

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson and Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy and Power Fund
Date: October 20, 2009
Re: Democracy and Power Fund End of the Year Docket Recommendation

We look forward to discussing our final Democracy and Power Fund docket of the year with you on October 27. One write-up and a docket sheet are attached here.

The Democracy and Power Fund has largely concluded its grantmaking for 2009 and has made nearly 60 grants this year, totaling close to \$12million. In each grant to date we've either recommended funding for an individual organization, an alliance of groups, or an intermediary entity that will regrant to various groups.

Following a six month planning process that was initiated by Democracy and Power Fund staff members Bill Vandenberg and Patricia Jerido, OSI has joined with the New World Foundation and the Stoneman Foundation to develop a response to the economic crisis and its impacts on grassroots advocacy organizations. To this end, we recommend funding of \$150,000 over one year to the New World Foundation to serve as the fiscal sponsor for a joint RFP project to fund organizations and alliances that seek to develop innovative and replicable models of small donor development. We believe that such an effort would surface new approaches to building small donor funding bases and strengthen the ability of OSI grantees and others seeking to weather this economic storm, increase donor diversification and community "ownership," and enhance fiscal sustainability. The RFP will fund three to five model programs nationally that represent a mix of approaches to grassroots fundraising and donor diversification, with an emphasis on community-based organizations. Additionally, selection criteria will prioritize organizations that have existing track records of small donor development and that now seek to identify other, scalable means to increase the financial support that they receive from their community or constituency. The RFP will be targeted to identify best practices and prioritize new strategies in a way that supports the development of replicable models in the field.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani and the Transparency and Integrity Fund
Date: October 19, 2009
Re: Transparency and Integrity Fund's October Docket

We look forward to meeting with you on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, to discuss the third docket of the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF). We respectfully seek approval of 16 grants in this docket.

As reflected in its three year strategic plan, TIF's grant making and program strategies include support for:

- Ensuring a transparent democracy and an engaged public through support for media and government 'watchdog' groups and support for the development and use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public access to information;
- Addressing the crisis in journalism in part through supporting the development of solutions that ensure high quality, sustainable journalism on state and local governance and beat issues remains, or emerges on the Internet, radio, television or in newspapers;
- Promoting government accountability principally, though not solely, through supporting broad and equal access to the ballot and advocacy on the independence and diversity of the judiciary; and
- Exploring the impact of the increasing privatization of government functions, especially in relation to other USP priorities; e.g., privatization of prisons and immigration detention facilities.

The grants recommended in this docket and summarized below include renewal support for key national transparency grantees such as the Center for Responsive Politics and the Sunlight Foundation. There is also a recommendation to fund an important journalism initiative as the Fund continues to shape its evolving and deepening involvement in this area. There are also recommendations to fund key national and state-level government watchdog groups as well as effective and innovative work on judicial independence.

Grants in this docket:

Transparency: Journalism

OSI is deeply interested in the unfortunate decline of watchdog journalism and its programs are addressing the issue collaboratively. In this docket, the Strategic

Opportunities Fund (SOF) and TIF are recommending a grant to the **American Journalism Review** (AJR), which will commission at least four major articles on the crisis in American journalism that will run in special issues over the course of 2010. AJR will provide detailed coverage of what information a democratic society is losing as a result of severe cutbacks in professional journalism. AJR will focus on areas of particular interest to OSI: the decline in coverage of key federal agencies and departments; coverage of state governments; international news coverage; and the decline in investigative reporting. TIF is also recommending a grant to the **Media Consortium**, a network of 45 independent print, online, radio, and television news outlets. The Consortium develops tools to address two main challenges: how to increase the influence of independent journalism in broader public debates about critical political and social issues; and how to navigate the profound economic, technological, and cultural changes reshaping the media business and changing the practice of journalism in the U.S.

Transparency: Information Access, Design and Regulation

In seeking to increase access to government information, the Fund is supporting groups working on the collection and dissemination of data that meets specific interests of watchdogs, journalists, and citizen activists, as well as watchdog groups that increase access to government information and monitor the regulation of information.

This docket includes recommendations to two watchdog groups, the **Center for Responsive Politics**, which collects, codes, and analyzes federal election campaign contributions, a data set that is widely used to unveil legislative corruption, and **Taxpayers for Common Sense**, which collects, codes, and analyzes Congressional earmarks, and in the process draws attention to often overlooked spending decisions (that often have links to campaign contributions).

In order to free up grantmaking and operational funds to focus on other TIF priorities, especially efforts to address the crisis in journalism, TIF is ending funding relationships with several long-time grantees in the media policy field. This docket includes recommendations for final grants to the **Media Access Project**, the **Media and Democracy Coalition**, and **New America Foundation's Wireless Future Program**.

