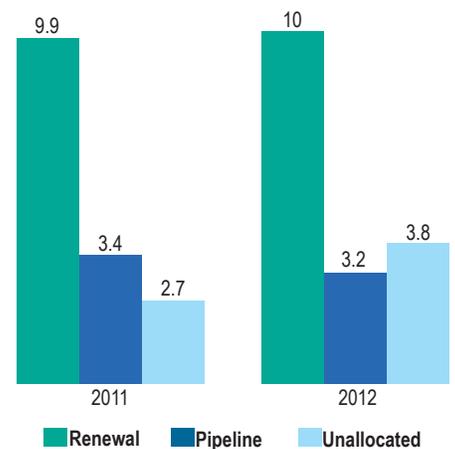
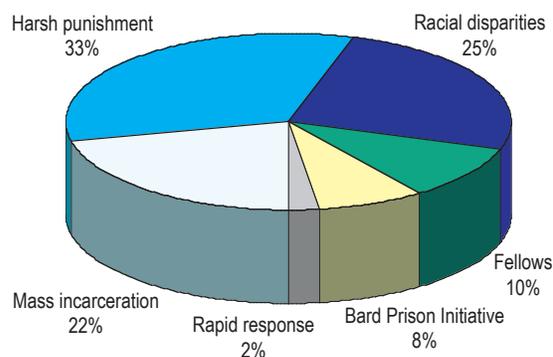
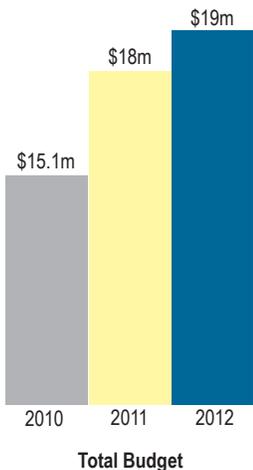


Criminal Justice Fund

The Criminal Justice Fund has three core priorities: reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment, and eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair system of justice. Through its programming, grantmaking, and fellowships, the fund seeks to reduce the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the United States.

Goals	2010	2011	2012	
Reduce mass incarceration Attack the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration; eliminate harsh and unjust sentencing policies; reform parole and probation practices; support reinvestment of savings from reductions in incarceration into civil institutions.	\$3	\$3.4	\$3.7	
Eliminate harsh punishment Develop opportunities for and eliminate unreasonable barriers to reintegration for people with criminal histories; end the treatment of children as adults in prosecution/sentencing; abolish the death penalty; challenge harsh immigrant detention practices.	\$4.5	\$5.4	\$5.7	
Secure a fair system of justice and eliminate racial disparities Reform police and prosecution practices; improve indigent defense services and systems; reform policies that criminalize immigrants.	\$3	\$4	\$4.3	
Soros Justice Fellowships Support outstanding individuals, including lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, activist academics, journalists, and filmmakers, to implement innovative projects that address one or more of U.S. Programs' criminal justice reform priorities.	\$1.3	\$1.6	\$1.7	
Bard Prison Initiative Support a national institute to promote the restoration of higher education in prisons through seeding and developing, in ten states, college programs that replicate BPI's New York model and conducting research, education, and advocacy nationally.	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.3	
Rapid response	\$0	\$0.3	\$0.3	
	Grantmaking:	\$13.1	\$16	\$17
	Program Development:	\$2	\$2	\$2
	Total Budget:	\$15.1	\$18	\$19



Criminal Justice Fund in Context: 2010-2012

The External Climate for Reform

The fiscal crisis has forced both policymakers and the general public to confront the excessive costs of decades of overuse of incarceration and other harsh punishment practices. The willingness to explore the use of alternatives to incarceration, expand access to drug treatment in lieu of imprisonment, and reform parole and probation practices presents a unique window of opportunity. Similarly, greater appreciation of the need to support the successful reintegration into society of those leaving prison and others with criminal records is an opening for advocacy to provide opportunities within the emerging green economy, remove barriers imposed by current employment application and licensing practices, and provide meaningful access to housing and education. At the same time, however, the body politic remains fixated on perceptions of crime and concerns for security that lead to continued practices that feed the jail and prison systems: excessive policing, particularly in low-income urban areas largely inhabited by people of color; aggressive enforcement practices targeting undocumented immigrants; lengthy sentences and inflexible parole release policies for those convicted of violent or sexual offenses or those with prior convictions, including juveniles; and the demonization and social exclusion of those convicted of sexual offenses. Moreover, the economic dependence on prisons that many communities – largely rural – have developed makes structural reform politically complicated.

