

## Summer 2010 Docket Cover Memos: Contents

<u>Document</u>	<u>Page</u>
Criminal Justice Fund (June 2010)	2
Campaign for a New Drug Policy (June 2010)	8
Criminal Justice Fund (August 2010)	10
Democracy and Power Fund (June 2010)	11
Equality and Opportunity Fund (July 2010)	17
National Security and Human Rights Campaign (July 2010)	22
Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation (June 2010)	24
Strategic Opportunities Fund (July 2010)	27
Strategic Opportunities Fund (June 2010)	29
Transparency and Integrity Fund (June 2010)	30

(To go to a specific document, click “menu,” then hold the “alt” key and type the page number for the document (you will see the numbers you type in a window across the bottom of the screen), then click enter, which is the button with the arrow. The Kindle will take you to that document, and you can use the “next page” and “previous page” bars to navigate through it.)

**Memo**

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff

Date: 23 June 2010

Re: Criminal Justice Fund Docket II Grant Recommendations

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The Criminal Justice Fund recommends twenty-one (21) grants totaling \$6,295,000<sup>1</sup> on its second docket for 2010. Nineteen of the grants are renewals, five to core Criminal Justice Fund partners: **Families Against Mandatory Minimums, The Sentencing Project, Innocence Project, National Juvenile Defender Center and Equal Justice Initiative**. The recommendations for first time funding would support the **Michigan Council for Crime and Delinquency** to plan an expansion of the Civic Justice Corps concept to provide training inside state prisons to prepare inmates to connect with existing community-based Corps upon release, and would strengthen the capacity of a nationally recognized group of parent advocates, **Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children**. Three of these grants would advance our goals of reducing mass incarceration; nine support our efforts to eliminate harsh punishment, including six to advance the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty. Six grants would further our goal of eliminating racial disparities and ensuring a fair and equitable justice system in the United States, one of which, to **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**, will support an essential research project on the causal connection between New York City policing practices and the decline in crime. Three grantees, **Equal Justice Initiative, Juvenile Law Center and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None** advance multiple CJF priorities, and three grants, to **Juvenile Regional Services, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children** and the **Vera Institute of Justice** support our reform efforts in New Orleans and Louisiana more broadly.

**I. Reducing Mass Incarceration**

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)**, \$450,000 general support grant renewal over two years (\$200,000 from Criminal Justice Fund, \$250,000 from JEHT Emergency Fund) to support sentencing reform efforts. Over the next two years, FAMM will continue its efforts to eliminate or limit the reach of federal mandatory minimum sentencing laws, by preserving and increasing judicial discretion, expanding the use of the clemency power, and preventing restoration of mandatory guidelines. FAMM will also continue its state-level sentencing reform campaigns in Michigan, Massachusetts, Nevada, and New Jersey, begin a campaign in Florida, and explore other states for possible campaigns.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the \$6,295,000 in grants recommended this docket, \$3,970,000 comes from the Criminal Justice Fund; \$1,775,000 is from the JEHT Emergency Fund; \$400,000 is from the Seize the Day Fund; \$25,000 is from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement; and \$125,000 is from the Strategic Opportunity Fund.

**Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD)**, \$50,000 project support over one year to develop a plan for replicating the Civic Justice Corps (CJC) in the Michigan state prison system and establish CJC demonstration programs in up to two prisons in the state. OSI funding would enable MCCD to continue working in partnership with the Justice Reinvestment Work Group, established by the Council of State Governments, and the Michigan Department of Corrections to develop a plan for creating and sustaining Civic Justice Corps programming in Michigan state prisons, connecting in-prison programming to Civic Justice Corps demonstration projects in the community in order to promote early service release for CJC members, and establish at least one pilot in a Michigan state prison.

**The Sentencing Project**, \$550,000 general support grant renewal over two years. The Sentencing Project engages in research, public education, and policy advocacy to reduce the United States reliance on incarceration and reduce racial disparities and ensure a more fair and effective criminal justice system. Its priorities include identifying the financial and social costs of prison expansion and the limits of incarceration for strengthening public safety; promoting viable options for sentencing and drug policy reform and greater use of alternatives to incarceration; reducing racial disparities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems; reforming national and state felony disenfranchisement policies; and building capacity among state organizations for advocacy by enhancing communication and fostering collaboration and providing technical, campaign, and research assistance to state-level advocates.

## **II. Eliminating Harsh Punishment**

**Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC)**, \$125,000 general support over one year (\$100,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund, \$25,000 from the Campaign for Black Male Achievement). FFLIC is a statewide organization that advocates for a better life for all of Louisiana's youth, especially those involved in, or targeted by, the juvenile justice system. FLLIC engages in education, community building, and leadership development for parents of incarcerated youth and other caring adults. Current campaigns are focused on promoting educational equity and curtailing the school-to-prison pipeline in the Recovery School District in New Orleans Parish, and continuing efforts to ensure the proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act 1225, which mandates that juvenile correctional institutions adhere to youth development principles.

**National Employment Law Project**, \$700,000 project grant over two years (\$300,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund and \$400,000 from the Seize the Day Fund) to continue the *Second Chance Labor Project*, an initiative that engages labor unions in efforts to reduce unreasonable barriers to employment faced by people with criminal records. Continued OSI funding will enable NELP to continue providing targeted outreach to unions, strategic research and publications and advocacy promoting model reforms protecting people with criminal records at the state and federal levels, technical assistance to unions and criminal justice policy reform organizations working on employment policy reforms, and media strategies to generate coverage of strategic issues related to employment for people with criminal records. Seize the Day funding will support NELP's work in partnership with national, state and local allies to promote policies that

create good jobs, enforce worker protections, and help unemployed workers regain their economic footing through improved benefits and services.

**Just Detention International**, \$150,000 project grant renewal over one year (from the JEHT Emergency Fund) to continue its *Raising the Bar for Safety and Justice Campaign*, which capitalizes on the first ever national standards addressing sexual violence in detention, currently under review by the U.S. Attorney General, to open detention facilities to urgently needed external scrutiny through regular independent audits and oversight. OSI funding will enable JDI (formerly Stop Prisoner Rape) to continue its efforts to ensure that: 1) the U.S. Attorney General adopts the proposed national standards without weakening them; 2) states and localities begin implementing the standards without delay; and 3) policymakers and the public recognize independent audits and federal oversight are crucial to the standards and their effective implementation.

### **Eliminating Harsh Punishment – Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty by 2025**

**Murder Victims’ Families for Reconciliation (MVFR)** – \$135,000 general support grant over two years to enhance MVFR’s efforts to influence public opinion against the death penalty by working in collaboration with state and national anti-death penalty organizations to incorporate murder victims’ family members and their perspectives into campaigns for death penalty reform, moratorium and repeal. The grant will provide MVFR with additional capacity to work in the three priority states of California, North Carolina and Texas and engage in six additional target states during the next two years.

**National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP)** - \$215,000 general support over two years to advance NCADP’s mission to abolish the death penalty. As the nation’s only membership-based, national advocacy organization dedicated solely to abolishing the death penalty, NCADP provides critical technical support in the areas of grassroots organizing, membership base building, fundraising, and communications to its network of over 100 state-based affiliates, individual members, and scores of activists. The organization’s annual national conference also provides much needed leadership development and movement-building opportunities through workshops, networking, and strategy sessions for advocates, attorneys, murder victim and death row family members.

**Tides Foundation (Death Penalty Mobilization State Strategies Fund)** - \$200,000 project support over one year to support its Death Penalty Mobilization State Strategies Fund, which re-grants pooled donor funds to grassroots organizations that are leading state campaigns to abolish the death penalty. Contributing to the Fund allows OSI to leverage its resources with those of other donors in supporting emerging state-based organizations that are often overlooked by the national foundation world but are critical to the success of the fight to end capital punishment.

**Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC)** - \$200,000 general support grant over two years to assist DPIC’s efforts to provide information and analysis on the use of capital punishment in the United States. DPIC regularly issues press releases and conducts briefings for journalists and is one of the most widely cited sources of information on the death penalty in the media. Since its inception, DPIC has produced and broadly disseminated 19 major reports on the death penalty and 15 annual reports. Four of the

major reports have been based on commissioned national opinion polls, and DPIC is currently finalizing the analysis of a new public opinion poll to be used by the field for strategic messaging. All of these reports have been widely covered in the media. DPIC also operates a state-of-the-art website.

**Equal Justice USA (EJUSA)** - \$400,000 general support over two years to provide core support to one of two leading national advocacy organizations providing critical strategic support to state-based campaigns aimed at abolishing the death penalty. EJUSA is a national grassroots organization whose ability to bridge the gap between state and national organizations by promoting close partnership and collaboration makes it a leader in the death penalty abolition movement. EJUSA has played an instrumental role in achieving many of the abolition movement's most important recent wins. This grant will allow EJUSA to grow its capacity to partner with state-based abolitionists to provide technical assistance, capacity building, training and organizing support, a necessary growth of resources as more and more states begin to engage in public education campaigns about the arbitrary and ineffectual nature of the death penalty.

**Pennsylvania Capital Representation Project (PCRP)** - \$100,000 project support over one year to further PCRP's core mission of representing condemned prisoners in state court litigation. The grant will capitalize on the momentum building in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions toward abolition of the death penalty. The PCRP fills a critical void in capital defense representation by litigating State Court post-conviction matters that are required before federal review is allowed, but which by statute cannot be handled by Federal Capital Habeas Units. Pennsylvania, which has the nation's fourth largest death row, has not had a non-volunteer execution since the start of the Capital Habeas Unit of the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (CHU). The CHU and PCRP have created the space for abolition in Pennsylvania and have recently expanded their work to Delaware.

### **III. Eliminating Racial Disparities and Ensuring a Fair and Equitable System of Justice**

**Research Foundation of the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice** - \$200,000 project support over one year to develop a research project that examines the causes of the historic drop in crime in New York, specifically interrogating the extent to which that drop can be causally related to aggressive stop and frisk and other zero tolerance policing practices, and analyzing significant drops in crimes in other major cities where similarly aggressive policies practices were not utilized.

**Innocence Project, Inc. (IP)** - \$350,000 general support over 18 months (from the JEHT Emergency Fund) to assist the IP in its mission to exonerate wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing and to reform the criminal justice system to prevent future injustice. The organization has facilitated the freedom of 254 innocent people from prison in 34 states, including 17 on death row. The IP raises awareness about the fallibility of the criminal justice system, leading the charge to improve eyewitness identification procedures, regulate and oversee forensic sciences, improve access to post-conviction DNA testing, and improve evidence preservation systems.

**Juvenile Regional Services (JRS)**, \$120,000 project grant over one year to develop a model juvenile justice public defender office in New Orleans, Louisiana, that provides comprehensive indigent defense services consistent with the Ten Core Principles for providing quality delinquency representation developed by the National Juvenile Defender Center. OSI support will also enable JRS to develop a plan to replicate the model in two additional Louisiana parishes.

**National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)**, \$300,000 general support grant over one year. NJDC's mission is to improve access to counsel and quality of representation for children in juvenile delinquency proceedings nationwide through capacity-building, leadership development, training and technical assistance, and policy, media, outreach, and resource development activities. NJDC is the linchpin in efforts to develop a viable juvenile indigent defense infrastructure on the national and state level. NJDC's goal is to ensure that juveniles have competent counsel throughout the entire court process.

**Seattle University School of Law, the Defender Initiative**, \$125,000 project grant over one year to increase the number of courts that provide counsel to accused persons in misdemeanor courts at arraignment or first appearance hearings. The project seeks to promote greater use of diversion alternatives by judges and prosecutors, as well as advance advocacy efforts to decriminalize low level misdemeanor offense such as driving without a license and possession of marijuana. OSI support would enable the Defender Initiative to increase the number of courts in Washington State that provide counsel at first appearance in misdemeanor case, and also enable the Initiative to develop a plan to replicate the model in two other states, possibly Kentucky, Pennsylvania, or California.

**Vera Institute of Justice (Vera)**, \$200,000 project grant renewal over one year (from the JEHT Emergency Fund) to work with local government and community leaders in New Orleans, Louisiana, to continue its efforts to: 1) develop and implement a pretrial release system; 2) Transform the New Orleans Municipal Court; and 3) Expand expedited screening. OSI funding will enable Vera to build consensus among local criminal justice practitioner stakeholders for the need for a pretrial release system and to develop a comprehensive or pilot implementation plan; get agreement from the new superintendent of police to mandate 100 percent summons use for non-violent, public intoxication municipal offenses; facilitate and monitor the handling of state misdemeanors in Municipal Court; develop a plan for handling non-violent municipal offenses as civil infractions; and to expand its expedited screening initiative by developing judicial support and involvement. .

#### **IV. Grants Addressing Multiple CJF Priorities**

**Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)** - \$900,000 general support grant over 2 years (\$375,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund and \$525,000 from the JEHT Emergency Fund), and \$225,000 project support over one year (\$100,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund and \$125,000 from the Strategic Opportunity Fund's Rapid Response Fund), to continue EJI's work to challenge life imprisonment without parole sentences for children following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Graham v. Florida*. General support funding would provide continued support for EJI's full range of activities challenging the inappropriate use of the death penalty, inadequate legal counsel and racial bias in the criminal justice system in the south. Rapid Response project support will allow EJI to develop a coordinated national litigation strategy, expand its direct representation of eligible clients and ensure attorneys representing

individuals who can be granted relief in *Sullivan/Graham* are adequately trained to handle the cases.

**Juvenile Law Center (JLC)**, \$300,000 general support grant over one year (from the JEHT Emergency Fund). JLC is a Pennsylvania-based public interest law firm and advocacy organization that has had a major impact on policy and practice affecting children in the foster care, juvenile, and criminal justice systems across the country. JLC engages in individual representation, impact litigation, public education and advocacy to ensure that the child welfare, juvenile justice, and other public systems provide vulnerable children with the protection and services necessary to help them become healthy and productive adults. This grant would allow JLC to press for implementation of reforms proposed for Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system and to collaborate with the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama to operationalize the litigation strategy developed as part of the JLWOP coalition to bring prompt relief to individuals affected the Supreme Court's decision in *Graham v. Florida*.

**Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)**, \$400,000 project grant renewal over two years (\$300,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund, \$50,000 from USP Drug Policy Reform, and \$50,000 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform) to continue support for All of Us or None, a formerly incarcerated person-led initiative of LSPC that trains and organizes formerly incarcerated people and their families to address discrimination faced by people with felony convictions and to challenge barriers to successful reentry and engages individuals and communities most directly affected by drug war policies in drug policy reform efforts. OSI funding will enable All of Us or None to advocate for policies in California that facilitate access to employment; streamline the process of getting past convictions sealed and dismissed and get certificates of rehabilitation awarded. This grant will also allow All of Us or None to conduct public education and advocacy around voting rights for people with criminal records, community-oriented reentry strategies in Oakland, and statewide organizing and leadership development work with people in drug treatment programs.

## Campaign for a New Drug Policy

### Memo

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Leonard Noisette

Date: 23 June 2010

Re: Campaign for a New Drug Policy Docket II Grant Recommendations

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We are pleased to present the first consolidated docket of the Campaign for a New Drug Policy. We propose six grants totaling \$1,688,650.<sup>1</sup> While we have made previous grants using newly dedicated funds for our drug policy reform efforts, this docket represents the first group of grants that further in a more coordinated way the priorities that the drug policy working group has developed under our new framework. These six grant recommendations, including four first time grantees, collectively advance our Campaign for a New Drug Policy in three key areas: effective implementation of health care reform and parity regulations to ensure broad access to addiction treatment; increasing the engagement of communities of color in the push for a paradigm shift in drug policy; and effective implementation of the Rockefeller Drug Law reforms.

**Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)**, \$358,000 project grant over two years (\$179,000 from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$179,000 from the IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget) to support the full and effective implementation of Rockefeller Drug Law reform in New York. OSI funding will enable CCA to provide resources, technical assistance, and training to the defense bar, sentencing advocates, and social workers throughout the state to maximize the use of available sentencing alternative to incarceration and to document implementation outcomes of the Drug Law Reform to demonstrate effectiveness and identify areas of improvement.

**National Justice Initiative (NJI)**, \$38,650 project grant over six months (\$34,325 from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$34,325 from the IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget) to engage in public education and advocacy in support of ensuring effective implementation of Rockefeller Drug Law reform. OSI funding will enable NJI to convene community organizations, religious leaders, criminal justice and other government officials, and substance abuse service providers in Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany, New York for advocacy and information gathering luncheons on the implementation of the 2009 Rockefeller Drug Law Reform.

**State Association of Addiction Services, Inc. (SAAS)**, \$312,000 project grant over two years (from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget) to State Association of Addiction Services, Inc., (SAAS) to assist its members to conduct advocacy to ensure that the implementation of healthcare reform significantly increases access to high quality

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<sup>1</sup> \$1,275,325 is from the USP Drug Policy budget; \$413,325 is from the IHRD Drug Policy budget.



addiction treatment. OSI funding will enable SAAS to work with its over 2000 member organizations to provide them with tools to address the challenges presented for addiction treatment by healthcare reform and parity legislation in their local areas. Funding will also allow SAAS to train and coordinate its state affiliate associations to advocate for state level regulations, procedures and changes in policy pertaining specifically to access to addiction treatment.

**The Tides Center (Break The Chains project—BTC)**, \$300,000 project grant renewal over two years (\$150,000 from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$150,000 from the IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget) to continue educating and engaging communities disproportionately affected by punitive drug policies, particularly Black and Latino communities, about the negative consequences of existing policies and generate individual and collective activism in support of drug policy reform. OSI funding will enable BTC to continue planning and produce a pilot episode for SHAKE-TV, an online forum for multimedia programming focused on the consequences of and alternatives to the “war on drugs.”

**Trustees of Boston University, Inc.’s Join Together program (Join Together)**, \$150,000 project grant over one year (from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget) to enable Join Together to inform advocacy initiatives to expand access to high quality addiction treatment through sound healthcare reform implementation. OSI funding will enable Join Together to report online about regulatory and policy issues relating to implementation of parity and healthcare reform for substance use disorders on an almost daily basis, including disseminating background information on the issues as well as recommended solutions and steps that local leaders and organizations need to take in order to ensure a high quality addiction treatment benefit and easy access to it.

**University of Wisconsin Center for Health Care Enhancement System’s Network for the Improvement of Treatment (NIATx)**, \$400,000 project grant over two years (from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget) to prepare providers and state health care systems to meet the increased demands for addiction treatment resulting from health care reform. OSI funding will enable NIATx to work with addiction treatment practitioners to develop new skills that will be necessary to serve the increased patient numbers that they can expect to see as a result of healthcare reform, including how to create contracts, bill insurance agencies, and how to create relationships with payers and other health care practitioners to ensure they are part of an integrated health care system so patients can access a meaningful addiction benefit.

## Memo

To: Ann Beeson

From: Leonard Noisette; William Johnston; Terrance Pitts; Angela Cheng

Date: 11 August 2010

Re: Criminal Justice Fund Out-of-Docket Grant Recommendation

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Criminal Justice Fund staff recommends five grants for out-of-docket approval, totaling \$67,500: a project grant add-on to **The Aspen Institute (Aspen)** in the amount of \$25,000 over four months to finalize editing and to design, print, and distribute 1,000 copies of *The Rethinking Crime and Punishment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reader*; a \$7,500 project grant over five months to the **Juvenile Justice Initiative** to convene a working group meeting in August 2010 at Northwestern University School of Law to design a blueprint for a national campaign focused on reducing incarceration of youth; a \$10,000 project support grant over two years to support the work of the **Juvenile Justice Work Group (JJWG)** to facilitate advocacy and networking as the Group's members identify strategic investments that grantmakers can make to improve outcomes for youth entangled in the justice system; a \$10,000 project grant over seven months to the Justice Policy Institute to evaluate the nature of victim involvement in the criminal justice system by convening a roundtable meeting of victims, victim advocates, and other criminal justice stakeholders; and a \$15,000 project grant over one year to the **Innocence Project** to create an interactive online resource for outreach efforts associated with the publication of a book by University of Virginia School of Law Professor Brandon Garrett, to be titled *Convicting the Innocent: Where Criminal Prosecutions Go Wrong* in April 2011 by Harvard University Press. These grants would collectively advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment, eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable justice system.

If you approve, kindly sign and date the attached grant summary sheet.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier  
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund  
Date: June 22, 2010  
Re: Democracy and Power Fund Docket II

We look forward to discussing with you the second 2010 Democracy and Power Fund docket on Wednesday, June 30. The write-ups and a docket sheet are attached here.

Twenty months after the election of Barack Obama, America's policymaking and advocacy climate is unquestionably a mess. With the rise in right-wing populism via the Tea Party, increasing white supremacist activity across the nation (targeting both the president and immigrants), profound state and local fiscal crises forcing painful cuts to essential services, a jobless economic recovery and elevated federal budget deficit hawk activism, and ever deepening partisan entrenchment, the role of the Democracy and Power Fund's grantees to break through this gridlock and advance open society has perhaps never been more necessary. Our mandate continues: to enhance U.S. Programs' issue-specific funding and to build the collective power of individuals, communities, organizations, and strategic alliances to develop and demand solutions to advance open society in the U.S. To this end, we are pleased to share with you our recommendations for this second docket of 2010.

Democracy and Power Fund (D&P) grantees continue to play leadership roles in nearly every major federal advocacy battle – currently on comprehensive immigration reform, big bank accountability, climate change, and public job creation to name a few – and this docket contains several recommendations for organizations engaged in these advocacy fights. Beyond the better known D&P grantees like the Center for American Progress, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, or the Center for Community Change, we are identifying emerging efforts that complement the large national groups with strategic and high impact work at the local and state levels. Of note in this docket are two new D&P recommendations, The United We Dream Network and the Main Street Alliance. United We Dream is an emerging immigrant youth organizing and advocacy alliance – including a large number of undocumented youth members – that is courageously challenging leaders from all political stripes to step up efforts for immigrant justice and comprehensive immigration reform. The Main Street Alliance is a dynamic national network that brings the voices of thousands of social justice minded business owners to federal advocacy on health care, tax policy, lending reform, and immigration. These business leaders are already providing a counterweight to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, a dominant small business lobby with a decidedly right-wing agenda. The Main Street Alliance was initially identified for OSI support in 2009 via the Seize the Day Initiative.<sup>1</sup>

In this docket, we are particularly excited to share with you our first set of state-based grant recommendations for North Carolina and Texas. As we shared in our first

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<sup>1</sup> OSI funded organizations are explicitly prohibited from using OSI funding for lobbying on legislation.

docket meeting of this year, D&P has now spent ten months developing its new “building state-based power” program. This funding will complement our largely national grantmaking with state-based funding to build open society and social justice organizational capacity and impact in two key states. You will find 11 recommendations in this docket, six for Texas and five for North Carolina, totaling \$1.075 million. In addition to our regular write-ups for these recommendations, we have attached a memo to you detailing why we’ve selected these states, how they advance broader OSI and USP priorities, and what strategic path we propose for our state-based grantmaking.