Integrity: Broad and Equal Access to the Ballot

Until TIF's main priority in this area – modernization of the nation's antiquated voter registration systems – is accomplished, it is important to support work to further implement the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the Motor Voter Act). The Act eases the voter registration process for low-income individuals by requiring state governments to allow individuals applying for or renewing drivers' licenses or for social services to register to vote. Because Demos does among the best work in the area, we recommend a grant to **Demos** for its Public Agency Voter Registration project which will build on its prior work in this area by expanding it to additional states with large minority populations, a history of minority disenfranchisement and/or large numbers of urban low-income residents, and by ensuring

state compliance. At the federal level, Demos will continue working on Department of Justice enforcement, encouraging Congressional and Executive branch oversight, and expanding the number of federal agencies that could serve as voter registration sites.

Integrity: Independent and Diverse Judiciary

TIF continues to recalibrate its judiciary-related portfolio in light of new strategic priorities for the portfolio and the Fund more generally. The portfolio's goals emphasize support for innovative approaches to grassroots organizing around issues of the courts and the Constitution, as well as efforts to increase diversity within the judiciary. In this docket, TIF recommends four judiciary-related grants, two of which are tie-off grants.

The tie-off grants involve important ongoing work that no longer represents the long-term priorities of the Fund. Judicial nominations remains an area of concern, as even the President's most moderate nominees continue to face strong opposition.¹ To support groups working on this issue at what is a critical juncture, we are recommending funding for the **Alliance for Justice**, a leader of the Coalition for Constitutional Values, but given allocation shifts across the Fund's portfolios, this will constitute a tie-off grant to the Alliance. We are also recommending a tie-off grant to the **Society of American Law Teachers (SALT)**, which was a key grantee of the former Progressive Legal Infrastructure portfolio.

We recommend renewal funding to the **Infinity Project** which does highly innovative work with lawyers and activists in the Eighth Circuit (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska) working to increase the number of women on the bench in that region. We are also recommending (with the Equality and Opportunity Fund) renewal support to **Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund** for its Fair Courts Project, a campaign to educate citizens about the importance of the courts in vindicating basic rights. Lambda is an active member of TIF grantee the Justice at Stake Campaign and of the Judicial Diversity Working Group coordinated by OSI.

State Strategies

The Fund's strategic plan also describes focused efforts on transparency and accountability in select states and cities. In addition to the grant made as part of the October 16, 2009 Strategic Opportunities Fund docket to support the New Orleans Coalition on Open Governance, which SOF developed in close collaboration with TIF, TIF is also developing a broader state strategy in Wisconsin. As part of that effort, in today's docket, we recommend renewal support to two Wisconsin organizations, the **Wisconsin Democracy Campaign** for its work related to judicial public financing, and

¹ In a recent *New Yorker* piece by legal journalist Jeffrey Toobin, one White House official spoke of the administration's surprise at the opposition to Obama's first nomination, that of Judge David Hamilton, to the Seventh Circuit. "The reaction to Hamilton certainly has given people pause here," a second White House official said. "If they are going to stop David Hamilton, then who won't they stop?" Jeffrey Toobin, *Annals of Law: Bench Press*, The New Yorker, Sept. 21, 2009.

the **Institute for Wisconsin's Future** for its work on state budget and revenue transparency and its efforts related to judicial recusal reform.

This docket also includes recommendations to two related grantees, the **Sunlight Foundation** and **MAPLight.org**, both working on state level transparency projects that make use of new technologies to increase access to information. Their respective projects have different missions, goals, and audiences, and they are coordinating closely to ensure that their projects remain complementary and non-duplicative. Sunlight, which will focus its work on the state legislatures of Louisiana, Wisconsin, Texas, Maryland, and New York, will aim at a more general audience interested in the essentials of state legislative activities, while MAPLight.org which will focus on Wisconsin will target a more specialized audience of journalists and issue-oriented nonprofit groups seeking in-depth tools to investigate the interplay of money, politics, and special-interest influence.

We also recommend one grant to **Demos** for its Public Works Project to continue its efforts to create a sustainable and widespread understanding of, and support for, the essential role of government in TIF target states. This work aims to reverse the anti-government, pro-privatization attitude that pervades many discussions of the most pressing problems facing these communities and states. By casting government as a barrier to progress and touting the private sector as the solution, these attitudes can impede reformers' efforts on crime, inequality, government corruption, and environmental degradation. Demos will work with groups in the Fund's target states on specific issues in which the role of government is an issue.

Memo

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson; Leonard E. Noisette; Daniel Wolfe; Criminal Justice Fund Staff

Date: 19 October 2009

Re: Docket IV, 27 October 2009

For U.S. Programs' October 27, 2009, docket, the Criminal Justice Fund (CJF) is recommending twelve (12) grants for funding. Seven recommendations are for joint funding from the USP Drug Policy Reform, International Harm Reduction Department (IHRD) Drug Policy Reform, and Criminal Justice Fund grantmaking budgets. These grants, to organizations previously funded by the Drug Policy Alliance's Advocacy Grants Program, would further our interim strategy to strengthen and better coordinate voices in support of reform of drug policies, including eliminating the federal ban on syringe exchange funding. Four proposed grants would provide continued support for the Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty by 2025. One grant would support efforts to reduce the disenfranchisement of formerly incarcerated persons in New Orleans, Louisiana by seeking to restore their right to vote and to help them engage more fully in civic activities. Collectively, these grants would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's key goals of reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment and eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable system of justice.

