

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Diana Morris, Laleh Ispahani, Nancy Chang and Staff of the Transparency & Integrity Fund and the National Security & Human Rights Campaign  
**DATE:** October 12, 2011  
**RE:** Transparency & Integrity Fund and National Security & Human Rights Campaign's Docket III, October 17, 2011

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We look forward to meeting with you on October 17, 2011, to discuss the third docket of the Transparency and Integrity Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. The Transparency and Integrity Fund respectfully seeks approval of 24 grants in this docket, one of them a joint recommendation with the Criminal Justice Fund. The National Security and Human Rights Campaign seeks approval of 11 grants. In addition, the Campaign will recommend one co-funded grant, which Democracy & Power Fund will present on the October catch-up docket.

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

As reflected in its 2010-2012 strategic plan, the Fund's grant making and program strategies seek to promote government transparency and accountability, the integrity of the judicial and electoral systems, and informed 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 aimed at expanding access to the ballot and addressing the impact of Citizens United;
- Efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing journalism.

The Fund's total contribution to the grants it is recommending in this docket is \$5,920,000. Grant recommendations and a financial summary are attached.

### ***Access to Information***

This portfolio's goals are to support groups working to collect and disseminate information that empowers citizens as well as watchdog groups monitoring the regulation of public information and government practices. The Fund recommends eight grants for this work.

The Fund recommends renewed general support to the **Center for Responsive Politics** (the Center). The Center is the pre-eminent source for non-partisan, accessible data on money in federal politics. Its mission is to provide the public, watchdogs and the media with accurate and timely information on political donations and campaign expenditures with the goal of mitigating the undue influence of moneyed interests on elections and public policy. The data the Center

collects and maintains is used by many of the Fund's grantees to fuel government oversight efforts and reduce the impact of money in our political system.

In our 2009 strategic plan, the Fund committed to strengthen state and local advocacy on transparency and integrity issues while fostering collaborations between organizations working to reform government. The Fund is recommending six grants to support the continued work of the **New Orleans Coalition on Open Governance**, an alliance of six organizations working to reform city policy and practices on transparency and access to information, while fostering greater civic participation by city residents. In its first two years, the Fund (and the Strategic Opportunities Fund) supported five of the coalition's six members through a single grant administered by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. On this docket, we are making individual grants to each organization and one grant -- for administration of shared coalition activities -- to the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The details of the coalition's project are set forth in a separate memo that precedes the six individual grant recommendations to **Puentes, Neighborhoods Partnership Network, Committee for a Better New Orleans, the Public Law Center, the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation.**

The Fund is also recommending a tie-off grant to the **Institute for Wisconsin's Future**. The Institute's research and analysis on state fiscal policy, combined with its organizing skills, have made it a valuable part of the Fund's strategy in Wisconsin. However, while we work with the Board to develop U.S. Programs' City and State Program, we believe that a final year of funding to the Institute is appropriate. (We may revisit this if Wisconsin becomes a priority for that program.)

### ***Broad & Equitable Access to the Ballot***

This portfolio's goals are to tackle both systematic and structural problems bedeviling the nation's electoral system. They include expanding access to the ballot for low-income and historically marginalized groups; modernizing the nation's outdated voter registrations systems; preserving voter rights and improving election administration; and responding to the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. The Fund recommends six grants in this area.

The Transparency and Integrity Fund and the Criminal Justice Fund jointly recommend renewing a project support grant to **Demos** to support three projects: Ending Prison-Based Gerrymandering, Public Works, and Public Agency Voter Registration. Ending Prison-Based Gerrymandering ensures that the redistricting process creates legislative districts that count incarcerated people as residents of their home districts rather than of the districts in which they are incarcerated. Public Works builds a diverse constituency for the public sector and arms advocates and government officials with effective tools to reinforce a civic understanding of the purpose and essential roles of government and public initiatives. The Public Agency Voter Registration project involves advocacy and litigation intended to ease the voter registration process for low-income individuals, work that remains essential until the nation's voter registration systems are systematically overhauled. To conduct this overhaul of registration systems, we recommend renewing project support to the **Pew Charitable Trusts** to continue

efforts to modernize state registration systems by working with state officials to move from reliance on paper registration forms to digital data, and towards implementation of systems that allow voter rolls to be automatically updated when a voter moves, changes his or her name, or dies. We also recommend part of this grant support the Voter Information Project or VIP, a tool developed by Pew in partnership with Google, Microsoft, and the New Organizing Institute. VIP provides voters and engagement groups free, accurate, official answers from elections offices to most frequently asked questions about Election Day, through an accessible online platform.

We also recommend a series of grants that address the anti-voter policies and practices proliferating across the country in the lead up to the 2012 elections. Specifically, we recommend renewing project support to the **Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law** to organize and implement an Election Protection program, and to tackle restrictive photo voter ID laws and citizenship requirements through litigation, advocacy, and voter education. We also recommend a new project support grant to **Project Vote**. This grant would allow Project Vote to work with U.S. Programs “anchor grantee” The Advancement Project on litigation and mitigation efforts in states with the most repressive voting laws, and to work with Fund grantee Campaign Legal Center to protect voters from caging and other voter suppression and intimidation schemes.

Related to these grants to national organizations, we recommend a new project support grant to the **State Infrastructure Fund** or SIF, a donor collaborative which supports state-based groups working on election administration and voter protection. (Usually, Public Interest Projects, where SIF is housed, charges donors a 15% administrative fee, but in this case, the Carnegie Corporation will cover the bulk of the administrative costs (12%), and Public Interest Projects will only charge a processing fee of 3% to others who join the fund, including OSF.) While OSF's national grantees are doing important work, they do not have a presence on the ground in the states. Given the unusually high volume and pace of state-level activity, the Fund believes it is strategic to place some funds at SIF. SIF can quickly and efficiently move funds to key regions and address critical needs as they arise, leverage its donors to fill important gaps, and take advantage of strategic opportunities. Fund staff will have a seat on SIF's Steering Committee, which will allow us to coordinate state-directed giving with other election administration and voter protection donors.

Finally, to advance our work in response to the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, we recommend a new project support grant to **Public Citizen**, to support the Corporate Reform Coalition, an alliance of over 70 government watchdogs, socially responsible investment firms, academics, unions, state pension funds, and corporate governance experts. The Coalition will: (1) organize campaigns in target states to support disclosure of spending on elections by state-chartered corporations; (2) work to persuade select S&P500 corporations to adopt governance policies requiring disclosure of all political spending and mandating shareholder approval of such spending; and (3) seek to secure the Securities and Exchange Commission's adoption of regulations that require all publicly-traded companies to disclose political spending as part of their larger SEC-mandated reporting process.

*A Fair, Diverse & Impartial Judiciary*

The Fund's long-standing concern that courts remain fair and impartial is closely related to its efforts to stem the corrupting and anti-democratic flow of money into the political realm. Recognizing the central role the judicial branch plays in checking government power and providing access to justice for those most marginalized in our society, OSF has long supported work to advocate for a fair and independent judiciary. A robust judiciary – with a diversity of viewpoints and experiences, and a judiciary accountable to law and the Constitution rather than any rigid ideology or partisan agenda – is necessary to advance the many issues U.S. Programs addresses. OSF's judiciary-related funding focuses on: (1) reforming state courts to ensure that they are as independent as possible from undue outside influence, and (2) fostering a diversity of viewpoints about the law and the Constitution. The Fund recommends three grants to further its work on the judiciary.