In this first docket, the Democracy and Power Fund recommends funding for twenty organizations, including eight renewals, 11 new grantees (primarily our state-based recommendations), and one fiscal sponsorship transfer of a previously approved grant. These recommendations total \$2,750,000, of which \$87,500 - for the NAACP’s North Carolina State Conference and the United We Dream immigrant youth organizing network – is co-funded by the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

Our 20 recommended grantees include eight general support grants, seven fiscally sponsored entities, and five project grants. There are a total of 21 write-ups attached as we are making two grant recommendations, written separately, for the NAACP’s North Carolina State Conference and its Houston Branch. Four recommended grantees have grant terms for more than one year and one, Interfaith Education Fund, is recommended for a tie-off grant. Half of these recommendations are for organizations that are led by people of color, half of the recommended grantees are led by women, and one third of the organizations are led by immigrants or first generation Americans.

Last, but not least, on our third docket – in September – we expect to bring a recommendation to you for one final year’s renewal for Campus Progress, which would constitute a tie-off grant. Per prior email and in person dialogue with you, we are aware of your concerns regarding the organization’s leadership and accountability to the broader youth field. Following additional due diligence, conversations in the field, and a meeting with David Halperin, we share your concerns. We will soon be communicating this to David and welcome further conversation with you as you wish.

Our recommended grantees for Docket II are:

**Grassroots Organizing and Non-Partisan Voter Engagement**  
**Three recommendations, \$650,000**

**Interfaith Education Fund**

The Interfaith Education Fund (IEF), based in Austin, TX, provides organizing, training, and research support to community organizations affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the congregation-based community organizing network that was founded by Saul Alinsky. Tie-off general support grant recommendation.

**National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (Power Vote 2010 Project)**

The Los Angeles-based National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) is a national alliance working to promote the full participation of Asian American and Pacific Islanders, with the greater goal of building a national movement for social change. This grant would support NAKASEC's technical assistance on non-partisan voter engagement work in several states with organizations that represent a wide range of AAPI communities.

**Youth Engagement Fund (fiscal sponsor: Tides Foundation)**

The Youth Engagement Fund, a Washington, DC-based national, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) collaborative table of youth civic engagement organizations, exists to provide technical assistance and regranting to increase youth voter registration and mobilization goals.

**Youth Engagement and Social Justice Leadership Development**

**Five recommendations, \$675,000**

**Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing (fiscal sponsor: Jewish Funds for Justice)**

The Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, a Brooklyn-based national intermediary, seeks to increase funding for youth organizing organizations across the U.S. and develop strategies to promote to other funders the importance of investment in the leadership of low-income youth of color in social justice organizing.

**Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training**

The Oakland-based Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, a national training and technical assistance organization, promotes the connection between fundraising, social justice, and social justice movement building, particularly for people of color communities and groups.

**Grassroots Policy Project**

The Grassroots Policy Project, based in Cambridge, MA, is an educational and research organization working in partnership with grassroots community groups, activist networks, statewide coalitions and other training organizations to encourage strategic approaches to issues of social and economic justice.

**United We Dream Network (fiscal sponsor: National Immigration Law Center)**

The United We Dream Network, housed at the Los Angeles-based National Immigration Law Center, is a new network founded by immigrant youth activists to better connect immigrant youth organizing efforts throughout the country and aggregate their collective power to impact change.

**WireTap Magazine (fiscal sponsor: Foundation for National Progress)**

WireTap Magazine is an online journal that is well regarded and utilized by organizations, leaders, and activists in the youth engagement field. WireTap was recommended for its final Democracy and Power Fund grant in 2009 and, upon your approval of our recommendation last year, is now tied off from ongoing D&P support. This recommendation would allow the previously approved OSI funding to follow

WireTap to its new fiscal sponsor, the Foundation for National Progress, a c3 connected to *Mother Jones* magazine.

### **Policy Generation**

**Two recommendations, \$350,000**

#### **Main Street Alliance (fiscal sponsor: Northwest Federation of Community Organizations)**

The Seattle-based Main Street Alliance (MSA) is a national network of small business coalitions that leverages small business voices to advance policies that promote racial, economic, and social equity.

#### **United for a Fair Economy (Tax Fairness Organizing Collaborative project)**

Boston-based United for a Fair Economy's Tax Fairness Organizing Collaborative is a national network convened in 2004 to educate and organize for fair and adequate taxation and socially just government budget priorities at the state and federal levels.

### **Building State-Based Power: Investing in Issue –Based Advocacy and Organizing in North Carolina and Texas**

**Eleven recommendations, \$1,075,000**

#### **North Carolina**

*D&P's emerging North Carolina funding strategy will build the grassroots organizing, issue advocacy, and civic engagement capacity and impact of African-American, Latina/o, and immigrant communities, along with that of young people across the state. Beginning with this docket, D&P will launch its state-based program in North Carolina. Beyond supporting organizations that meet the priorities stated above, D&P will also fund key statewide organizations that build issue advocacy capacity, expertise, and impact and those that enhance statewide civic engagement collaboration.*

#### **Beloved Community Center**

The Greensboro-based Beloved Community Center is a grassroots, community-based organization that models a spirit of community that is based upon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a "beloved community" through organizing and advocacy for social, racial, and economic justice.

#### **Democracy North Carolina**

Durham-based Democracy NC is a nonpartisan statewide organization that uses research, organizing, and advocacy to increase voter participation, reduce the influence of money in politics, and achieve representational government.

#### **North Carolina Justice Center**

The Raleigh-based North Carolina Justice Center is a well regarded state level organization that uses litigation, analysis, multi-issue advocacy, community education, and communication strategies to eliminate poverty in North Carolina.

### **North Carolina Latino Coalition**

The Durham-based North Carolina Latino Coalition is a statewide organization dedicated to building power among grassroots Latina/o community-based organizations. The NCLC provides CBOs with technical assistance and participatory opportunities for grassroots Latina/o leaders to work towards social change.

### **North Carolina NAACP State Conference**

The North Carolina NAACP State Conference, one of the nation's largest state NAACP networks, has more than 100 community and youth branches and catalyzes advocacy, organizing, and alliance building on issues of economic and racial justice.

### **Texas**

*D&P's emerging Texas funding strategy will complement the long-time work of the Criminal Justice Fund and the expanding watchdog work of the Transparency and Integrity Fund in the state through building the grassroots organizing, issue advocacy, and civic engagement capacity and impact of African-American, Latina/o, and immigrant communities, along with that of young people. Beginning with this docket, D&P will launch its state-based program in Texas. While our work will be statewide in desired impact in this vast state of more than 23 million residents, we'll begin by focusing more resources on two fast growing and very diverse regions: Houston/Harris County and the Rio Grande Valley. Beyond supporting organizations that meet the priorities stated above, D&P will also fund – or help launch – key statewide organizations that build issue advocacy capacity, expertise, and impact and those that enhance statewide civic engagement collaboration.*

### **Center for Public Policy Priorities**

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP), an Austin-based non-profit policy institute, is committed to bettering the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans through independent research, policy analysis and development, public education, advocacy, coalition-building and technical assistance.

### **La Unión del Pueblo Entero (Votamos y Venceremos! Project)**

La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a San Juan-based non-profit membership organization that was established by César Chávez, engages farmworkers, immigrants, and their families in transforming the communities in which they live.

### **NAACP Houston Branch**

The NAACP's Houston Branch serves the Harris County area, including Houston, the nation's fourth largest city. The Houston Branch is one of the five largest NAACP branches in the nation and serves the community through various programs, including an impressive police misconduct legal redress effort, youth outreach, and health advocacy.