Reducing Mass Incarceration: Drug Policy Reform

Point Defiance AIDS Projects (dba North American Syringe Exchange Network—NASEN), \$100,000 general support grant over two years (\$50,000 from the USP Drug Policy Reform budget and IHRD Drug Policy reform budget). NASEN promotes the idea that drug use and misuse is a public health issue and works to ensure that drug users have the same access to quality disease prevention and health care that other citizens of our society enjoy. The organization works to: eliminate epidemic levels of the transmission of HIV, HCV, and other blood borne pathogens among injecting drug users (IDUs), their partners, family, friends and others in their community; foster the equitable inclusion of IDUs and sex workers in the healthcare system and fair treatment of these individuals by society at large; and supports unrestricted access to the tools and information these populations need to make healthy choices.

A Better Way Foundation (ABWF), \$200,000 general support grant over two years (\$50,000 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget, \$50,000 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget, and \$100,000 from Criminal Justice Fund budget). ABWF is a Connecticut-based grassroots organization dedicated to shifting current drug policy from a paradigm that prioritizes incarceration to one that prioritizes public health, treatment, and public safety. The organization engages in research, education, advocacy and organizing in order to enable progressive drug policy reform and criminal justice agendas and develops and trains future activists of the drug policy, criminal justice reform and public safety communities by using organizing principles with a focus on resident and community empowerment.

Network on Women in Prison (dba Legal Services for Prisoners with Children—LSPC), \$50,000 project grant over one year (\$25,000 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$25,000 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget) to support its *All of Us or None (All or None)* program's continued public education and organizing of people directly affected by the drug war to end it and roll back its negative effects. OSI funding will enable *All or None* to continue its successful voter education work in communities most negatively impacted by the drug war; organizing to preserve voting rights of people with criminal records, in California; and its organizing and leadership development work with people in drug treatment programs.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW), \$85,000 general support grant over one year (\$42,500 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$42,500 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget). NAPW engages in legal advocacy, organizing, broad-based coalition-building, and public education work to secure the civil and human rights, health and welfare of all women, focusing particularly on pregnant and parenting women and those who are most vulnerable—low income women, women of color, and women who use drugs. It also advances drug policy reform principles as an essential part of the Reproductive Justice and Pro-Choice Movements.

Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative (IDPI), \$90,000 general support grant over two years (\$45,000 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$45,000 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget). IDPI educates and mobilizes religious denominations, congregations, faith-based advocacy groups, and individual people of faith to promote drug policies that are entirely non-punitive and non-coercive.

Protestants for the Common Good (PCG), \$100,000 project support grant over two years (\$50,000 from USP Drug Policy Reform budget and \$50,000 from IHRD Drug Policy Reform budget) to educate people and organizations of faith in Illinois about and mobilize them to promote treatment and other non-punitive measures for drug policies in Illinois. OSI funding will enable PCG to outreach to congregations through educational forums and pursue a media communications strategy in order to reach a public audience.

Reducing Harsh Punishment

Innocence Project of New Orleans as fiscal sponsor for **Voice Of The Ex-offender (VOTE)**, \$100,000 project support grant over two years (\$60,000 from Criminal Justice Fund reentry budget and \$40,000 from the Democracy and Power Fund budget) to conduct public education and organize and mobilize people with criminal records around their right to vote; greater participation in the 2010 Census; and unreasonable barriers to reentry in New Orleans. VOTE organizes and mobilizes people with criminal records around their right to vote, and its electoral organizing and legal training programs are focused on increasing the civic participation of people with criminal records in New Orleans. VOTE is developing a model strategic program that will complement and support the national struggle towards federal re-enfranchisement and efforts to increase the participation of marginalized communities in the 2010 Census.

Reducing Harsh Punishment: The Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty

The Constitution Project, \$150,000 renewed project support over two years to advance The Constitution Project's state-based advocacy work intended to organize unlikely allies in support of death penalty reform and abolition. The grant will enable The Constitution Project to hire a dedicated coordinator to recruit nontraditional allies for death penalty reform including law enforcement officials, judges, and prosecutors. As part of this effort, the project coordinator will launch *The Clearinghouse for New Voices on the Death Penalty*, a national network of influential

and unlikely spokespersons to which allies can turn for critical assistance with specific campaigns and litigation support. Support from allies may include testimony before state and local policymaking bodies, participation in press conferences, support of amicus briefs and clemency efforts, and communications efforts such as public speaking and producing opinion pieces.