We recommend a renewal grant to the Justice at Stake Campaign, a coalition of national and state organizations dedicated to keeping courts fair and impartial. Justice at Stake partners are now implementing a recently-completed 5-year strategic plan. To help support that work, we are recommending two grants. The first, to the **Proteus Fund**, will support the Piper Fund judicial independence project. Working with OSF and a new funding partner on judiciary issues – Wellspring Advisors – Piper will research, evaluate, and provide support to state-level campaigns to advance judicial reforms, support collaborative efforts proposed by multiple Justice at Stake partners, and administer rapid response grants. The second, to the **National Center for Access to Justice**, will support that organization's research and advocacy on access to justice issues in civil and criminal courts. Working with Justice at Stake coalition partners, the Center will lead efforts to create a Justice Index that measures the performance of state courts on key access to justice issues.

OSF's support for work on the Constitution and the courts has been anchored by the **American Constitution Society for Law and Policy** (ACS), dedicated to revitalizing and transforming legal and policy debates in classrooms, courtrooms, legislatures and the media, through a diverse and dynamic network of lawyers, law students, and law professors committed to justice. U.S. Programs made a five year, \$5 million grant to ACS from the Progressive Infrastructure Fund in 2006. With that grant ending, the Fund commissioned a top-to-bottom evaluation of the organization. That evaluation revealed much that ACS is doing well while also pointing out areas in which ACS must improve. Our recommended two-year, \$1.5 million grant, coming from the U.S. Programs "anchor grant" portfolio, is accompanied by benchmarks ACS must meet over the next year.

### ***Journalism for an Open Society***

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. The Fund recommends seven grants in this area.

Two of the grants recommended for support in this docket address both the Fund's goal to strengthen accountability journalism at the state and local level, and its interest in addressing the undue influence of special interest money in the American political process, a problem that has

intensified in the wake of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision. A first-time project grant to **Mother Jones** will support its new Dark Money reporting project, which will produce journalism that illuminates the impact of money in politics, with a particular focus on state and local elections, including judicial elections. Dark Money will combine database-driven reporting with strong narrative journalism, and will make extensive use of data visualizations to help make complex stories accessible and compelling. A related grant involves the Fund partnering with the Omidyar Network to support the **Columbia Journalism Review's Campaign Desk States Project**. This project will build a network of CJR correspondents in a dozen states who will monitor local and regional election coverage and will call attention to instances where the press enables ideological fear mongering, rhetorical distortion and manipulation of public opinion, factual errors, and intellectual dishonesty. Correspondents will also monitor the quality of news coverage related to the increasing influence of money on state and local elections.

The Fund also recommends a first-time grant to the **Chicago Reporter**, an independent investigative news organization, founded in 1972, which specializes in in-depth reporting on issues related to race and poverty in metropolitan Chicago. OSF support will release matching funds from the Challenge Fund for Journalism.

Further, with OSI-DC, we recommend a project support grant to enable the **Center for Public Integrity** to create a new reporting initiative that will investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in defense and national security spending, one of the biggest unexplored targets for deep investigative reporting.

Three grants in this portfolio address the Fund's goal of revitalizing, expanding, and bringing greater diversity to the public media sector. A grant to **Radio Bilingue**, which produces the only national news service in public radio serving Spanish-speaking audiences, will support its comprehensive nonpartisan news coverage of the 2012 elections. The Fund is also recommending a project grant to support **Public Radio Capital's** work to strengthen the sustainability and impact of Radio Bilingue and Fund grantee Native Public Media. A project grant will support the **Public Radio Exchange's** new initiative to curate and distribute important international stories for U.S. audiences, as well as its efforts to bring new and diverse voices into public media.

### **National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grants**

Two of the 11 grants the Campaign recommends will advance its priority of strengthening the capacity of core organizations to advocate against abusive counterterrorism policies and promote progressive policies that respects civil liberties, human rights, and the rule of law. We recommend renewed project support for the **Center for National Security Studies** as it engages in policy analysis and advocacy on issues related to unconstitutional domestic surveillance, detention policy, due process for terrorism suspects, discriminatory profiling in counterterrorism efforts, and oversight of abuses of executive power. In addition, the Campaign recommends renewed project support for the **Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute**, which has undertaken the vital role of promoting broad coalitions of litigators and their allies, catalyzing the development of new litigation and advocacy strategies and fostering domestic, international,

and transnational approaches to counterterrorism policies and practices that violate the rule of law.

The Campaign recommends four grants to further its goals of countering anti-Muslim bigotry, promoting the acceptance of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities and individuals in American society and bolstering civic engagement within America's AMEMSA population. First, the Campaign recommends a new grant to the **American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute** to strengthen the capacity, impact and collective voice of American Muslim leaders as they work to resist discrimination, inspire civic engagement and advocate for national security policies that protect the rights of American Muslims. Second, the Campaign recommends a co-funded general support grant for the **Arab American Institute Foundation**, which will be presented on the Democracy and Power Fund's fourth docket. The institute promotes the rights of Arab Americans through research, educational outreach, advocacy and coalition building, and it works to ensure that national security policies and practices do not unfairly target Arab Americans.

The NSHR Campaign also recommends three grants to groups that are examining how localities implement federally-driven national security initiatives. First, the Campaign recommends a renewed project support grant to the **Bill of Rights Defense Committee** so that it can continue to engage in grassroots mobilization, public education, research, and policy advocacy to defend the civil liberties and human rights that have been eroded through U.S. counterterrorism efforts, with a focus on ensuring that local law enforcement does not engage in unwarranted surveillance or profiling. Second, to support state campaigns to oppose unchecked government spying and halt the proliferation of domestic intelligence systems, the NSHR Campaign recommends renewed support to **American Civil Liberties Union Foundation** affiliates in three states (Massachusetts, New York and Washington) that have developed a strong expertise on issues of privacy, civil liberties and surveillance technologies. (All funds under this grant would pass through the national ACLUF and be regranting to state affiliates). Third, the Campaign recommends renewed project support for the **Center for Investigative Reporting** to continue its investigation into the flow of Department of Homeland Security funds to state and local law enforcement agencies and the role of information and surveillance technology in national security.

To shift the counterterrorism paradigm away from the "war on terror," the NSHR Campaign recommends new project support for the **New America Foundation** to hire a fellow from the AMEMSA community to cultivate and promote national security strategies that protect the rights of American Muslims. The fellow will work with staff to produce research and recommendations on pressing national security questions and bring together AMEMSA communities and national security officials to discuss strategies for preventing domestic terrorism. Additionally, the Campaign recommends new project support for the **National Security Initiative** to support the launch of the project, From Knowledge to Action: The "Arab Spring" and U.S. Policy Choices. Through national outreach events on the "Arab Spring" convened in partnership with think tanks, universities and affected community groups, the project will aim to move the national dialogue away from Islamophobia and the "war on terror" paradigm, and to advocate for policies that build unity and inclusion and promote human rights.