### **Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance (fiscal sponsor: Border Network for Human Rights)**

The Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance (RITA), a new, El Paso-based multi-sector statewide network, is dedicated to building grassroots organizing and advocacy for immigrant rights, including comprehensive immigration reform.

**Texas Organizing Project Education Fund (fiscal sponsor: Texas Legal Services Center)**

The Texas Organizing Project Education Fund (TOP) is a new Houston-based statewide organization promoting social and economic equality for low- to moderate-income Texans through community organizing and civic engagement.

**Texas State C3 Table (fiscal sponsor: Youth and Family Alliance)**

This recommended grant would provide seed funding – to be matched by donors identified via Texas in-state fundraising – for a new, statewide c3 civic engagement table. similar to tables that already exist in 16 states via State Voices, a core D&P grantee that provides support to over 600 social justice and progressive non-profits.

Full write-ups of each recommendation are attached. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let us know if there is further information we can provide in advance of the docket meeting on June 30. Thank you.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier

**FROM:** Ann Beeson; Raquiba LaBrie; and EOF Staff

**DATE:** July 19, 2010

**RE:** EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND DOCKET II

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The Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) embraces US Programs' grantmaking in the areas of racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice. It also includes three special initiatives: Immigration Innovation; the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI); and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA).

Attached please find the EOF grant recommendations for Docket II of 2010.

### *Racial Justice and Immigrant Rights*

Because so many of EOF's immigrant rights grantees are tackling racial justice questions and *vice versa*, we have begun to group these grantees under a combined heading. In this docket, EOF recommends funding for a number of national policy advocacy groups that work across multiple issues affecting communities of color and immigrants. The **Advancement Project** has been a core grantee of several U.S. Programs (USP) portfolios. Its work on voting rights, educational equity, government accountability, immigrant justice and the school-to-prison pipeline – all filtered through a racial justice lens – aligns with the priorities of the Equality and Opportunity, Transparency and Integrity, Criminal Justice and Democracy and Power Funds, as well as the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and OSI-Baltimore. Given the cross-cutting nature of its work and the amount of recommended funding (over \$500,000), in future years staff plans to move the Advancement Project to multi-year general support funding from a common pot of funding designated for long-term grantees whose work advances a broad range of USP priorities.

The recommend grant to the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** will provide general support for its efforts to represent the interests of racial and ethnic minorities and other victims of discrimination. In past years, EOF's racial justice portfolio provided the Lawyers' Committee with annual project support in the amount of \$150,000 for its voting rights work. Recognizing that the organization's advocacy implicates a range of EOF priorities, staff now recommends general support but at a reduced level (\$100,000 per year for two years) given that the Lawyers' Committee is also receiving substantial project support from NSI for its Loan Modification Scam Prevention Network (referenced below).

Recommended grants to the **Center for Social Inclusion** and the **Equal Justice Society** represent votes of confidence in two similar organizations. Each is headed by a charismatic woman of color. Each is committed to building support for race-conscious remedies to discrimination and structural inequality. And each has succeeded in developing from what some perceived to be a “one-woman show” to an independent, viable organization with diverse funders. In future years, EOF, working in partnership with other USP funds and campaigns, hopes to move each of these organizations to multi-year general support.

The grants to the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC)**, **National Immigration Law Center (NILC)**, and **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)** will help to strengthen the connective tissue that binds the immigrant rights field. CLINIC and NILC are leaders in providing advocates, particularly legal advocates, with the training and technical assistance needed to defend the rights of immigrants and combat anti-immigrant policies at the state and national level. NILC is a member of the coalition of civil rights groups that filed a lawsuit challenging Arizona’s controversial new law SB 1070, which requires police to demand papers from people they suspect are “unlawfully present” in the U.S. The grant to NIJC will support its Detention, Democracy and Due Process Project, which documents, challenges and seeks to prevent the unjust treatment of immigrants in the U.S. immigration detention system.

Since the 2003 inception of the **Four Freedoms Fund**, a re-granting intermediary for the U.S. immigrant rights field, OSI has partnered with Ford, Carnegie and other major immigrant rights funders to support its work in resourcing and networking state and local immigrant rights organizations and coalitions. With renewed support, Four Freedoms will help core grantees in up to 20 states deepen their advocacy and participate in the efforts of the national Reform Immigration for America campaign. Additional funds are recommended for **Public Interest Projects’** Rapid Response Fund to strengthen the work of indigenous Arizona advocates challenging Arizona’s SB 1070 as well as advocates in other states considering or defending against similar measures.

The grant to Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees will strengthen its ability to sharpen and expand foundations’ support for addressing challenges facing immigrants and their host communities.

### ***LGBTQ Rights and Gender Justice***

To reflect our staffing structure and nurture connections across issue areas, EOF is also grouping LGBTQ rights and gender justice under a shared heading. This move will in no way preclude us from funding efforts that are focused exclusively on the particular needs of the most marginalized within the LGBTQ rights advocacy arena or the gender justice advocacy arena.

As noted in past dockets, EOF is committed to extending our support for LGBTQ rights advocacy to areas beyond marriage equality to address other policies and that adversely impact the most marginalized within the LGBTQ community. To advance this aim, EOF

recommends a grant to the **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice** to support a cohort of small LGBTQ working at the national and regional levels to advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable LGBTQ communities, including low-income transgender people of color. The recommended grant to **COLAGE** will help children of LGBTQ parents to be effective spokespeople on their own behalf and blunt a wedge that is commonly used to splinter support for LGBTQ rights – the notion that LGBTQ parents are a danger to their children.

### ***Intersectional Grantmaking***

To integrate grantmaking across its four core areas, EOF supports advocacy that highlight the shared stake that people of color, immigrants, women and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The recommended grant to **Western States Center** advances this objective. Co-funded by EOF and D&P, this grant supports leadership development, alliance-building, and voter engagement for a range of social justice organizations operating in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies and Great Basin, including racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice organizations.

### ***Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative***

The Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative grants recommended in this docket advance a number of the initiative's goals, including 1) preventing foreclosures by overcoming the bottleneck in loan modifications; 2) supporting emerging efforts to improve the legal foreclosure process in order to improve outcomes for distressed borrowers; 3) protecting the rights of renters in foreclosed properties; and 4) exposing and reversing the racial biases underlying the current mortgage crisis. The recommended grant to the **Baltimore Homeownership Preservation Coalition** will renew support for its city-wide foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization activities and provide support for targeted projects in high-foreclosure neighborhoods. The recommend grant to the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** will renew project support for its Loan Modification Scam Network, which provides pro bono legal support for victims of loan modification scams. The grants to the **National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP)** and the **Public Justice Center** in Maryland both aim to protect renters' rights. With encouragement from NSI staff, the two organizations have begun to collaborate. They are working together to ensure that best practices for protecting renters in Maryland are disseminated throughout the NLCHP's national network of tenant rights advocates.

### ***Campaign for Black Male Achievement***

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA or the Campaign) recommends grants in this docket that touch upon virtually every one of its goals and further its place-based grantmaking strategy. As referenced in its strategic plan and past dockets, because many of the policies that perpetuate black male exclusion are state and local policies,

CBMA has adopted a place-based grantmaking approach for the majority of its work. Its target regions are as follows:

- The Midwest, with a focus on Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin;
- The Gulf Region, with a focus on New Orleans, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi; and
- The Mid-Atlantic, with a focus on Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This docket reflects CBMA's commitment to connecting the work of its state and local grantees to the work of national organizations that are attempting to influence federal policy or resource various state and local groups.