Death Penalty Focus (DPF), \$175,000 general support over 27 months to advance DPF's goal of ending the death penalty in California. Currently, DPF is working in collaboration with other state-based groups, including the ACLU of Northern California and the Progressive Jewish Alliance, to implement a county-based strategy to accomplish the following: 1) reduce the number of death penalty cases charged and brought to trial; 2) shift public opinion about the death penalty; and 3) organize and cultivate activists to be mobilized. DPF is also working collaboratively to defeat a future ballot initiative purporting to expand and to speed up the death penalty system in California

Michigan State University College of Law, \$200,000 project support grant over one year to undertake a comprehensive empirical analysis of racial discrimination in North Carolina's system of capital punishment. The study, to be conducted by researchers at Michigan State University College of Law in cooperation with the North Carolina-based Center for Death Penalty Litigation, supports implementation of the recently enacted North Carolina Racial Justice Act (NCRJA). The NCRJA turns the Supreme Court's decision in *McClesky v. Kemp* on its head by recognizing the perverse role of racial discrimination in capital punishment. The NCRJA will allow individuals sentenced to death in North Carolina, and any person facing a death sentence in the future, to seek relief on the ground that race played a significant part in the decision to seek or impose the sentence. The project seeks to fill in the gaps of an earlier study in a manner that is responsive to the NCRJA, and to provide sufficient statistical analysis of cases at the county, district, division, and state levels to allow defendants to take advantage of the Act.

University of Texas at Austin, Institute for Restorative Justice and Restorative Dialogue in the School of Social Work (SSW), \$175,000 project support over two years to advance the Institute's Defense-Initiated Victim Outreach (DIVO) in Texas. Many capital defense attorneys are reconsidering their detachment from victims. DIVO has emerged as an effort to facilitate survivors' and capital defense teams' access to one another by providing capital defense attorneys with the assistance of specially trained experts, victim outreach specialists, to make contact with survivors on behalf of the defense. To date, DIVO services have been provided in approximately 140 capital cases, half within the federal system. In 2008, Georgia-based Council for Restorative Justice was awarded funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to bring the model to Texas. OSI's grant would support further implementation of DIVO in Texas. The project team aims to offer DIVO services to victim-survivors in the 400 capital-eligible cases that are prosecuted annually in Texas. The successful implementation of DIVO in Texas has the potential for significant ramifications at the federal and state levels.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier

FROM: Ann Beeson; Raquiba LaBrie; and EOF Staff

DATE: October 19, 2009

RE: EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FUND DOCKET III

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 III of 2009.

Intersectional Grantmaking

To highlight the shared interest that people of color, immigrants, women and LGBTQ people have in promoting equal opportunity policies, EOF makes "intersectional" grants that implicate at least two of its core issue areas. In this docket, EOF recommends four intersectional grants. The first three are general support grants to the **Asian American Justice Center (AAJC)**, the **National Council of La Raza (NCLR)**, and the **Center for New Community**, all of which work to demonstrate the close connections between racial justice and immigrant rights advocacy. AAJC is a long-standing OSI grantee and is one of the nation's leading authorities on civil rights issues affecting Asian Americans, including immigration, affirmative action, language access, Census policy and voting rights. It is known for its ability to play well with others within and outside of the Asian American civil rights community. NCLR is the largest national Latino civil rights organization in the U.S. and offers important leadership on a range of racial justice and immigration policy issues. Given that NCLR also plays a critical role in advocating on behalf of Latino and immigrant homeowners whose financial security has been disproportionately impacted by bad mortgage loans and record high foreclosure rates, NSI is making a substantial contribution to the NCLR grant. The Center for New Community is a multi-racial organization that challenges structural inequality experienced by U.S.-born people of color and immigrants. It has been particularly adept at identifying issues that unite African Americans and immigrants. For example, it has excelled in educating and mobilizing African Americans around anti-immigrant attacks that directly affect their communities. It has also worked to promote ethical workplace standards – a shared concern of low-wage workers who are immigrants and U.S.-born. The fourth intersectional grant is to the **National Black Justice Coalition**, which advances the civil rights of LGBTQ African Americans and works to eliminate the barriers they face in the black community and the LGBTQ community.