In an effort to protect dissent, the Campaign recommends renewed project support to the **Focus Project** (d.b.a. **OMB Watch**) for the **Charity and Security Network**, a collaboration of humanitarian aid groups, international development organizations, charities, foundations and civil liberties and civil rights organizations that have been restricted from engaging in their core activities because of a draconian counterterrorism regime of criminal penalties and civil sanctions barring the provision of “material support” to any organization designated as terrorist by the U.S. government. The network aims to reform these overbroad national security policies and practices, which are restricting humanitarian aid, economic development projects and training in human rights advocacy and peacebuilding.

The NSHR Campaign recommends two grants to further its goals of restoring an absolute prohibition against torture and holding government officials and private actors accountable for past abuses and violations of law. With renewed project support, **Physician for Human Rights’** Anti-Torture Program will mobilize medical and health professionals to engage in research, education, and advocacy to bring human rights values to bear in the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody. A conditional supplemental grant to support the **Constitution Project’s Task Force on Detainee Treatment** will ensure that this project is able to fill an unanticipated 2011 budget gap and complete its investigation in time to release a comprehensive report on the U.S. government’s treatment of terrorism suspects right after the 2012 election. The Task Force needs a commitment of \$150,000 by November 7, 2011. If between now and that date, the Task Force receives a commitment equal to or greater than \$150,000 from another funder (or funders), then the recommended grant will not be paid. However, if between now and that date the Task Force does not receive a commitment or receives a commitment of less than \$150,000 from another funder (or funders), then the recommended grant will be paid in an amount that will bring the total of OSF’s commitments and these other commitments to \$150,000.

The total grant amount recommended by the National Security and Human Rights Campaign on the third docket of 2011, exclusive of the grant that is being presented by the Democracy and Power Fund, is **\$2,610,000**. Our grant write ups and financial summary are attached.

**We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you on October 17, 2011.**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Diana Morris, Raquiba LaBrie, and EOF Staff  
**DATE:** October 13, 2011  
**RE:** Equality and Opportunity Fund Docket III, October 18, 2011

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The mission of the Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) is to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social and political life. The fund concentrates on four core areas of equal opportunity advocacy: racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice. EOF also funds cross-cutting efforts that highlight the shared stake that people of color, immigrants, women, and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The two cross-cutting priorities are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF houses two special initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

Attached are the EOF grant recommendations for Docket III of 2011.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**

All of EOF's racial justice and immigrant rights recommendations for Docket III are, to varying degrees, focused on capturing hearts and minds in order to advance broader policy change. The recommended renewal grant to **Welcoming America** aims to counter anti-immigrant sentiment by increasing U.S.-born Americans' exposure to immigrants through facilitated gatherings that build understanding and trust. While Welcoming America's goals are decidedly non-political, its work has already been shown to have positive ripple effects in the policy arena. Over the last few years, its affiliates have successfully countered municipal-level anti-immigrant ordinances and changed local attitudes towards immigrant communities. EOF also recommends a renewed general support grant to the **Center for New Community**, which plays a national role in exposing the racism of the anti-immigrant movement and helps to ensure the national debate about immigration is fact-based and informed by principles of fairness and reason. The recommended renewal grant to the **Border Action Network** will support its efforts to educate and mobilize the many individuals and families whose lives are adversely affected by unjust immigration enforcement policies, as well as to strengthen the organization's efforts to put a human face on border enforcement issues.

### **GENDER JUSTICE AND LGBTQ RIGHTS**

Pursuant to U.S. Programs Board guidance, EOF will end its gender justice and LGBTQ rights grantmaking by the end of 2012. As the first phase of this process, staff has converted all of the LGBTQ rights and gender justice grants in this docket to tie-off grants, except for the grant to the **Care Fund** for the Caring Across Generations Campaign. In effect, EOF is reserving judgment to confirm whether the Caring Across Generations efforts will fit within our new framework.



And as U.S. Programs deepens its thinking in the area of “Race and Rights,” it is possible that some of the organizations receiving tie-off grants will receive targeted support in the future. EOF’s gender justice portfolio focuses on the following: 1) strengthening economic security for women, with a focus on the rights of low-wage women workers; 2) eliminating racial disparities in reproductive health; and 3) protecting the past gains of the reproductive rights movement. In this docket, the recommended grants to the **Institute for Women’s Policy Research** and the **National Partnership for Women and Families** will support policy research, briefings, and grassroots mobilization of low-wage women workers to address the economic disparities they face and identify policy solutions. This work will build on a recent survey completed by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research examining the impact of the recent recession on women and men. Data from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics show while more men have lost jobs, the recovery for men has at least begun. By contrast, women’s job growth has so far failed to take hold. Women have regained only 9.1 percent (237,000) of the total jobs they lost in the recession (2.6 million from November 2007 through September 2010). Men have fared better, re-gaining 27.6 percent (1.7 million) of the jobs they lost since November 2007 (6.1 million). Furthermore, women report greater hardship in covering the cost of basic items such as food, health care, rent, transportation and utilities.

To address the role of race in reproductive health disparities as well as the limited capacity of women of color-led reproductive justice organizations to weigh in on a range of policy issues affecting their base, EOF recommends grants to the **National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health**, **National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum**, and **CHOICE USA**. These groups are complementing the work of more established advocates such as Planned Parenthood Federation and NARAL by broadening the scope of reproductive rights advocacy to embrace workplace rights in industries where women of color are concentrated (e.g., nail salons) and the impact of immigration enforcement policies on women.

The recommended grant to the Ms. Foundation bridges all of the issues described above. With EOF support, Ms. will convene two strategy meetings to identify specific research, policy advocacy and public education strategies to address the needs of low-income women and women of color. The strategy sessions seek to coordinate and focus advocacy that: 1) elevates the experiences of immigrant women as it relates to harsh border enforcement practices; and 2) explores the impact of the recent economic downturn on low-income women.

A project grant to the **Care Fund** will support Caring Across Generations, a national campaign led by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Jobs with Justice, both EOF and D&P grantees. The goal of the campaign is to develop the organizing and policy advocacy infrastructure to transform how the country cares for elders and other vulnerable members of society. It seeks to do so by improving the professional training and job quality of the workers who provide that care, including home health attendants and domestic workers. Absent significant reforms in the care industry, direct care workers—the vast majority of whom are women of color—will continue to lack economic security and basic workplace rights.

The three recommended LGBTQ rights grants in this docket are renewals to long-standing grantees. A project support grant to **Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders** will build the capacity of its Transgender Rights Project and LGBTQ Youth Project. A general support grant to the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation** will strengthen its three primary functions: training national and regional activists; providing policy analysis, research and staff

resources to state and local organizations working for LGBTQ equality; and leading national policy working groups that provide administrative agencies and policymakers with the necessary information to advance LGBTQ equality. The final grant to the **Civil Marriage Collaborative** will support re-grants to state organizations working to advance the legal recognition of same-sex relationships and encourage partnerships between LGBTQ and allied groups, with a special emphasis on faith-based and people of color led organizations.

## **ANTI-VIOLENCE ADVOCACY**

The sole anti-violence advocacy grant recommended in this docket is to the **Alliance for Educational Justice** to promote non-punitive school reforms and safe learning environments for all students with a focus on students of color and LGBTQ youth. Given the U.S. Programs Board's direction that the Strategic Opportunities Fund assumes responsibility for all grants related to dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, EOF staff has already begun to forward information about this grant and other relevant ones to SOF.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION INITIATIVE**

The Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI) 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) facilitating the reuse of foreclosed properties as affordable housing for low-income households and particularly vulnerable populations; 3) expanding sustainable credit options for lower-income borrowers, including the development of alternative financial products and improved scoring models that better serve immigrant households and borrowers of color; 4) linking neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities for residents of the hardest hit communities; and 5) reversing the racial biases underlying the foreclosure crisis.