To advance its goal of strengthening low income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives and eradicating barriers facing single mothers raising black boys, the Campaign recommends three grants. The grant to the **Urban Institute** will enable it to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to fatherhood initiatives and community coalitions within the Campaign's target regions. This funding will allow the Urban Institute to leverage resources from the U.S. Department of Labor's Transitional Jobs program and from the Obama Administration's Fatherhood, Marriage, and Healthy Families Innovation Fund. The grant to the **Metropolitan Area Group for Igniting Civilization, Inc.**, a Chicago-based youth development organization, will allow it to expand its comprehensive fatherhood initiative program for young fathers between the ages of 15 to 24. The grant to **Women in Fatherhood** will help increase public awareness and advance advocacy in two of CBMA's target cities, New Orleans, Louisiana and Baltimore, Maryland, to engage women in responsible fatherhood advocacy efforts.

To promote educational equity for black males, CBMA recommends grants to **PolicyLink**, the **Oakland Unified School District** and **The Rada Film Group**. The PolicyLink will help community coalitions leverage \$210 million in federal funds that will be distributed by the Department of Education to create programs modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone. The Oakland Unified School District grant will support the creation of a Department for African American Male Achievement to close the achievement gap for black male K-12 students in Oakland, California. The Rada Film Group grant will support the use of the documentary film, *An American Promise*, as a community-based organizing and policy advocacy tool to empower parents to advocate for improved academic outcomes for black male youth.

To support leadership development for young black males, CBMA recommends two grants, each of which also advances its place-based grantmaking strategy. The recommended grant to **Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership** and **Operation REACH** will support a range of activities in New Orleans to increase youth civic engagement and deepen city and state investment in youth programming.

To advance its goal of expanding and ensuring work opportunities that offer family-sustaining wages to black males, the Campaign recommends grants to the **UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education** and the **UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education**. These two entities work together to support the continued development of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center and to identify strategies for replication of the Los Angeles model.

To leverage OSI funding to generate increased government funding for black male achievement field, CBMA recommends a grant to the **National League of Cities Institute**, which will engage municipal officials and identify new opportunities for promoting municipal leadership to improve outcomes for black males in the areas of education, work and family.

A leading priority for CBMA is the integration of strategic communications, and arts and culture throughout its grantmaking, as well as the promotion of positive frames and messages about black men and boys. The recommended grant to **Art on Purpose** will work to challenge negative perceptions of black men and boys through a series of Baltimore-based community arts workshops.

U.S. Programs Board members and staff agree that engagement of faith-based communities in advancing our work is critical. The recommended grant to the **National Center for Civic Innovation** accomplishes this end by mobilizing faith leaders to address the crisis facing black males in the Campaign's target city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as well as parts of New Jersey and New York.

Finally, to strengthen its place-based grantmaking approach and enrich its planned regional grantee convenings scheduled for later this year, CBMA recommends a grant to the **Kirwan Institute**. The grant will support in-depth analysis in four of CBMA's target cities of the pressing policy issues related to black male achievement in the areas of education, work, and family. Kirwan will also facilitate workshops at CBMA's planned regional convening to equip grantees with the data and policy analysis needed to support their advocacy for policy change.

We look forward to meeting with you on July 26 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier  
From: Ann Beeson, Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, and Hyon Seo Kwon  
Date: July 16, 2010  
Subject: National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grant Recommendations for Docket II of 2010

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For the July 26, 2010 docket, the National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommends eight grants.

Four of these grants will support a cohort of organizations – the **New America Foundation**, the **Center for National Policy**, the **National Security Initiative**, and **Human Rights First** – as they jointly plan, coordinate, and provide issue area expertise to a new Resilience Working Group that will be composed of approximately 20 thought leaders from the national security and human rights communities.<sup>1</sup> These grants will additionally allow each of the four groups to pursue a project that falls within its individual areas of interest and expertise and that is independent from their collaborative work on the Resilience Working Group. A grant to the Center for National Policy would be NSHR Campaign’s first grant to this organization; the other three organizations are current NSHR Campaign grantees.

The precise scope of the Resilience Working Group’s mandate has not yet been set. However its top priorities will include bridging the gap between the national security and human rights communities, and replacing the negative counterterrorism frame of fear with a positive frame of national resilience and adherence to core constitutional values. The Obama administration’s formal endorsements of resilience in the February 2010 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review and the May 2010 National Security Strategy have opened up a window of opportunity for progressives to claim, define, and shape this term in the context of homeland and national security.

The groundwork for the Resilience Working Group was laid last winter and spring by the New America Foundation under a consultancy agreement with the NSHR Campaign. This work culminated in a convening on April 14, 2010 of more than 40 experts selected from the fields of national security, homeland security, counterterrorism, intelligence, law enforcement, defense, emergency preparedness, strategic communications, law, civil liberties, human rights, and the rights of Muslims, Arabs and South Asians. The convening participants recognized that exchanges between the security and rights communities were too infrequent and recommended setting up a structure to support dialogue, coordination, and collaboration between the two communities. The convening

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that grant recommendations have been arranged in the order they are listed in this memo, rather than in alphabetical order. The New America Foundation grant recommendation, which is at the top of the line up, should be read first as it provides background information on the Resilience Working Group that is not repeated in the grant recommendations for the Center for National Policy, the National Security Initiative, or Human Rights First.

participants also saw promise in resilience as a framework for supporting smart and effective national security policies that can hold true to American constitutional values and break the destructive cycle of fear and overreaction that have characterized the post-9/11 period.

In furtherance of the Campaign's goals of ending arbitrary and indefinite detention and strengthening the capacity of grassroots organizations to advocate against abusive counterterrorism policies and for a progressive national security policy that respects civil liberties, human rights, and the rule of law, the Campaign recommends renewed funding to two organizations that we funded on a rapid response basis in July 2009 to hold President Obama to his promise to close Guantanamo by the January 22, 2010 deadline set in his Executive Order – **Human Rights First** (discussed above in the context of the Resilience Working Group) and the **Center for International Policy**. These organizations, in close coordination with other Campaign grantees, continue to perform critically important work but have been forced to adjust their agendas in the face of fierce opposition, the recent spate of attempted terrorist attacks on the U.S., and the weakening of presidential resolve to stand by human rights principles in the face of these challenges. Human Rights First remains one of the Campaign's core grantees and will continue its impressive work with a coalition of national security validators, including retired military officers and former interrogators, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials, to advocate for compliance with human rights standards on a range of national security policies.

In addition, the Campaign recommends two grants that support its priority of promoting collaboration within the national security and human rights field. The **Proteus Fund** seeks renewed support for its **Security and Rights Collaborative**, a pooled donor fund established by OSI and Atlantic Philanthropies in 2008. And **OMB Watch** seeks renewed support for its **Charity and Security Network**, a network of civil liberties organizations, civil rights organizations, grantmakers, charities, and foundations that seeks the overhaul of a set of draconian U.S. counterterrorism measures that are exerting a chilling effect on U.S.-based organizations engaged in international peacebuilding, humanitarian aid, and development efforts, as well as on charities and nonprofits that engage in international activities and Muslim-American donors and charities.

Lastly, a renewal grant to the **Federation of American Scientists** to support the **Project on Government Secrecy** will advance the Campaign's priorities of strengthening the capacity of watchdog organizations to document government abuses and reduce excessive government secrecy in national security policy. The grant will be co-funded with the Transparency and Integrity Fund and will further the fund's priority of supporting watchdog organizations.

The total amount for these eight grants is \$2,880,000. Grant recommendations and a financial summary are attached.

**Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation  
Memo**

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Mimi Corcoran and the Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation Staff

Date: 23, June 2010

Re: Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation June 30, 2010 Docket Grant Recommendations

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The Special Fund for Poverty Alleviation (SFPA) recommends five (5) grants totaling \$17,775,000.00 for consideration on U.S. Programs docket scheduled for June 30, 2010. All five of these grants are new grants.