Racial Justice

In this docket, the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF) and EOF are recommending a joint grant to the **Equal Justice Society (EJS)**. EJS's innovative work challenging the intent doctrine in race discrimination claims and its advocacy for fairness and transparency in the federal judicial nominations process advance the programmatic goals of both TIF and EOF. Beyond the EJS grant, EOF recommends tie-off grants to three university-based think tanks that were funded through the former Racial Justice Initiative. As mentioned in previous dockets and in the EOF strategic plan, staff is in the process of launching a new field-building strategy to coordinate the efforts of emerging racial justice organizations and traditional civil rights groups. To free up resources to fund a wider range of racial justice advocacy groups, EOF has decided to limit its support of racial justice think tanks to four core grantees: Center for Social Inclusion, Applied Research Center, Poverty and Race Research Action Council and Kirwan Institute. As a result, EOF is tying off support to three groups recommended for one-year support in this docket. They are the **Institute on Race and Poverty, Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Civiles at U.C.L.A.**, and the **Center for Civil Rights at U.N.C.**

Immigrant Rights

EOF's immigrant rights portfolio recommends a grant to **Detention Watch Network**, a national organization that uses organizing, public education, and communications strategies to reform the U.S. immigration detention system. EOF also recommends a grant to the **Border Action Network**, a community-based organization working along the Arizona-Mexico border to defend the rights of immigrants. To coordinate the efforts of various funders to address the challenges facing newcomers and their host communities, EOF recommends a grant to **Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees**.

There are no Immigration Innovation grants recommended in this docket.

LGBTQ Rights

As EOF sharpens its focus on the most marginalized populations within the LGBTQ community, staff has made donor organizing a lead priority. Clearly, OSI needs funding partners to increase resources to the most marginalized LGBTQ people. Further, as one of the only national non-LGBTQ-identified funders in this field, we have much to learn from our funder colleagues. The LGBTQ rights grants recommended in this docket advance our aims of maintaining strong ties to funders in this field and responding to priorities identified by the most marginalized groups.

In 2004, OSI partnered with six other funders to launch the **Civil Marriage Collaborative (CMC)**. Our investment in CMC has had positive ripple effects on the policy front and secured our place among an influential network of funders in the LGBTQ rights field. EOF uses its seat on the CMC Strategy Committee to advocate for channeling the grassroots momentum around marriage equality into broader social justice

campaigns that implicate other core EOF and USP priorities. Because we believe that our “marriage dollars” are best spent through CMC, staff has decided to end our funding to **Freedom to Marry (FTM)**. FTM has played an invaluable role in the struggle to secure civil marriage rights for LGBTQ people in the U.S. However, as EOF increases its emphasis on intersectional advocacy, we believe that FTM’s singular focus on marriage equality, while effective, does not advance a broader equality agenda. Accordingly, EOF recommends a one-year general support close-out grant to FTM.

Also recommended for funding are **Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)** and the **National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)**. COLAGE is the only national organization specifically supporting young people with LGBTQ parents. It recently launched a multi-year Racial Equity project, which aims to make COLAGE resources more relevant and accessible for people of color with LGBTQ parents. NCTE seeks funding to support the Transgender Health Policy Collaborative, which is comprised of three EOF grantees – NCTE, Transgender Law Center, and National Center for Lesbian Rights. Through a combination of policy research, public education, and regulatory and administrative advocacy, Collaborative members aim to remove the structural barriers that impede greater access to health care for transgender people. Because of bias and discrimination, barriers to employment, disproportionate job loss, a much-higher-than-average lack of insurance, and general bias and discrimination, health care access is one the leading civil rights concerns for transgender people. Regardless of the outcome of the current push for health care reform, the Collaborative will work to ensure the needs of transgender individuals are addressed throughout the implementation phase of reform.

Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

The NSI grants recommended in this docket advance a number of NSI’s goals, including 1) exposing and reversing the racial biases underlying the mortgage crisis; 2) protecting the rights of renters in foreclosed properties; 3) supporting emerging efforts to improve the legal foreclosure process in order to improve outcomes for distressed borrowers; and 4) expanding access to fair and affordable credit for low-income borrowers and borrowers of color. The recommended grant to the **Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** will support the development of the National Mortgage Rescue Scam Task Force, a nationally coordinated effort to protect distressed homeowners, particularly people of color and limited English proficient people, against predatory mortgage rescue scams. The recommended general support grant to the **National Community Reinvestment Coalition** will allow it to continue to exercise leadership in promoting a national dialogue regarding financial institutions’ responsibility to communities and advocating for reforms to expand the impact of community reinvestment and financial inclusion policies. NSI recommends an add-on grant to the **National Housing Law Project** to enable it to respond to new demands created by the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009, which contains new federal protections for tenants in foreclosed properties. A grant to the **Neighborhood Funders Group** will support the development of a foreclosure prevention module and a related funder education campaign. Finally, a grant to the **Vera Institute of Justice** will support an evaluation of NSI-funded

workforce development programs in neighborhoods with concentrated foreclosures in Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and New York.

Campaign for Black Male Achievement

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) docket is its richest to date. To varying degrees, this docket advances each of CBMA's five goals. They are as follows:

1. To strengthen low income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives, policy advocacy and supporting efforts that lift barriers facing single mothers raising black boys.
2. To ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, to prepare for college, and to learn skills essential to earning a living wage.
3. To expand and ensure 21st century family supportive wage work opportunities for black males.
4. To integrate strategic communications into CBMA's work across its three core areas to promote positive frames and messages about black men and boys.
5. To serve as a catalyst in the field of philanthropy for leveraging additional private and public funds for the field of black men and boys.