Project support grants to the **National Consumer Law Center** and **Center for Responsible Lending** will support their efforts to improve and harmonize servicing standards in the mortgage lending industry, mitigate the impacts of foreclosure on credit scoring, and strengthen protections against unfair and abusive lending practices. A project grant to **Sustainable Neighborhoods Development Strategies, Inc.** will allow it to implement a project-based rental assistance program in Atlanta as a replicable model to simultaneously address foreclosures, stabilize neighborhoods, create jobs and increase the stock of affordable rental housing. All of the above-listed NSI grants are tie-off grants, but these organizations may be able to receive future support as U.S. Programs refines its grantmaking in the area of Race and Rights.

## **CAMPAIGN FOR BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT**

The Docket III grants recommended by the Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA or the Campaign) advance its substantive goals of strengthening family structures, ensuring educational equity and expanding work opportunities for black males. They also rely on strategies such as leadership development, cultivating philanthropic partnerships, faith and youth

organizing, or employing arts and culture to draw attention to the particular challenges black males face and to strengthen the field of black male achievement.

CBMA is in the process of confirming which of the grants recommended in this docket may be tied off as it begins to deepen its focus on a discrete set of policy goals and geographic venues.

### *Strengthening Family Structures*

Through its innovative programming and cultivation of a volunteer network comprised of more than 800 members, the **Black Star Project** has contributed to building strong and functioning family units, providing mentors for young people, teaching youth conflict-resolution skills, and ensuring that youth have solid educational foundations that lead to real economic opportunities. A renewal grant will allow it to continue its work in Chicago, Illinois and disseminate its mentoring and organizing models nationally.

### *Educational Equity*

Renewed general support for **Urban Underground** will enable it to increase its capacity to effectively recruit, engage, and support black males age 14 to 18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin through its civic engagement, media, arts and culture, and academic support programming. The organization addresses four core issue areas: education, juvenile justice, public safety, and health.

### *Expanding Work Opportunities*

With renewed support from CBMA, the **UCLA Black Worker Center** will continue to advance the following goals in East Los Angeles: 1) dismantling the barriers of unemployment discrimination; 2) creating access to quality jobs for black males; and 3) transforming low-paying, low-skilled jobs into fulfilling, sustainable careers through unionization and leadership development.

### *Leadership Development*

A project support grant to the **Philadelphia Leadership Foundation's** Healing Communities program will provide a framework for local churches to address issues important to black men and boys in Philadelphia. The Healing Communities program will provide training and support that enables congregations to develop mentoring programs for black men and boys, and connect black males to social service providers working in employment, housing and education.

A project grant will support the **Miami Foundation's** implementation and management of the Black Male Engagement Initiative, which is a pilot project that was launched in August 2011 in Detroit and Philadelphia by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in partnership with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. The initiative's goal is to highlight the positive impact black males have on their neighborhoods and communities through civic engagement.

The recommended project grant to the **Foundation Center** will support a research project to identify funding trends in the field of black male achievement. The grant will advance the CBMA's efforts to facilitate dialogue within the philanthropic and non-profit sector focused on increasing and leveraging resources to improve life outcomes for black men and boys.

We look forward to meeting with you on October 18 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund  
**DATE:** October 17, 2011  
**RE:** Democracy and Power Fund Catch-Up Docket, October 24, 2011

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We look forward to discussing with you our final recommendations for 2011 at the Democracy and Power Fund's "catch-up" docket on Monday, October 24. The write-ups and a docket sheet are attached here.

In this docket, we bring five recommendations to you totaling \$1.15 million, including \$200,000 in co-funding support from the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. Our recommendations are all for renewals and include idea generation and non-partisan voter engagement grantees. The voter engagement recommendations, 13 months prior to the 2012 election, reflect our commitment to providing funding to organizations that seek as early as possible to build robust, large scale, community-rooted, and high impact voter participation programs. Our recommendations include:

### **Ideas: Generating Innovative Open Society Policies**

#### **Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest**

To provide a renewal general support grant of \$100,000 over two years to the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest, a Washington, DC-based organization that protects the ability of nonprofits to engage in lobbying and other forms of advocacy through reports, media, and trainings. The Center has proven itself to be a trusted source of information for non-profit organizations on how to conduct advocacy in response to legislation and regulations that affect their work. It has also successfully raised awareness of advocacy-related restrictions on Legal Services Corporation grantees, leading to the loosening of several restrictions. Since 2009, the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest has worked with OSI-DC to spotlight the Obama Administration's Executive Order on the hiring of lobbyists, a sweeping order that has precluded many public interest advocates from working in the Obama Administration. The Center has also been a dedicated advocate for the rights of non-profits to lobby and not have their advocacy voice limited by politically driven regulations.

#### **Progressive States Network**

To provide a renewal general support grant of \$300,000 over two years to the Progressive States Network, a multi-issue idea generation and advocacy intermediary that supports state legislators with background research on economic, election, health care, and immigration policies. Progressive States Network links legislators and state-based advocates across state lines and works in partnership with academic experts, think tanks, and local, state, and national advocacy groups. The Network works with hundreds of legislators who identify as progressive nationally and creates model legislation, fact sheets, and communications strategies that are distributed to state legislators and legislative aides, raising awareness of state-specific legislative campaigns,

and promoting consistent messages across states to reinforce open society friendly advocacy messages nationally.

**Voting: Expanding Non-Partisan Voter Participation from Key Constituencies**

**Arab American Institute Foundation**

To provide a renewal general support grant of \$350,000 over two years to the Arab American Institute Foundation. The Arab American Institute, based in Washington, DC, engages in research, educational outreach, public opinion research, coalition building, and leadership development programs to promote awareness of and equality for the Arab American community. The Democracy and Power Fund initially began funding the Arab American Institute via a grant to its Yalla Vote (“Let’s Go Vote”) project, an effective, community-rooted civic education and non-partisan voter participation project in several of the largest Arab American communities across the country. We now recommend general support in recognition of the Institute’s broader priorities and are joined in this recommendation by the National Security and Human Rights Campaign.

**Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation**

To provide a renewal project grant of \$100,000 over two years to the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation. The Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation, a philanthropic affinity group that is housed at Public Interest Projects, brings together grantmakers committed to enhancing non-partisan democratic involvement in all dimensions of civic life, including elections, governance, media, and civil society. The Funders’ Committee has a particular emphasis on historically disenfranchised and underrepresented communities. Since the 1980s, the Funders’ Committee has been a driving force in the donor community in advancing effective voter registration and education, supporting campaign finance reform, and exploring new voting technologies and effective voter engagement strategies. Several USP programs participate in leadership roles within the Funders’ Committee, including the Democracy and Power and Transparency and Integrity Funds. Disclosure: Bill Vandenberg serves as OSF’s elected representative on the Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation’s Steering Committee.

