being funded, where additional aid is needed, and identify opportunities for collaboration. The AIDS Partnership has provided the right opportunity to meet these objectives. The Partnership's five strategic areas (HIV Prevention, Public Policy, Medical Morale, Support & Social Services, and Technical Assistance) are a comprehensive approach towards reducing the rate of new infections and improving the lives of persons infected by HIV/AIDS. The Partnership recognizes that prevention - often under-funded in this region - not only saves human lives but also curtails the loss of productivity by the HIV-infected and affected persons as well as the economic drain on families, friends, and society. Similarly, the Washington AIDS Partnership has taken a multifaceted approach to advocacy and support services in an effort to reduce the devastating effects HIV/AIDS has in the DC metropolitan community.

OSI-DC has prioritized participation in this initiative as an important philanthropic investment that enables OSI-DC to partner with other philanthropies.

<u>Name of Organization:</u>	Public Interest Projects
<u>Tax Status:</u>	501(c)(3) public charity
<u>Purpose of Grant:</u>	To support the U.S. Human Rights Fund's Sub-Fund for Domestic Human Rights Accountability
<u>Previous OSI Support:</u>	\$7,800,000 \$5,675,000 from U.S. Justice Fund (2003-2009) \$1,425,000 from U.S. Programs (2001-2008) \$150,000 from Presidential Grants (2008) \$125,000 from Central Eurasia Project (2003) \$425,000 from Law & Society (2001-2003)
<u>Organization Budget:</u>	U.S. Human Rights Fund: \$4,940,447 (2009)
<u>Project Budget:</u>	\$1,800,000 (2009)
<u>Sources of Support:</u>	U.S. Human Rights Fund: Atlantic Philanthropies \$1,505,000; Ford Foundation \$805,000; Mertz Gilmore Foundation \$250,000; Anonymous \$200,000; Overbrook Foundation \$100,000; Libra Foundation \$100,000; Fund for Nonviolence \$50,000; Butler Family Foundation \$10,000; Diogenes Charitable Foundation \$2,500
<u>Amount Requested:</u>	\$500,000 over two years
<u>Amount Recommended:</u>	\$500,000 [Strategic Opportunities Fund, T1: 21082]
<u>Term:</u>	Two years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011)
<u>Matching Requirements:</u>	None

Description of Organization

Public Interest Projects (“PIP”) operates grantmaking, technical assistance, and strategic planning programs for institutional and individual donors interested in social justice and human rights. PIP has incubated a number of nonprofit organizations, including the Environmental Support Center, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and Taxpayers for Common Sense. It also administers re-granting collaboratives, including the U.S. Human Rights Fund and the Four Freedoms Fund (supported by OSI).

The U.S. Human Rights Fund (the “Fund”), established in 2005 and housed at PIP, is a re-granting collaborative which provides strategic, field-building support to organizations that use human rights strategies to advance social justice in the U.S. The Fund’s grants focus on legal and policy advocacy, human rights training and education, networking, and communications support. The Fund has two sub-funds, one on ending juvenile life without parole (supported by a separate grant from OSI), and one on advancing domestic human rights accountability (support for which is recommended in this docket). In its first four years, the Fund has raised over \$14 million from 13 institutional and private donors.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

The U.S. Human Rights Fund seeks a grant of \$500,000 over two years to support the Sub-Fund on Domestic Human Rights Accountability. This three-year sub-fund will provide coordinated financial and technical support to the Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda (the “Campaign”) and related human rights accountability initiatives.

The Campaign is a coalition effort to advance the objectives developed in *Human Rights at Home: A Domestic Blueprint for the New Administration* (the “Blueprint”). Released by the American Constitution Society in October 2008, the Blueprint was authored by Catherine Powell and developed with a bipartisan group of scholars, former policy-makers, and advocates¹, with the support of the U.S. Human Rights Fund.

Campaign objectives include chartering a federal Interagency Working Group on Human Rights (the “Working Group”) and creating an independent and nonpartisan U.S. Commission on Civil and Human Rights (the “Commission”) linked to a stronger network of state and local human rights agencies. The Working Group, which would be established by executive order, would coordinate the federal response to U.S. human rights compliance that, historically, has fallen between the cracks of the foreign and domestic arms of government and various departments and agencies. The Commission would provide expertise and oversight to advance U.S. compliance with international human rights, and could serve as a nonpartisan broker in conducting inquiries into allegations of particular human rights violations by government actors. Its establishment would require legislation² to drastically overhaul and strengthen the existing U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, expanding its purview and reforming its appointments process.

To advance these objectives, the Campaign is undertaking high-level policy advocacy, and is linking policy-focused organizations inside the beltway with grassroots advocates and working to strengthen and expand the human rights constituency nationwide. In its work with local organizations, the Campaign is initially prioritizing the mobilization of constituencies in states represented by members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. On the national level, organizations such as the ACLU and Rights Working Group plan to engage their affiliates in this work, and the Leadership Conference has led efforts to involve larger social change organizations, including the National Organization for Women, National Council of La Raza, NAACP, Cherokee Nation, and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, in the Campaign. The International Association of Human Rights Agencies is also mobilizing its membership of 160 local human rights commissioners in support of these reforms.