This docket also marks CBMA's first step towards implementing its place-based strategy. Because many of the policies that perpetuate black male exclusion are state and local policies that affect people in specific places, the Campaign has adopted a place-based grant making approach for the majority of its work. CBMA will focus on the following geographic regions:

1. **The Midwest, with a focus on Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin;**
2. **The Gulf Region, with a focus on New Orleans, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi; and**
3. **The Mid-Atlantic, with a focus on Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC.**

To strengthen family structures and promote responsible fatherhood, CBMA recommends a number of important grants. The first is to the **Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)**, which will support parent advocacy training to inform parents about their rights and role in the education process and how to become forceful advocates for education reform. With CBMA funding, BAEO will scale up its work in three of CBMA's target cities – New Orleans, Milwaukee, and Washington, D.C. The recommended grant to **Men to Boys** will expand its campaign to increase fathers' and mentors' participation in addressing the crisis facing black boys to ten urban cities, including three of CBMA's target cities: Chicago, Jackson, and Washington, D.C. The Campaign also recommends a renewal grant to **The Black Star Project**, a nationally recognized pioneer in promoting responsible fatherhood that has captured the attention and praise of key policy makers, including U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan. Renewed CBMA support will allow the Black Star Project to expand and strengthen its annual Million Father March and other school-based strategies to engage black male mentors and tutors in the Chicago public school system.

To address the damage wrought by the school-to-prison pipeline, disproportionate minority confinement, and other policies that contribute to negative life outcomes for black males, CBMA recommends grants to the **Charles Hamilton Houston Institute at Harvard Law School** and the **Gathering for Justice**. CBMA will partner with the Criminal Justice Fund and EOF to fund the Houston Institute to continue its efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and ultimately reduce the number of students who are suspended, expelled, and arrested in school under zero tolerance disciplinary policies. The former Racial Justice Initiative funded the Houston Institute to develop advocacy strategies and provide technical assistance to defend voluntary public school integration programs. Now that there is a closer fit between the Institute's work and the priorities of CBMA and CJF, EOF will look to CBMA and CJF to take the lead in managing U.S. Programs' relationship with the Institute. A grant to **The Gathering for Justice** will advance its work to mobilize community organizations in Chicago and Milwaukee to play a more active and vocal role in challenging policies that have led to negative life outcomes for black males.

To mobilize youth as agents of change in challenging the conditions faced by black men and boys in the U.S., CBMA recommends grants to the **Children's Defense Fund (CDF)**, **Men Can Stop Rape**, and **Youthline America**. With CBMA funding, CDF plans to train nearly 400 black men and boys as community organizers and advocates for education reform in their local communities in Mississippi and Louisiana. **Men Can Stop Rape** plans to scale up a range of school-based initiatives to engage young men of color in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore to reverse gender-based violence and challenge harmful aspects of traditional masculinity that threaten black male achievement. **Youthline America** seeks funding to engage youth in Jackson, Mississippi to build a website that will be a public repository of information of interest to youth, such as resources on schools, jobs, and health care.

Finally, a grant to the **Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)** will enable it to engage in policy research and advocacy to address the particular needs of disconnected young men of color as the Workforce Investment Act is reauthorized and implemented. The grant is recommended by CBMA for funding from the Seize the Day Fund given that CLASP is taking advantage of the current political moment to address the most challenging issues, increase public participation in policy reform efforts by directly affected constituencies, and promote accountability and equity in implementation of economic recovery plans.

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson, Erlin Ibreck
Cc: Laleh Ispahani
DATE: October 14, 2009
RE: Strategic Opportunities Fund – October 16, 2009 Docket
Recommendations

We look forward to meeting with you this Friday, October 16th, between 2:00 – 3:30, to discuss two grant recommendations from the Strategic Opportunities Fund, presented jointly with the Transparency and Integrity Fund. (This docket will follow the docket meeting for the Seize the Day Initiative.)

In addition to the two of us, the following staff will attend the meeting:

Laleh Ispahani
Thomas Hilbink
Lori McGlinchey

The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) and the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF) are jointly recommending two grants to support a coalition of organizations in New Orleans that are working on transparency issues. Over the past 18 months, SOF and TIF have worked collaboratively and with advocates in New Orleans to develop this effort, combining SOF's deep experience working in New Orleans with TIF's issue expertise.

One grant is to the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) which is the conduit for the re-granting and oversight of a new coalition of local organizations working on transparency issues. The coalition - known as New Orleans Coalition for Open Governance (NOCOG) - is focused on three areas: building greater civic support for good governance; enhancing the oversight of revenues and expenditures; and developing additional transparency in information and media. SOF and TIF recommended a grant earlier this year to build on momentum that catalyzed around several meetings that were held between SOF and TIF staff on the one hand, and key local organizations working on transparency issues, as well as with GNOF staff, on the other. Subsequent meetings between local civic advocates led to the conclusion that they could only succeed at making New Orleans more transparent and accountable through sustained, coordinated, and collective action, and that it would be necessary to employ a variety of strategies, and to proceed simultaneously on multiple fronts. That resulted in the formation of NOCOG.