**Youth Engagement Fund**

To provide a renewal project grant of \$300,000 over nine months to the Youth Engagement Fund, a collaborative effort between individual and institutional donors that has been the central vehicle for supporting non-profit youth civic engagement infrastructure for the past two election cycles. OSF has been a supporter since its founding and is joined by Democracy Alliance donors and other foundations. The Fund provides regranting support to nearly two dozen youth civic engagement organizations and has supported tools and products that create economies of scale for the field. Groups supported by the Youth Engagement Fund registered 1.7 million young voters in the 2008 election cycle. The Youth Engagement Fund has also helped leverage access to data, analytics, and polling capacity for the youth field. Disclosure: Bill Vandenberg serves as OSF’s representative on the Youth Engagement Fund’s Advisory Committee.

Complete write-ups for our recommendations follow this memo. We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you when we meet next week. Please let me know if there is further information I may provide in advance of the docket meeting. Thank you.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Erlin Ibreck, for the Strategic Opportunities Fund  
**DATE:** October 17, 2011  
**RE:** Strategic Opportunities Fund Catch-Up Docket, October 24, 2011

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Attached are four grant recommendations for your review. In this docket, we are pleased to present tie off grants to a small group of organizations that have been 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. Two of the grants recommended on this docket are to Native American organizations with whom SOF has been working closely in the past year and a half through this research and development initiative. Staff from the Strategic Opportunities Fund, Equality and Opportunity Fund, and Criminal Justice Fund recently joined a learning visit for grantmakers and advocates to the Cheyenne River and Pine Ridge reservation communities of South Dakota that was organized by First Peoples Fund. Participating staff felt they gained great depth of knowledge through this visit. We hope that this visit, and the evaluation of our R & D art and culture initiative currently underway, will help to inform USP's grantmaking in the future, including through the USP Board's working group discussions with staff and other experts to set new targets for USP for 2013 and beyond.

We are recommending one year general 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. These recommendations are to support the following:

**Appalshop** 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. In addition to regional programs, Appalshop educators and artists provide training in underserved neighborhoods across the United States on using cultural organizing to address local issues and build leadership and community capacity.

**Alternate ROOTS** 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 organizations such as Appalshop and is targeted to the specific context of the southern region of the United States. Alternate ROOTS supports projects that work with local artists and cultural

organizations to explore the impact of the shifting demographics in the South, which hundreds of thousands of new immigrants from all over the world now call home. Most projects supported by ROOTS employ art and culture as civic engagement tools around particular issues, opportunities, or campaigns

On the national front, **First Peoples Fund** and **Seventh Generation Fund** support the preservation and advancement of American Indian Native art and cultural values and practices as a means to begin reclaiming and redefining Native society at large. Through its fellowship programs, networks and collaborative approach, First Peoples Fund has a solid track record of establishing and maintaining strong ties within the Native communities in which it works as well as providing effective training and support to Native artists, helping them achieve career stability, economic success, and influential positioning in their community. Seventh Generation Fund (SGF) works at the intersection of social justice advocacy, philanthropy, and grassroots Native community development. As a leading Indigenous organization focused on empowerment and community sustainability, SGF has successfully leveraged millions of dollars in financial support from mainstream philanthropy and individual donors for re-granting back into its partner communities across the country. Like our other art and culture grants, we have made these grants to help raise awareness of the power and potential for art as a tool to advance a broad spectrum of social justice concerns and issues of specific interest and relevance to U.S. Programs' priorities, including racial justice for historically marginalized communities.

We look forward to discussing with you the Strategic Opportunities Fund docket recommendations on Monday, October 24.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**CC:** Diana Morris  
**FROM:** Leonard Noisette, for the Criminal Justice Fund  
**DATE:** October 18, 2011  
**RE:** Criminal Justice Fund Catch-Up Docket, October 24, 2011

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The Criminal Justice Fund recommends the following six grants, totaling \$1,995,423, for inclusion on U.S. Programs' Docket IV scheduled for October 24, 2011. These grants would advance our core goals of reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment, and eliminating racial disparities and securing an equitable system of justice.

### REDUCING MASS INCARCERATION

We recommend two grants, totaling \$302,423, that advance the Criminal Justice Fund's programmatic goal of reducing mass incarceration. We propose to support longtime grantee, the **Sentencing Project**, in using its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to promote a bold agenda for reforms aimed at reducing mass incarceration over the next quarter century. A project grant of \$152,423 over nine months will assist the Sentencing Project to develop the framework for a coordinated multi-state collaborative effort among a broad range of advocates to reduce significantly prison populations in the United States. OSF funding would enable The Sentencing Project to convene leaders in criminal justice reform and related fields to articulate a shared vision of a fair and effective justice system no longer reliant on imprisonment and harsh punishment; build knowledge and buy-in; and develop objectives and strategies for achieving significant reductions in corrections populations nationwide.

Our proposed grant to the **Woman's Prison Association** will support its work highlighting the particular impact of mass incarceration practices on women and promoting the leadership of women with criminal histories in policy reform. Renewed project support of \$150,000 over two years will support the Institute on Women and Criminal Justice. Funding will enable the Institute to: continue conducting research, public education, and advocacy to challenge the overreliance on incarceration and promote alternative approaches; serve as a much-needed, authoritative national voice and resource on issues impacting women in the criminal justice system; and promote and support the participation of formerly incarcerated women in public debate about incarceration policies. This is a tie-off grant, as the Fund continues to tighten its focus and this work is not sufficiently aligned with our strategic priorities.

### ELIMINATING HARSH PUNISHMENT

We recommend two grants, totaling \$320,000, to advance our goal of eliminating harsh punishment practices.<sup>1</sup> Renewed project support of \$200,000 over two years to **The College**

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<sup>1</sup> We also recommend \$300,000 renewed project support to **Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action (Demos)**, over one year, to challenge "prison gerrymandering," the census practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the counties in which the prison is located rather than the communities where they lived prior to being

**and Community Fellowship** will support its continued efforts to expand the availability of quality, publicly funded higher education opportunities to people in and after prison. Funding will enable CCF to continue directing a national campaign to: 1) educate the public and policymakers about the importance of making higher education available to people in and after prison; 2) remove barriers that limit access to higher education for people with criminal records; and 3) promote the expansion of higher education programs and financial assistance for people in and after prison.

A grant to the **Lethal Injection Project** at **U.C. Berkeley School of Law** would advance the Fund's goal of abolishing the death penalty and eliminating race and class disparities in sentencing by challenging lethal injection practices throughout the country. We recommend \$120,000 renewed project support over one year to allow the Project to continue providing vital assistance to death-sentenced individuals, litigators, and abolitionist organizations fighting lethal injection procedures nationwide.

## **ELIMINATING RACIAL DISPARITIES AND SECURING AN EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE**

### **Police Accountability and Transparency**

We recommend two grants, totaling \$1,373,000, to advance the Fund's interest in eliminating race-based policing practices by providing the capacity and infrastructure to support the newly launched Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City and by creating a donor-advised Fund to support activities of organizations working to advance the goals of the campaign.

Project support of \$173,000 over seven months to the **Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City** (North Star Fund as fiscal agent) will support the start-up of the newly initiated Campaign for Fair and Just Policing in New York City. This bridge grant funding will enable the Campaign to hire staff, develop the Campaign governance and structure, and coordinate Campaign activities.