Supporting the Field

Philanthropic support for criminal justice reform remains extremely limited. The Criminal Justice Fund has spearheaded an effort to support growth of resources through the development of the Criminal Justice Funders Network, and will continue to support the initiative in 2011-12. CJF will also work, in conjunction with USP's new state-based initiative, to strengthen the capacity of organizations already engaged in reform work in targeted regions, better connect work across CJF goals, and integrate criminal justice reform work with broader efforts.

Collaborating with Other U.S. Programs

In 2011-12 CJF will continue to partner with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement to address the "school-to-prison pipeline" through advocacy to reduce the role of school-based law enforcement and referrals to the juvenile justice system, and with the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation to enhance education and employment opportunities for marginalized youth and individuals with prior criminal justice system involvement. CJF's interest in addressing harsh enforcement and detention practices targeting immigrants will complement the Equality and Opportunity Fund's broader immigration policy reform efforts. CJF will work with the Democracy and Power Fund in encouraging multi-issue grassroots networks to engage on criminal justice issues, and will partner with the Transparency and Integrity Fund to explore efforts to improve the functioning of the courts through the development of justice indexes.

Criminal Justice and Open Society

The United States far outpaces other democratic societies in its use of incarceration, exceeding 2 million people in prison or jail, with an additional 5 million people under parole or probation supervision. This mass incarceration and control, along with other excesses of the criminal justice system, represents one of the most critical arenas for addressing the overreach of government, the unequal use of its power to disenfranchise people with limited political and economic resources, and the perpetuation of historic racially discriminatory practices.

Variances from 2010 to 2011-12

With the increase in grant funds, CJF anticipates expanded or new efforts within each of its top three program goals.

Reduce Mass Incarceration

CJF projects an increase of \$400,000 in grants in 2011 and an additional increase of \$300,000 in 2012. This funding will enhance state-based capacity to advocate for sentencing reform, and will expand grantmaking to support advocacy and coalition-building efforts targeted toward communities financially reliant on prison economies to support reduction of incarceration and the creation of more viable economies.

Eliminate Harsh Punishment

An increase of \$900,000 in 2011 and an additional \$300,000 in 2012 will support state-based campaigns challenging the prosecution of children as adults and extreme sentencing of juveniles; grants challenging expansion of immigrant detention; and expanded advocacy to ensure opportunities for employment for people with prior criminal justice contact in the emerging green economy and other living-wage, sustainable jobs.

Secure a Fair System of Justice and Eliminate Racial Disparities

CJF projects an increase of \$1 million in grantmaking in 2011 and an additional \$300,000 in 2012 to support the development of the police accountability portfolio, bolster advocacy efforts to address expanded immigrant enforcement practices, and further indigent defense reform by building local advocacy capacity in states ripe for reform.

Goals	Lead Grantees	2010 Accomplishments and Program-Development Activities
<p>Reduce mass incarceration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing Project • Families Against Mandatory Minimums • Council on State Governments • Justice Strategies • The Corp Network • Justice Policy Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of criminal justice policies throughout the U.S. gains support among policymakers. • Justice reinvestment concept continues to spread, including introduction of Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act in Congress. • Nineteen states adopted criminal justice policies to reduce incarceration. Michigan, New Jersey, and New York reduced their prison populations by at least 12% in the past decade and saw no increase in crime.
<p>Eliminate harsh punishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Employment Law Project • Equal Justice Initiative • Campaign for Youth Justice • Texas Defender Service • Innocence Project • Constitution Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful local hiring initiatives in five jurisdictions removed the question on government job applications asking about an individual's criminal history and deferred criminal-background checks until the final stages of the hiring process. • U.S. Supreme Court banned sentencing juveniles to life without the possibility of parole in non-homicide cases. • New death sentences at historic lows.
<p>Secure a fair system of justice and eliminate racial disparities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Legal Aid and Defender Association • National Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers • Immigrant Defense Project • National Juvenile Defender Center • Southern Center for Human Rights • Vera Institute of Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court challenges to inadequate indigent defense systems allowed to proceed in Michigan and New York. • U.S. Dept. of Justice created Access to Justice office to examine national indigent defense crisis. • U.S. Supreme Court ruled that non-citizens facing criminal charges be counseled regarding potential deportation consequences of conviction.
<p>Soros Justice Fellowships</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful release of two books by Fellows exposing deficiencies in the justice system: <i>Texas Tough</i> by Robert Perkinson and <i>The New Jim Crow</i> by Michelle Alexander. • Fellow Susan Burton named "CNN Hero." • Radio story by Justice Fellow exposing deficiencies in California parole release practices aired on NPR.
<p>Bard Prison Initiative</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesleyan University signed agreement with BPI and the Cheshire Correctional Institution in Connecticut and launched a BPI prison education replication program. • BPI launched development plan and assessment of current BPI programming in New York.