The second grant is to provide seed funding for the New Orleans Record (the Record), a new journalism initiative, for which the Center for Public Integrity will serve as fiscal agent. Although the Record will participate in NOCOG, it will not serve as its communications arm, and will retain complete editorial independence. The Record's participation in NOCOG comes second to its primary function as an outlet for high quality journalism on matters of public importance and in this role it will produce data-driven investigation and analysis on Gulf Coast issues including criminal justice, education, local government, the environment, the economy, land use, and politics.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson & Erlin Ibreck
DATE: October 16, 2009
RE: Strategic Opportunities Fund
October 27, 2009 Docket Recommendations

The Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) recommends six grants in this docket.

Research and Development (R & D)

There are two grants that fall under this category that relate to the role of arts and culture in advancing social change. The **Culture Project** represents a model approach to using art as a tool to advance a broad spectrum of social justice issues of specific interest and relevance to US Programs, and one that has been successful in that regard. A general support grant will help to build Culture Project's capacity to reach new audiences through deep engagement with the most pressing social issues of the day and through the production of innovative theater that highlights contemporary social and political issues. We expect that longer term support for this project might ultimately be anchored within one of OSI's core funds. **Split This Rock**, on the other hand, is more of an experimental grant to support the use of poetry as a tool to raise public awareness about our issues and to inspire activism. The grant will support the 2010 Split This Rock Poetry Festival, as well as activities related to long-term organizational planning. We see its potential to become an established bi-annual event that can garner ongoing support from other donors.

Rapid Response

SOF set aside a portion of its 2009 budget for rapid response grants related to OSI's interest in addressing the current crisis in journalism. Strategy development is being led by TIF and proposed here is a grant to the **American Journalism Review**. The American Journalism Review's articles documenting the consequences of the crisis in journalism in particular areas of OSI interest will help inform TIF's future grantmaking in this area.

Special Initiatives

Over the past several months SOF has been working closely with the Democracy and Power Fund (D & P) to develop a discrete initiative that aims to increase the accuracy of the 2010 Census among hard-to-count constituencies, and that targets specific states and priority communities for US Programs. The September D & P docket contained our first two recommendations. In this docket we recommend grants to the **National Congress of American Indians Fund** (NCAIF) and the **Southern Coalition for Social Justice** (SCSJ). The grant to NCAIF will support *Indian Country Counts*, NCAIF's campaign aimed at reducing the American Indian and Alaska Native undercount in the decennial

census. Through this project, NCAIF will engage tribal citizens in the census process and educate tribal leaders about the importance of census data related to policymaking and the allocation of federal resources. The grant to SCSJ will support *Why We Count*, SCSJ's census campaign aimed at minimizing the undercount of low-income, racial minority, immigrant, and other traditionally hard-to-count populations in targeted Southern states, including Louisiana and Florida.

Finally, we are recommending a two year grant to support the **National Coalition for Child Protection Reform (NCCPR)**, an organization that has for the past eighteen years been dedicated to making the child welfare system better serve America's most vulnerable children by seeking comprehensive change in the child protective system. In this capacity NCCPR advocates for due process and open court hearings in child welfare cases, while promoting informed media coverage of these cases. OSI has supported this organization with US Programs discretionary funds over a number of years and we now propose a tie-off legacy grant from the Strategic Opportunities Fund.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Aryeh Neier
FROM: Ann Beeson, Erlin Ibreck
Cc: Monique Dixon, Leonard Noisette, Jane Sundius, Bill Vandenberg
DATE: November 17, 2009
RE: Strategic Opportunities Fund – November 23, 2009 Docket Recommendations

We look forward to meeting with you on Monday, November 23 to discuss grant recommendations that are being jointly presented with the Democracy and Power Fund (D & P) in the case of the census recommendations, and with OSI-Baltimore and the Criminal Justice Fund in the case of the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STPP) recommendations.

Census

On occasion, the Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF) undertakes special initiatives that address a time-sensitive opportunity to impact a core U.S. Programs concern. In this instance SOF has collaborated with the Democracy and Power Fund (D&P) on an initiative to increase the accuracy of the 2010 census count by providing support for organizations that aim to engage hard-to-count constituencies. Our funding strategy has prioritized specific work in Louisiana, Florida, and Texas, which are current USP priority states and have a high level of critical hard-to-count constituencies. The **Miami Workers Center** (FL), **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund** (TX, LA) and **Southwest Workers Union** (TX) are trusted messengers in their target communities and are more likely to ensure fuller participation in the census of populations that would otherwise not be counted in these target states.