**Michigan**

Michigan was given a \$15 million challenge grant. The Board has already approved (at the May 2010 Board meeting) the Mo' Bucks Double Coupon initiative, being led by the Fair Food Network. Below, the Special Fund recommends a grant to support the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth to implement the Earn and Learn Initiative. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent for this investment. SFPA staff are actively working on a third 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, the proposed investments are designed to connect low-income, un/underemployed individuals to education, employment and the social safety net.

**Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for the Earn and Learn Initiative**

*\$7,500,000 over two-and-a-half years (new; project support)*

The purpose of this grant is to create immediate subsidized job opportunities structured to incent participation in education and training programs among disconnected, at-risk youth (18-24) with limited workforce attachment, particularly young minority males; ex-offenders re-entering the workforce; and chronically unemployed adults. Earn and Learn will focus efforts in the cities of Grand Rapids, Detroit, Flint, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Muskegon Heights, Saginaw, and Greenville. These cities represent a combination of urban and rural communities in need of immediate employment and educational opportunities. Some 2,000 participants will engage in approved education or training programs that solidify their basic skills and ultimately result in the attainment of degrees and/or certificates with labor market value while they earn wages in subsidized employment programs. This initiative represents a partnership among several



foundations and Michigan's Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth. SFPA's investment will be matched on, at least, a 1:1 basis by the Joyce, Kellogg and Mott Foundations, the New Economy Initiative, and combined with public funds (state and ARRA funding) to implement the \$22.6 million Earn and Learn Initiative.

### **Employment and Education for Disconnected Youth**

#### **YouthBuild USA**

*\$6,000,000 over two-and-a-half years (\$2m each year) (new; project support)*

The purpose of this grant is to support YouthBuild USA's to dramatically expand their capacity to serve low-income 16 to 24 year olds, who are out of school and unemployed, in a comprehensive full-time program that allows them to complete their secondary education, prepare for college and a good-paying career, and learn construction skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people under skilled supervision in their own communities. SFPA support will enable YouthBuild to: 1) Nearly double the impact of their post-secondary education work by providing five additional YouthBuild program sites technical assistance to align curriculum and institutional practice with credit bearing course work at post-secondary institutions, while developing an evidence base for how to successfully increase low-income youth's attainment of work credentials; 2) Hire staff needed to help interested states initiate and expand their use of the YouthBuild model, increase the national visibility of YouthBuild USA, build out their "green development" initiatives, and strengthen their quality assurance system; and 3) Initiate the "YouthBuild 1000 Leaders Network" and the "YouthVoice Policy Network" to promote the leadership development and advocacy power of YouthBuild alumni. SFPA's investment will be matched on a 1:1 basis by funds from the Gates and WalMart Foundations, and public investments from i3 and AmeriCorps.

#### **Center for Employment Opportunities**

*\$2,000,000 over one year (new; project support)*

The purpose of this grant is to support the Center for Employment Opportunities' (CEO's) program replication outside of New York City (e.g., to California) while maintaining model fidelity and program outcomes, thereby allowing CEO to double the number of people served each year, from 3,000 to 6,200, by 2013. Through this plan, CEO will be able to reach 3,200 new individuals annually by 2013 (approximately 1,200, or 40%, of which would be young adults between the ages of 18 and 25). In the first year of its three year growth plan, CEO will serve 900 new individuals in seven discrete locations outside New York City, 600 in counties in upstate New York and 300 in California. CEO serves people on parole and others with criminal convictions offering paid transitional jobs as a gateway to unsubsidized full-time employment so that individuals can remain crime-free. SFPA support will allow CEO to increase their capacity to offer immediate, transitional employment to individuals with criminal convictions, provide full-time job placement services, and job retention efforts that promote longer-term attachment to the labor market. CEO will also continue to build its national profile, offering support and assistance to other jurisdictions to improve practice and to set the stage for future expansion opportunities in jurisdictions that meet CEO's

growth criteria. SFPA's investment will be matched on a 1:1 basis by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation as part of year one of CEO's growth plan.

**The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps d/b/a/ The Corps Network for the Civic Justice Corps (CJC)**

*\$1,750,000 over two-and-a-half years (new; project support)*

The purpose of this grant is to help The Corps Network (TCN) to scale the Civic Justice Corps (CJC) model designed to connect youth who are not in school and not working – all of whom have been previously incarcerated – to stipended service corps jobs in their communities (with health benefits and intensive case management) while they are working toward their high school degrees or studying for the GED. SFPA's grant will allow the Corps Network to support its project demonstration. The grant was contingent upon the receipt of a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, which CJC was awarded last Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. With the Department of Labor award and the SFPA grant, CJC will replicate and expand its program at six Corps sites, in at least two states, to engage 600 participants, with the aim of establishing evidence that will make the case for future federal funding for CJC.

**Advocacy**

**Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) for Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity**

*Up to \$525,000, over two-and-a-half years, (new; project support)*

The purpose of this grant is to leverage and amplify the work of the Special Fund by drawing greater attention to the Fund's efforts to reduce poverty, strategies that work for the most disadvantaged populations, and the implications for the country of sustained poverty and growing inequality. SFPA support will augment Spotlight's capacity to use its comprehensive website, weekly e-grams, commentaries and webcasts to reach key policy makers, experts and opinion leaders on both sides of the political aisle with new ideas for and evidence about effective solutions for fighting poverty. With SFPA support, Spotlight will: 1) Develop tailored activities with and provide a national platform to highlight the anti-poverty work of the Fund's grantees; 2) Draw greater national attention to new poverty levels; 3) Target attention to the Recovery Act and efforts to support individuals and families in need; and, potentially, 4) Create a peer learning network for state government officials to facilitate discussion about innovative strategies for reducing poverty, and/or develop a "virtual" public engagement component regarding poverty reduction solutions. CLASP is anticipating a 1:1 match on SFPA's investment by the Annie E. Casey, Atlantic, and other foundations.

## MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier  
From: Ann Beeson & Erlin Ibreck  
Re: Strategic Opportunities Fund Grant Recommendations  
Date: July 19, 2010

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Attached are five grant recommendations for your review. In this docket we are pleased to present a cohort of organizations that together form essential components of our strategy to conduct research and development related to the role that art and culture play in advancing advocacy and social change. Through these grants, we hope to raise awareness of the power and potential for art as an activism tool to advance a broad spectrum of social justice concerns and issues of specific interest and relevance to U.S. Programs' priorities. We aim to ultimately support projects that advance multiple goals in U.S. Programs and, to that end, are engaging colleague funds and campaigns as thought partners.

We are recommending two year core support grants to the four art and culture organizations in this docket. This support will afford them the flexibility to continue deepening and strengthening their practice while seeking new ways to sustain their operations in an altered economic landscape. And this time frame will enable us to gain a deeper knowledge of their work over time. These recommendations are:

Appalshop, a former U.S. Programs Youth Media grantee, is a multi-disciplinary arts and education center rooted in the heart of Appalachia that produces original films, video, theater and music recordings, radio, photography and books. The organization has forty years of experience as a local, national, and international expert in community-based methodologies for creating effective artistic, cultural, and educational programs that advance civic engagement. Its program models demonstrate how struggling communities can tap into the power inherent in local people and local culture to understand pressing issues, respond to opportunities for revitalization, and participate as effective civic actors in society.

National Performance Network, a New Orleans based national network, serves artists, arts organizers, and a diverse range of audiences and communities across the country through such activities as artists' commissions, residencies, community-engaged cultural projects, and convenings. From its inception NPN has supported artists whose work has been historically marginalized, censored, or suppressed, and has advocated for independent artists and presenters through support of initiatives that value cultural equity, civic engagement, and social change. In this role it introduces the importance of networking for the field of arts and social change.