A grant to the **Tides Foundation**, in the amount \$1.2 million over one year will support the creation of a donor advised fund, **the Fund for Fair and Just Policing in New York City**. Through the Fund, the Tides Foundation will re-grant to organizations that advance the goals and objectives of the Campaign.

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incarcerated and to which they will presumably return upon release. This support is part of a larger grant recommended by the Transparency and Integrity Fund and approved on October 17, 2011.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**CC:** Diana Morris  
**FROM:** Andy Ko and Kima Taylor  
**DATE:** October 18, 2011  
**RE:** Campaign for a New Drug Policy Catch-Up Docket, October 24, 2011

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The Campaign for a New Drug Policy proposes the following three grants for U.S. Programs' Docket IV, scheduled for October 24, 2011. These grants would advance the Campaign's goals of promoting drug policy based on public health principles and promoting alternatives to punishment-based drug policies.

### **Promoting Drug Policy Based on Public Health Principles**

A grant to **California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)** would establish a program, developed in partnership with the California chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Academy of Family Practitioners, that would train primary care doctors in addiction treatment best practices, including an analysis of barriers to care faced by their patients. CSAM intends to use its curriculum as a basis for developing policy recommendations that advance full access to comprehensive addiction treatment and expands the medical community's involvement in addressing harm to their patients caused by current drug policies.

The proposed grant to **AIDS United** would fund the Syringe Access Fund's support for advocacy, technical training, and services at local syringe access programs. This grant would advance the Campaign's general objective of establishing a health based drug policy and, more specifically, support training an advocacy to establish federal support for local harm reduction programs following the lifting of the ban on federal dollars for syringe exchange. This grant would also strengthen harm reduction programs in states, where providers are often the key voice for drug policy reform. This grant would be co-funded with the International Harm Reduction Program.

### **Promoting Alternatives to Punitive Drug Policies**

The proposed grant to **Protestants for the Common Good (PCG)** would advance the Campaign's efforts to engage the faith community in drug policy reform. PCG is an association of progressive individuals and congregations in the Chicago area that was established as a response to the right-wing Christian movement. While PCG works on a number of issues, it is very active in drug policy reform and efforts to reduce overincarceration. This grant would support its outreach to congregations in Illinois, collaborations with drug policy reform advocates nationally, and public education work regarding alternatives to punishment based drug policy.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Diana Morris, Raquiba LaBrie, and EOF Staff  
**DATE:** October 19, 2011  
**RE:** Equality and Opportunity Fund Catch-Up Docket, October 24, 2011

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The mission of the Equality and Opportunity Fund (EOF) is to ensure justice and equality, prohibit arbitrary and discriminatory government action, and lift barriers that prevent people from participating fully in economic, social and political life. The fund concentrates on four core areas of equal opportunity advocacy: racial justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice. EOF also funds cross-cutting efforts that highlight the shared stake that people of color, immigrants, women, and LGBTQ people have in advocating for equality and opportunity. The two cross-cutting priorities are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF houses two special initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

Attached are the EOF grant recommendations for the Catch-Up Docket of 2011.

### **RACIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS**

On behalf of U.S. Programs, EOF recommends a grant to the NAACP, drawn from the Anchor Grant line item in the USP budget. Anchor grantees are organizations we consider to be key partners across multiple U.S. Programs priorities. There is some debate among staff as to whether the anchor grant designation is appropriate for the NAACP, given the mixed performance of its new president and the lack of a complete match between the organization's priorities and ours. Nevertheless, staff agrees that the NAACP continues to be a fierce and vocal player in the U.S. civil rights attention and merits renewed support.

In the area of immigrant rights, EOF recommends renewed support to the **Four Freedoms Fund**, a re-granting collaborative formed by Ford, Carnegie and OSF shortly after September 11. With EOF support, it will help direct greater attention and resources to the states as the new immigration battleground. Recommended support to the **American Immigration Council** will enable its two divisions, the Immigration Policy Center and the Legal Action Center, to produce policy research and analysis to inform public debate on immigration and prevent the arbitrary and excessive use of federal immigration enforcement authority.

Finally, staff believes that the following two grants have the potential to shape future grantmaking in the area of race and rights. By supporting the newly-formed **Grassroots Racial Justice Fund**, a re-granting intermediary created with seed funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, EOF will be able to increase its investment in racial justice organizations working primarily at the city level to achieve racial equity. Through this investment, staff seeks to gain a more expansive view of grassroots racial justice organizations, increased familiarity with geographic nuances and distinctions, and improved knowledge of funding gaps in the racial justice field. Similarly, a grant to the **Common Counsel Foundation**, working in partnership with Native

Americans in Philanthropy, will yield useful information about gaps in funding for the advancement of Native American rights. The grant will support production of a national scan focused on current policy advocacy and grassroots organizing efforts led by and for Native Americans across the U.S.

## **GENDER JUSTICE AND LGBTQ RIGHTS**

EOF recommends one LGBTQ rights grant in this docket. Recognizing how religion-based homophobia has fueled a particularly virulent sector of anti-LGBTQ advocacy, EOF recommends a grant to **Intersections** to support the Building Bridges project, which seeks to create a network of faith-based leaders connected to communities of color and supportive of LGBTQ equality. Building Bridges will provide faith leaders with resources and opportunities to demonstrate how their faith traditions call for compassion and inclusion of LGBTQ people.

## **LOW-WAGE WORKERS' RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY**

EOF staff believes the workplace, particularly the low-wage job sector, exposes some of the fault lines where structural inequality is most evident and pervasive. In this docket, staff recommends support for the **National Domestic Workers Alliance** and the **National Day Labor Organizing Network**, which are leading some of the most vibrant organizing and advocacy taking place on behalf of vulnerable workers. Both national networks were formed to support the remarkable growth in local “worker centers”<sup>1</sup> organized and are run largely by domestic workers and day laborers. A grant to the **National Day Labor Organizing Network** will enable training and support for local day labor centers and advocacy to challenge state and local enforcement of immigration laws. Recommended funding to the **National Domestic Workers Alliance** will fund efforts to obtain basic employment and labor protections for the approximately 2.5 million domestic workers in the U.S.

EOF also recommends ongoing funding to the **DataCenter** for its role in the National Domestic Worker Alliance’s research survey on domestic workers. This survey is the first national survey of the living and working conditions of domestic workers in the U.S. This recommended tie-off grant will allow DataCenter to conduct analysis of 6,000 survey responses from domestic workers and assist in the drafting of findings and policy recommendations.

## **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 efforts to improve the legal foreclosure process; 3) linking neighborhood stabilization to workforce development and broader economic opportunities; and 4) expanding sustainable credit options for lower-income borrowers, including the development of alternative financial products and improved scoring models that better serve immigrant households and borrowers of color.

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<sup>1</sup> Worker centers serve as hubs of information on workplace rights and legal resources, connect workers to screened employers, and are often connected to a wider network of social services for immigrant communities.

A general support grant to the **Center for New York City Neighborhoods**, which was launched in 2007 with significant start-up support from OSF, will allow the organization to build upon its successes in responding to the foreclosure crisis in New York City and in serving as a national model of coordinated local foreclosure prevention strategies. A project support grant to **Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation** will support a conference on comparative models of delivering affordable and sustainable credit to low- and moderate-income households, which will help identify best international practices for housing finance and explore innovations that can inform ongoing policy debates about the future of the U.S. housing finance system.