Continuing Challenges

Political pressure to be “tough on crime” and economic dependence of rural economies on prisons are ongoing challenges, as are state fiscal crises that undermine advocacy for greater investment in communities most impacted by destructive criminal justice policies.

Significant support for extreme punishment continues, including prosecuting children as adults and use of the death penalty. An opening for reform does not yet extend to lengthy sentences imposed on those accused of violent crime or the ever-expanding banishment of those accused of sexual offenses. Support for harsh treatment of immigrants, particularly those accused of illegal activity, presents new advocacy needs.

Fiscal distress in the states is a significant barrier to improvement of indigent defense systems. Expansion of aggressive enforcement policies targeting undocumented immigrants presents a need for enhanced advocacy to challenge both law enforcement and detention practices. Endorsement of “zero tolerance” policing in urban areas continues to drive racial disparities in arrest and prosecution.

Diversifying the Fellowship applicant pool has proven difficult. Fellows face ongoing challenges related to leadership development, building communications capacity, and sustaining projects post-Fellowship.

Political issues surrounding access to higher education in prison, coupled with state budget cuts affecting colleges, complicate efforts to replicate BPI.

2011-12 Forecast

Strategies

- Support efforts to help states reduce reliance on incarceration
- Help communities reliant on prisons advocate for reform that addresses their economic issues
- Develop communications capacity to reframe the dialogue
- Host forums on economics of incarceration; convene formerly incarcerated people leading advocacy groups

- Increase employment opportunities for those with criminal records
- Identify key states for advocacy challenging prosecution of children as adults and sentencing youth to life without parole
- Continue leadership in Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty
- Explore supporting advocacy to address harsh sex offender rules

- Expand indigent defense reform efforts to include state-based, grassroots advocacy
- Support campaigns to challenge excessive police practices in New York City and 2 to 3 jurisdictions
- Support advocacy efforts to confront enforcement and detention practices targeting immigrants
- Convene advocates working on police accountability efforts

- Use current and former Fellows for targeted outreach to under-represented populations
- Reach out more strategically to partners and OSI network
- Support opportunities for Fellows’ professional development

- Use BPI to advocate for prisoners’ access to higher education
- Monitor BPI’s business plan
- Support advocacy for higher education in and after prison

Impact

- Continued reduction in levels of incarceration
- Expansion of coalition supportive of structural reform
- Increased number and capacity of advocacy organizations led by the formerly incarcerated
- Enhanced public awareness and discussion about current destructive policies/practices and viable long-term alternatives

- Greater employment in living-wage jobs for people with prior contact with the criminal justice system
- Reduction in the number of children prosecuted as adults and sentenced to die in prison
- Reduced number of death sentences and executions

- Increased support and success of indigent defense reform campaigns in Michigan, New York, Louisiana, Texas, and California
- Increased momentum for reform of excessive policing in New York City
- Reduced use of immigration detention practices; abated efforts to expand local immigration enforcement practices

- More applications from people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system and people of color, particularly Latinos
- Increased sustainability of Fellows’ work through enhanced skills

- Expansion of opportunities for higher education in prisons in New York and other states
- Restored financial aid for earning college degrees in and after prison