

## FACT SHEET: OSF Washington Office and OSPC

**Brief history:** The OSF Washington Office was opened in April, 2002 with a staff of six. OSPC was originally formed in 1997 as the Research and Policy Reform Center; in 2002 it was renamed the Open Society Policy Center. The office was created in response to 9/11 and dealt with domestic and foreign policy issues from the start. The Center was renamed and restructured so that it could lobby on the full range of issues of concern.

**Composition of the Washington Office:** The Washington Office is part of OSF. It houses OSF's Washington Advocacy staff of 35. That staff does approximately 78% of its work for OSF and 22% for OSPC. (Note that advocacy before the Executive branch often can be done through OSF.) The Washington Office also houses 26 employees who work for other OSF programs, including the Latin America Program, the Rights Initiatives, the Open Society Justice Initiative and the Information Program.

**Relationship between OSF staff and OSPC staff:** All members of OSF's Washington advocacy staff are seconded in part to OSPC. In addition, 49 employees of other OSF programs are "OSPC-enabled", which means they are authorized to work on OSPC matters and must keep contemporaneous records of their OSPC time and work, which are used to calculate salaries and overhead charged to OSPC. Eight of those employees work for US Programs.

**OSPC's work:** As a 501(c)4, OSPC can do certain things OSF cannot do. OSPC hires advocacy staff that directly lobbies the Congress. It can also give (c)4 grants and hire lobbying firms and consultants to advance its advocacy goals. In most cases, OSPC grant making has been tied to its direct advocacy work. While OSPC has traditionally focused on federal level policy, it has recently given grants for state legislative advocacy and is considering a grant related to a state ballot initiative. As a matter of policy, OSPC does not engage in partisan political activity.

**OSPC's budget:** OSPC's budget for 2011 is roughly \$3 million, of which \$1.1 million funds direct advocacy by OSPC staff and \$1.8 million goes to grants and consultancies. Of the funds spent on grants so far this year, 72% has been spent on international policy issues, and 28% has been spent on domestic policy issues; however, this ratio can change quite a bit from year to year according to current events.

**OSPC's Board:** Members of the OSPC Board of Directors are: Aryeh Neier (Chair); Jonathan Soros; Morton Halperin, Acting Executive Director of OSPC; Diana Morris; and Gara LaMarche.

**Examples of recent OSPC grants:** OSPC has funded grants: to fly religious leaders from across the country to Washington to lobby their members of Congress to support the Webb Commission legislation and the Second Chance reauthorization; for ONE Action to hire an organizer on foreign aid issues in the district of the new Republican chair of the Foreign Ops Appropriations Subcommittee in the House; and for patch-through calls that connect constituents of key Republican senators by phone to their senator's office to urge him or her to vote for key judicial nominees.