Lastly, a project grant to **Citizens Planning and Housing Association** will support the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign, which represents the interests of public housing and very low-income residents of Baltimore in the *Thompson v. HUD* litigation and related fair housing activities.

All of the above-listed NSI grants are tie-off grants, but these organizations may be able to receive future support as U.S. Programs refines its grantmaking and integrates our work on affordable housing and fair credit access into our focus on race and rights.

## **CAMPAIGN FOR BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT**

The grants recommended by CBMA in this docket advance its substantive goals of strengthening family structures, ensuring educational equity and strengthening the field of black male achievement.

### *Strengthening Family Structures*

A project grant to the **Urban Institute** will support its proposed *Revisiting the Moynihan Report* project, which will concentrate political attention on the plight of African American families through analysis, assessment, reporting, and policy recommendations centered on how conditions have changed since the Moynihan Report on black poverty and families was released in 1965.

A project grant to the **Chicago Jobs Council** will support its Fathers, Families and Healthy Communities demonstration project, which is designed to improve the opportunities and outcomes of children of non-custodial fathers by enhancing their fathers' engagement with their families and public systems in Chicago. The grant will solidify a partnership between CBMA and the Chicago Community Trust, aimed at lifting barriers facing up to 500 African American non-custodial fathers across several Chicago communities and increasing their engagement with their families.

With renewed project support, **Mentoring USA**'s "Men-Tour" project will facilitate the recruitment, screening, and training of up to 1,000 male mentors for black middle- and high-school students in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Newark over the grant period, with a particular emphasis on increasing the capacity of community and faith-based mentoring programs.

### *Strengthening the Field*

An EOF co-funded project support grant to **The Equity Center at Indiana University** will support the Race and Gender Disparities Research and Practice Collaborative. The project will bring together researchers, advocates, educators, parents, students and policymakers in order to develop and recommend policies that will lead to changes in practice and policy surrounding issues of equity in school discipline, particularly as they pertain to African American males and LGBTQ students.

A project support grant to **Third World Press Foundation** will enable it to host a series of black male achievement symposia to strengthen the national network of thought leaders, advocates and other key stakeholders committed to improving the life outcomes of black men and boys.

CBMA is in the final stages of negotiating an arrangement to fund **Echoing Green** to develop and lead, in partnership with CBMA, the Open Society Black Male Achievement Fellowships program. The fellowship program will be modeled after Echoing Green's successful 25-year old fellowship program, and it will invest in emerging leaders committed to generating new ideas and best practices throughout the field of black male achievement. The write-up will be submitted under separate cover.

### *Educational Equity*

One of CBMA's core goals is to fund organizations dedicated to ensuring that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, be prepared for college and learn skills essential to earning a living wage. A project support grant to **Southern University System** will fund the planning and launching of the Five-Fifths Agenda for America, a regional education demonstration project that will elevate existing effective strategies and seed innovative new strategies for educating black males. The project will be led by the Southern University of New Orleans and Jackson State University.

We look forward to meeting with you on October 24 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Aryeh Neier  
**FROM:** Raquiba LaBrie  
**CC:** Diana Morris  
**DATE:** November 2, 2011  
**RE:** Recommended Naturalization Grantmaking for 2011

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At its June 2011 meeting, the U.S. Programs Board authorized grantmaking of up to \$4 million over two years from the Chairman and Board budget line to support naturalization services and advocacy. Staff now seeks your approval to recommend three naturalization grants totaling \$2,469,100. We shared summaries of the recommended grants with the Equality and Opportunity Fund Board advisors – Sherrilyn Ifill, Geoffrey Canada and Joan Dunlop – as well as Deepak Bhargava because of his substantive expertise. They have provided authorization to submit the attached recommendations to you. We will recommend grants using the remaining naturalization funds in 2012.

Staff has identified three primary goals for naturalization grantmaking: 1) increasing the number of naturalized citizens in the U.S.; 2) challenging barriers to citizenship; and 3) strengthening the capacity of direct service providers to support naturalization. We believe the three grants recommended in this docket will advance these goals. They are intended to integrate the work of national, state and local organizations working to promote naturalization across the U.S. The grant to the **New Americans Citizenship Collaboration** supports the work of national policy advocacy organizations with state and local affiliates that can be activated to provide high-quality naturalization services. The grant to the **National Partnership for New Americans** supports state organizations with experience in national policy advocacy and extensive networks of on-the-ground direct service providers that work on the full range of needs presented by their immigrant constituencies including ESL and financial literacy training, naturalization assistance, and civic participation advocacy. Finally, the grant to **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees** will help OSF and its national funding partners leverage naturalization investments by securing matching support from state and local funders capable of sustaining the work.

Please let us know if you have questions.



**U.S. PROGRAMS  
 Campaign for a New Drug Policy  
 Summary of Recommended Grants  
 December 2011**

**Program Area/Organization**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant Code</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013-2021</b>
<b>Promoting Alternatives to Punishment-Based Drug Policies</b> Drug Policy Alliance	T1: 21128	49,000,000	10 years	4,000,000	45,000,000 C
	T1: <u>21105</u>	1,000,000	1 year	1,000,000	

**Total Recommended: \$ 50,000,000**

**GRANTMAKING TOTAL THIS DOCKET: \$ 50,000,000**

*Amel Veis*  
Approval Signature

1/5/12  
Date

**Campaign for a New Drug Policy  
Memo**

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Diana Morris, Leonard Noisette, Andrew Ko

Date: December 6, 2011

Re: Drug Policy Alliance – General Support Grant 2012-2021

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As you are aware, George Soros has committed \$50 million over ten years to support the work of the Drug Policy Alliance for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2021. This amount includes general support up to \$40,000,000 and project support up to \$10,000,000 to make grants or award contracts to public charities to advance drug policy reform. From this project support grant, DPA will be required to re-grant not less than \$1 million annually throughout the 10-year term of the grant. This grant is made at Mr. Soros' direction, but we have attached a brief write-up for your review and signature to comply with the foundation's grantmaking procedures.

**Grant ID:** 20033585

**Legal Name of Organization:** Drug Policy Alliance

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

**Purpose of Grant:** to provide general support and a project grant to support its Advocacy Grants Program to fund drug policy reform work by other public charities.

**Grant Description:** To provide a multi-year renewal grant to the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), which seeks to end punitive drug policies and establish a system that regulates drugs based on sound health policy and respect for civil and human rights. DPA opposes prohibition and zero-tolerance policies and supports a harm reduction approach designed to minimize negative outcomes for drug users and society as a whole. DPA operates at the local, state, and federal levels, often partnering with groups that have a broader advocacy agenda. DPA pursues its work through a combination of direct public policy advocacy, public education and movement building - the latter through its coalition work, biennial conference, and its own grants program. This grant to DPA would advance OSF's interest in ending the criminalization of drug users, promoting policies that effectively address drug economies without increasing incarceration or racial disparities, and expanding access to drug addiction treatment and harm reduction services.