Alternate ROOTS, a former U.S. Programs Southern Initiative grantee, supports the creation and presentation of original art that is rooted in a particular community of place, tradition, or spirit. ROOTS functions as a network of more than 260 artists and cultural organizers who live and work in Southern states and who are committed to advancing civil rights and preserving community traditions. Their work builds upon that of the above organizations and is contextualized specifically in the South as a region.

StoryCorps, a longtime U.S. Programs grantee, is renowned for its dedication to telling stories that bring neglected American voices to a national audience through audio recordings of interviews between everyday people. These recordings reach millions through the broadcasts on public radio and the Internet. This project has educational, cultural and artistic value and advances our exploration of the role of art and culture in bridging differences, broadening debates and informing advocacy on issues that mirror OSI's priorities.

The final recommendation is for renewed support of the Brennan Center's Nonprofit Rights Project, and is made at the request of Ricardo Castro. The Brennan Center is continuing litigation and public advocacy to challenge the anti-prostitution pledge requirement contained in the Global AIDS Act. It was hoped that the Obama administration would take a position different from that of the Bush administration in respect of its enforcement of the pledge. Unfortunately, it has not done so, and instead persists in enforcing the pledge requirement through the use of regulations/guidelines that continue to violate the constitution and would impose onerous requirements on NGO recipients. Acting on behalf of OSI and the Alliance for Open Society International, Brennan is pursuing litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit as well as working closely with a coalition of organizations and the Open Society Policy Center to organize a parallel advocacy strategy to change the policy.

We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ann Beeson  
**FROM:** Erlin Ibreck  
**CC:** Thomas Hilbink  
**DATE:** June 7, 2010  
**RE:** Strategic Opportunities Fund – Grant Recommendations

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Attached for your review and approval are two write-ups to support time-sensitive advocacy and communications projects linked to the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Capitalizing on a likely spike in local, state, and national attention to the city of New Orleans five years after the storm, the New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance (NOCOG) member organizations propose to engage in multi-platform advocacy efforts about the need for greater open governance in the city, the impacts of corrupt and inaccessible government on specific communities, and NOCOG's innovative approach to challenging the status quo. One grant will be managed by the Committee for a Better New Orleans and will enable several NOCOG member organizations to develop distinct but interwoven multi-media projects. A second grant to Nonprofit Knowledge Works will support the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center's efforts to create effective data visualizations as part of GNOCDC's publication of the *New Orleans Index*.

The products of both grants will also be integrated into OSI's multimedia project looking at advocacy work in New Orleans five years after Katrina – part of OSI's plan for attracting a broader funding base and wider attention to the innovative work in New Orleans. Tom is the program officer on both of these grant recommendations so please feel free to let him know if you have specific questions on either grant recommendation. I will also be happy to respond to general questions about the broader NOLA multi-media initiative.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Aryeh Neier  
**From:** Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani and the Transparency and Integrity Fund  
**Date:** June 11, 2010  
**Re:** Transparency and Integrity Fund's June 30, 2010 Docket

We look forward to meeting with you on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, to discuss the second 2010 docket of the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF or the Fund). We respectfully seek approval of 8 grants in this docket.

As reflected in its three year strategic plan (completed mid-2009), TIF's grant making and program strategies seek to promote government transparency and accountability, the integrity of the judicial and electoral systems and public engagement, by supporting:

- Media and government 'watchdog' groups, and the development and use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public involvement and access to information;
- Efforts to ensure broad and equal access to the ballot and the integrity of elections, as well as efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and,
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing journalism.

The grants recommended in this docket, and described in more detail below, represent TIF's expanding efforts to address the crisis in journalism, and its continued efforts to redress the corrosive impact of special-interest money in politics and increase access to information that empowers citizens. Recommended grants include support for: two non-commercial journalism organizations new to TIF, ProPublica and Voice of San Diego, support for a new public media research project of the New America Foundation and a tie-off grant to the Columbia Journalism Review. They also include two current TIF grantees, the Media Democracy Fund and Center for Media Justice, groups working to enhance access to information for communities of particular interest to U.S. Programs. Finally, they include two current grantees, the Campaign Legal Center and the Committee for Economic Development, that are working to stem the likely effects of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* permitting corporations to spend unlimited general treasury funds on political activities

### ***Transparency & Integrity Fund Grants***

#### *Journalism*

This portfolio's goals are to strengthen accountability journalism on critical open society issues at the state and local level; revitalize, expand and bring greater diversity to the public media sector; and, increase and improve the production, distribution and reach of international reporting for U.S. audiences.

Pursuant to what was a rich discussion at the recent U.S. Programs Board Meeting, one supportive of this portfolio's goals, TIF is recommending four grants in this area. The first three recommendations further its goal of strengthening accountability journalism at the state and local level. A grant to **ProPublica** would support its distributed reporting unit, a critical aspect of ProPublica's pioneering work to increase public engagement with the news. The recommended grant to the **Voice of San Diego** would support the establishment of an innovative Engagement Editor position, intended to serve as a guide to San Diego news and public affairs using a variety of techniques, online and in person, to encourage people to become actively engaged in civic life. A recommended grant to the **New America Foundation** would address TIF's goal of a more robust public media sector by supporting a strategic planning process to define a pragmatic, politically viable campaign in support of reinvigorated public media in the U.S. Finally, the recommended grant to **Columbia Journalism Review** would support its Future of News project, which reports on and analyzes the successes and failures of business models, public policy, and ways of collecting and distributing news and information. OSI has provided major, general support for the Columbia Journalism Review since 2006. This grant would be a final grant to CJR.

### *Access to Information*

TIF supports groups working on the collection and dissemination of information that empowers citizens as well as watchdog groups that monitor the regulation of public information and government practices.

This docket includes recommendations to two organizations working on access to information for communities of particular interest to U.S. Programs. The **Media Democracy Fund** (MDF), since its launch in 2006, has distributed \$3.7 million in grants to support grassroots and national advocacy groups that engage in organizing, litigation and regulatory reform around communications policy. The recommended grant to MDF would support it in engaging new constituencies in technology and communications policy debates, such as youth, Native Americans, rural populations, immigrants, and communities of color. The second recommendation is for support to the **Center for Media Justice** (CMJ). CMJ is a key organization in the national communications policy movement and serves a critical role in connecting local grassroots media justice groups, national media policy groups and multi-issue social justice groups organizing on other issues, such as immigrants' rights, healthcare, civic engagement, and economic justice, to develop an open communications infrastructure that is oriented towards the public interest.

### *Fair & Equal Access to the Ballot*

This portfolio's goals are to tackle both systematic and structural problems bedeviling the nation's electoral system – problems that have been exacerbated recently by the Supreme Court's dramatic *Citizens United* decision. TIF has a strategy with both short- and long-term elements to continue to advance its priorities in this arena while responding directly to the likely effects of the decision. In the near-term, this includes: bolstering corporate

governance efforts, leveraging transparency and public opinion to demand accountability for corporate financing of election activities and continuing to advance merit selection for judges or judicial public financing. TIF is also supporting grantees working on longer-term, vital responses to the decision, including voter registration modernization and federal judicial nominations.

In this docket, TIF is recommending two grants for electoral reform work that represent a part of its response to Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling. The recommended grant to the **Campaign Legal Center** (CLC) would support an organization that works on a range of issues in alignment with TIF priorities in this area, including defending existing disclosure laws and campaign finance regulation, voter registration modernization and redistricting reform. CLC also works closely with all current TIF election reform grantees. (The bulk of this grant would be paid out of the JEHT Emergency Fund, although TIF is making a contribution to it, too, because it is considering bringing CLC into this portfolio in the longer term.) A recommended grant to the **Committee for Economic Development** would support a collaboration between it and TIF grantee the Center for Political Accountability in conducting a coordinated campaign to change corporate community attitudes and behaviors about political giving, and related public policies and opinions in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*.