The Campaign is being led by the original participants in the Blueprint project, many of whom are OSI grantees. The leadership includes national organizations such as the ACLU, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Amnesty International USA, and the Rights Working Group, and Laura Murphy, former Director of the Washington Legislative Office of the ACLU, has been serving since January 2009 as Campaign Strategist, focusing on executive branch and congressional outreach.³

¹ Blueprint Advisory Group members included: Ann Beeson, Wendy Patten, and Steve Rickard; Harold Hongju Koh, Yale Law School; Sarah Cleveland, Columbia Law School; Elisa Massimino, Human Rights First; Jamil Dakwar, ACLU; David Fathi and Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch; Ben Jealous, NAACP; John Payton, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Margaret Huang, Rights Working Group; Lisa Magarrell, International Center for Transitional Justice; Vincent Warren, Center for Constitutional Rights; Christopher Edley, UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law; Eric Schwartz, formerly of the Connect U.S. Fund; John Shattuck, formerly of the JFK Library Foundation; and Chris Stone, Harvard Kennedy School, among others.

² PIP has secured c4 funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies and has a separate c4 funding mechanism in place.

³ Over the next year, 25-50% of Laura Murphy’s time will be spent on c3 Campaign activities.

The Sub-Fund plays a coordinating role for the Campaign, helping ensure that strategies are carefully developed and roles between leading organizations are clear. Sub-Fund staff actively monitors Campaign efforts by attending meetings and being part of the Campaign listservs and teleconferences, and lead organizations have indicated a need for the Fund's assistance as a neutral player moving forward. The Sub-Fund will provide direct support to Campaign efforts through grants to key partner organizations, support for a full-time Campaign Coordinator, professional communications support, and support for complementary field-building activities.

Rationale for Recommendation

This grant will strengthen mechanisms for the protection of human rights and thus advances the full range of U.S. Programs priorities. The grant will also specifically advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's and Transparency and Integrity Fund's priority of promoting government accountability and the Democracy and Power Fund's goal of supporting transformative policy development deeply linked to grassroots communities.

President Obama has appointed human rights champions to high level agency posts and has pledged to "stand up for human rights, by example at home and by effort abroad." While progress under the Obama administration has been largely disappointing on national security related human rights issues, there is high-level support for the Blueprint recommendations, and a strong coalition of respected civil and human rights organizations have worked diligently over the last several months to build a constituency for this work.

The Campaign seeks to build an effective domestic human rights monitoring and enforcement mechanism through the creation of the Interagency Working Group on Human Rights, which will function as a high-level implementing body. The Working Group would provide a much needed mechanism to address the perennial dysfunction in U.S. human rights accountability which arises from the split between human rights and civil rights law and policy within the U.S. government, and the siloing of rights protections in various federal agencies. The need for the Working Group can be seen, for example, in the lack of coordination around broad human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which implicate multiple U.S. agencies. Currently, the State Department is responsible for representing the U.S. at treaty compliance hearings, but it doesn't consider implementation of U.N. directives arising out of these hearings as part of its responsibility, and agencies responsible for remedying non-compliance, such as the Department of Justice and Housing and Urban Development, are not part of the process. The Working Group could also prevent any single office from monopolizing domestic human rights policy without transparency and safeguards, which will help to avoid abuses like those seen regarding detention and interrogation policy in the Justice Department under the Bush Administration. The Campaign has advocated at a high level for the Working Group, and senior staff members within the Domestic Policy Council and the Department of Justice, among other departments, view the creation of such an implementation body on human rights as advisable and achievable.

While a longer and more difficult goal to achieve, the creation of an independent, nonpartisan monitoring body such as the Commission on Civil and Human Rights would significantly enhance human rights accountability in the U.S. The current Commission on Civil Rights, once the "conscience of the nation," has been politicized and has often been silent or on the wrong side of issues such as hate crimes, police misconduct, and racial profiling. If properly reconstituted, the Commission would play a valuable role in issuing reports and recommendations to the executive branch and Congress, contributing to the reports the U.S. submits to international bodies, developing programs for teaching and training on human rights issues, and conducting investigations and hearings into human rights complaints. The Commission's investigatory reports could provide neutral fact finding on social justice issues and hold to account

government agencies (such as Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency) which are moving too slowly to correct rights violations.

Ancillary benefits of the Sub-Fund's work will include: an increased Washington, D.C. presence for local, state, and national human rights advocates; improved education of Congress and the Executive branch about international human rights standards and obligations; greater shared communications expertise and capacity amongst advocates; better linkages between national and state-based human rights advocacy; enhanced recognition of the leadership and engagement of affected populations in domestic human rights advocacy; and increased public awareness about domestic human rights obligations. Through its efforts to build a domestic human rights constituency connected to federal policy advocacy, the Campaign will help address the significant challenge, articulated by a high level Congressional staffer this spring, faced by advocates advancing policy reform on a number of progressive issues – the continued perception in Congress that human rights advocates do not come to the table backed by a relevant constituency.

The Campaign presents a significant opportunity to advance specific monitoring and accountability mechanisms while building up the base of support for human rights nationwide. An impressive range of groups and experts is involved in the Campaign, and a number of its initial advisors (e.g. Harold Koh and Eric Schwartz) are now working inside the Administration. Catherine Powell, who spearheaded the project, will now join Anne-Marie Slaughter in the State Department office of the Policy Planning Staff. U.S. Programs staff has consulted extensively with Steve Rickard and Wendy Patten, who remain involved in the Campaign and are supportive of this grant.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$500,000 over two years to support the U.S. Human Rights Fund's Sub-Fund for Domestic Human Rights Accountability.