**Previous OSI Support:** \$55,035,757 U.S. Drug Policy Reform, 2000-2011

**Organization Budget:** \$10,965,160

**Project Budget:** \$10,000,000

**Major Sources of Support:** \$3,439,158 Individual Contributions; \$919,600 Membership Revenue; \$394,509 Earned Income; \$150,000 MAC AIDS Fund; \$150,000 Public Welfare Foundation; \$50,000 Rosenberg Foundation/Fund for Nonviolence; \$309,725 Foundation carryover from 2010 and grants under fifty thousand dollars

**Amount Requested:** \$50,000,000 (\$40,000,000 general support, \$10,000,000 project support)

**Is this a contingent grant?** Yes

**Amount Recommended:** \$50,000,000 from (\$49,000,000 from the Campaign for a New Drug Policy T1: 21128 and, for 2012, \$1,000,000 from Board/Chair's Special Fund T1: 21105)

**Term:** 10 years (January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2021)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) formed in July 2000 from a merger of The Lindesmith Center, a drug policy think-tank established as OSI's first U.S. Program in 1994, and the Drug Policy Foundation, a membership and grantmaking organization established in 1987. The merger created an organization able to engage in high-profile advocacy and strategically target support for emerging opportunities for drug policy reform. According to DPA's most recent annual report, the organization awarded approximately \$1.2 million in 2010. Grants ranged between \$10,000 to \$50,000 and were made to more than 50 organizations and projects.

DPA currently has eight offices, 47 staff members, and approximately 26,000 dues-paying members and 125,000 subscribers to its online communications. DPA's departments and state programs include: Advocacy Grants, Communications, Legal Affairs, Office of National Affairs-DC, and State Advocacy Program (national staff and state-based staff in California, Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York).

**DPA Core Goals**

DPA describes its goals as: (1) reform of the criminal justice system, (2) establishing public health approaches as the primary response to drug use, (3) ending marijuana prohibition and (4) promoting a realistic approach to the use of drugs by young people.

Criminal justice reform - Approximately 500,000 of the more than 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S. are serving sentences for the possession or sale of drugs. In all correctional systems across the country, a highly disproportionate number of racial minorities and poor people are imprisoned in comparison to the general population of drug users and sellers. DPA seeks to decrease the number of people forced into the criminal justice system for drug offenses, reduce the periods of incarceration and eliminate mandatory minimums, and replace punitive drug policy with a health-based regulatory model. Its goals also include eliminating racial disparities in drug law enforcement and reforming parole and probation so that formerly incarcerated people are not returned to prison for technical violations due to drug dependence or subsistence level involvement in the drug economy.

Public health approaches – DPA advocates for harm reduction policies and is a core partner of health focused organizations, such the Harm Reduction Coalition. DPA views the promotion of a public health approach as strategically relevant to achieving if reform goals, but also necessary in preventing many of the potential harms of drug use itself, including the transmission of HIV/AIDS, overdose fatalities, and addiction-related social harms.

Ending marijuana prohibition – DPA views marijuana prohibition as “the heart of the drug war.” While recognizing that people convicted of non-marijuana drug offenses face prison more frequently and for longer periods, DPA points out that there are more than a quarter of a million marijuana arrests in the U.S. each year. These arrests place affected people person at a disadvantage for obtaining employment, housing, and other necessities. DPA also argues that the impact of marijuana arrests falls much more heavily and permanently on poor people and people of color.

Young people and drugs -- DPA addresses the question of drug use by young people though a harm reduction lens. The organization is a mentor and ally to Students for Sensible Drug Policy, which is active on many campuses throughout the U.S. and has a long-established campaign to reduce the harms of drug use by young people.

DPA pursues its work through a number of internal departments, including: a communications department with staff in New York and Berkeley; Office of Legal Affairs in Berkeley; Office of National Affairs in Washington, DC; and state advocacy offices in California, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York.

**Description of the Project for Which Funding Is Sought:**

DPA has requested \$40,000,000 over ten years for general support, with an additional \$10,000,000 over ten years (not less than \$1 million annually) to make grants or award contracts to public charities to advance drug policy reform. The DPA grants program provides grants up to \$50,000 to drug policy reform groups working on local and/or national reform. These grants prioritize geographic areas where DPA is not working directly and programs that advance a particular issue area. Based on its staff’s evaluation, DPA will often support work that takes a new, untried approach to drug policy work, but that is well thought-out and has a potential to advance reform. Representative examples are the work of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition to engage law enforcement professionals in reform work. More recently, DPA has supported the work of Purpose to explore opportunities for online movement building and a number of small-scale mothers’ organizations that are seeking to collaborate in its drug policy reform efforts. DPA also has a rapid response grantmaking line designed to take advantage of emerging opportunities or crises.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

George Soros has directed the foundation to make a grant of \$50 million over ten years (\$5 million annually) to support DPA, based on discussions he has had with DPA Executive Director Ethan Nadelmann. This grant will fund DPA’s work on a national and local level to establish nonpunitive approaches to drug policy that more effectively address the potential health

and social harms associated with drug use. This work will advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's goals of eliminating arrest, incarceration and post-correctional forms of punishment that pervade current drug policy in the U.S. and of establishing a system that promotes, rather than erodes, public health, welfare and safety.

This grant will provide DPA with a stable financial foundation to pursue its reform efforts over the next decade and to raise the level of professionalism and sophistication of its drug policy reform partners in the U.S. Through its biennial conferences, DPA has made it possible for national groups to share experience and expertise, showcasing strategically oriented advocacy, such as the overdose prevention work done by its office in New Mexico and replicated in New York, Washington and other jurisdictions.

DPA and its staff have served in a mentoring capacity to Student for Sensible Drug Policy and other organizations, as well as an ally to the Harm Reduction Coalition, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, the ACLU and its affiliates, local chapters of the NAACP and other civil rights groups that represent people impacted by the war on drugs. On an individual level, DPA's current and former staff members, such as Ethan Nadelmann, Jill Harris, Jasmine Tyler, Bill Piper, Gabriel Sayegh, Deborah Small, and Glenn Backes have had a substantial influence on policy advocates, organizers and executive directors at many other organizations. DPA has also been responsible for diversifying the range of individuals and groups advocating for reform of existing drug policies, including celebrities, such as the late Walter Cronkite and talk show host Montel Williams, and directly engages individuals in the community. As the organization has grown into its leadership role, it has concluded that the success of its work often depends on its willingness, in some contexts, to take a less visible role and help other voices calling for reform to be heard.

Through its direct involvement in states where it maintains offices, DPA is able to coordinate its national and local advocacy to a degree that is often not possible for other national organizations and develop relationships that it is able to leverage in other forums. At this time of heightened opportunity to advance criminal justice reform broadly and drug policy reform specifically, a strong and stable DPA plays a critical role in supporting the network of drug policy reform organizations.

While DPA's dominant role among drug policy reform organizations offers many benefits, there is also a cost. With such a large portion of the resources available for drug policy reform work going to DPA, other organizations – even those that are well run and effective – are often underfunded. The creation of OSF's Campaign for a New Drug Policy is, in part, intended to ameliorate that situation. The requirement that DPA re-grant a substantial portion of this 10-year grant, with at least \$1 million annually designated for grants and contracts awarded by DPA to other charitable organizations to advance drug policy reform, also partially addresses that concern.

For the above-stated reasons, staff of the Campaign for a New Drug Policy recommend a grant of \$50 million over ten years on a contingency basis to the Drug Policy Alliance.