

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FUND
Docket I – May 3, 2010
Planned Grant Recommendation Blurbs
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The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) responds in a timely manner to unforeseen crises or open society challenges that impact US Program’s mission as well as initiatives that are short-term and/or of high impact through its flexible grantmaking strategies.

Organizations that will be recommended for grant approval represent a broad range of activities including tie-off legacy support for a project that seeks to defend academic freedom; a rapid response grant that will be jointly recommended with EOF to provide critical legal support for Haitians living in the US who seek to apply for Temporary Protected Status following the aftermath of the January 12th earthquake; and a grant that will be supported out of the Chairman’s Office to expand end-of-life care options and dignity in dying for people with terminal illnesses.

Legacy

American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation Free Exchange on Campus Coalition

\$110,500 for 1 year (project support)

The American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation is the 501(c)(3) arm of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The AFT is an independent trade union representing over one million teachers – in both the K-12 and higher education sectors – and other workers in education and other professions. AFT houses the Free Exchange on Campus Coalition that aims to defend free expression on campus from ideological and political restrictions in order to ensure open intellectual discussion in higher education. This grant will ensure that the foundation laid by the work of AFT and its coalition partners over the last three and a half years can be maintained and that the coalition will continue to be able to respond to attacks on open intellectual discussion in higher education for the foreseeable future.

Rapid Response

Fund for New Citizens

up to \$120,000 over 18 months – to be confirmed; to be co-funded with EOF (project support)

The Fund for New Citizens is a funding collaborative at The New York Community Trust and has been a leader in awarding grants to immigrant, community and legal groups to provide immigration legal help to immigrants and the integration of immigrants into the civic and economic life of New York City since 1987. The Fund will support community-based legal services for Haitians living in New York City that may be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a special designation for protection declared by the Department of Homeland Security on

January 21, 2010. An estimated 15,000-25,000 Haitians immigrants living in New York City are eligible to apply for TPS for the 6-month application period ending July 21, 2010. The Fund will re-grant to 3 organizations providing high-quality immigration legal services throughout the 18 months, and will coordinate a communications campaign to ensure that accurate information regarding TPS reaches the community.

Chairmen's Grant

Compassion and Choices - *Chairman's Grant with due diligence by SOF*
\$4m over 2 years – to be confirmed (general support)

Compassion and Choices, a nonprofit organization, improves care and expands choice at the end of life. They carry out their mission by supporting individuals and families facing important end of life choices; educating the public, health care professionals, lawmakers and the media on end-of-life issues; and advocating for compassionate end-of-life care in legislatures, in courtrooms and at bedsides. They have worked in a number of states including Oregon, Montana, and Connecticut with the medical community, the general public and individuals facing end-of-life decisions to ensure that competent terminally ill patients are afforded individual privacy, choices in end of life treatment, and human dignity in their last hours. Formerly known as Compassion in Dying, the organization is a past grantee of US Programs.