Also included in our recommendations is funding for the **Census Community Outreach Fund** at the Public Interest Projects (PIP), which is supported by the Ford Foundation and has targeted local groups located in six states: California, Florida, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina and Texas. PIP seeks support to expand the work of the Outreach Fund into Louisiana. Initially, the Outreach Fund will explore potential partnerships with grassroots groups in the New Orleans area including: Moving Forward Gulf Coast; Advocates for Environmental Human Rights; Louisiana Justice Institute; Voice of the Ex-Offender (led by former Soros Justice Fellow Norris Henderson); and the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association. These groups are doing critical work that is of ongoing interest to USP.

The final grant in this cluster is to support the **2010 Census Funders NYC Initiative** which is based at the New York Community Trust. This collaborative fund was established by the Trust, New York Foundation, and other foundations that are pooling resources and working in close cooperation with NYC 2010 Census and the New York Department of State to support nonprofit organizations engaged in outreach to hard-to-count communities in New York City with a particular focus on reaching Black and Latino males in the census count, and a further emphasis on increasing the count in public housing communities. The two lead foundations in the 2010 Census Funders NYC

Initiative are The New York Community Trust and the New York Foundation, both of which have prior experience in supporting census-related activities. This collaborative provides an opportunity for OSI to join forces with local colleague funders to make a significant impact on efforts by local organizations to increase the accuracy of the count in the City's hardest to count neighborhoods.

School-to-Prison Pipeline

Following the September OSI board discussion that explored the forces that are fueling the school-to-prison pipeline, the Strategic Opportunities Fund, in its research and development capacity, worked in collaboration with OSI-Baltimore, the Criminal Justice Fund and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement to develop an RFP to support efforts that highlight the linkages between the *No Child Left Behind* version of the Education and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the school-to-prison pipeline. We see this as a timely opportunity to bring the issue of the school-to-prison pipeline to the forefront of the 2010 debate about the ESEA reauthorization. The groups recommended for support will use advocacy, organizing, education and communication strategies to engage a broad set of policy makers and other stakeholders.

Two of the organizations we are recommending – the **National Center for Fair and Open Testing (FairTest)** and the **Forum for Education and Democracy** – both focus on shifting education policy away from low-quality tests and punitive accountability rules that create intense pressure to narrow curriculum, undermine school climate, and push students out back to a focus on student learning. They are both important partners in this initiative, given the networks they each have in the education reform arena and their existing partnerships with organizations like the Advancement Project and NAACP-LDF. The **Education Law Center (ELC)** has worked since its inception to address and eliminate issues of school discipline and exclusion in Pennsylvania's schools. In its education reform efforts, the Center partners with a network of Pennsylvania-based organizations, including the **Juvenile Law Center (JLC)**, which is a long-time grantee of OSI and an expert in juvenile justice field. For this STPP initiative, ELC will work in partnership with JLC and will thus re-grant a portion of the requested funding.

The **NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund** has long been a leader in responding to the STPP crisis for nearly a decade. In 2005, LDF published "Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline," a seminal study of the policies and practices that push students from our country's schools to its criminal justice system. Since the 2005 report, LDF has maintained a national voice in the growing dialogue about these problems, and has engaged with grassroots advocates to confront particular local problems as well.

The final recommendation is to the **Advancement Project (AP)** - the pre-eminent national organization focused on defining, analyzing, highlighting and dismantling the School-To-Prison Pipeline. Its decade of local, state and national work has made it a leader among educational justice organizations, due to its deep content expertise and the comprehensive, supportive advocacy strategies it employs to help its community partners. Since its inception, AP has consistently proved itself to be an effective advocate and partner, substantially reducing the suspension, expulsion and school-based arrest rates in each community in which it has worked. AP is therefore well placed to serve in a coordinating role for OSI's STPP grantees. They will help to leverage each organization's expertise and strengths, to reinforce organizational relationships and combined efforts, coordinate communications strategies, develop shared policy priorities,

support each other's efforts on key issues as needed, and work efficiently together throughout the grant. To this end, AP plans to organize a full-day meeting with partners in December 2009 to share plans and develop a coordinated work strategy for the next year.

Legacy

On occasion, SOF recommends grants that build on significant past U.S. Programs' investments and leverage them for the benefit of a particular field. **The National Association for Urban Debate Leagues** is recommended for a grant to support more extensive research that analyzes the impact of debate on student achievement. OSI has already invested significant resources in this flagship organization which was seen from the outset as our legacy to the urban debate field. Support for further data analysis and outreach that communicates existing and future research findings to a variety of constituents will support NAUDL's overall goal to generate a better understanding of the significance and role of urban debate in urban education and to communicate those findings to a variety of stakeholders thus further strengthening the urban debate movement. We regard this as a one-time investment that will help to improve the sustainability, quality, and scale of the entire Urban Debate Network.

We look forward to the meeting, and welcome any comments or questions ahead of time that you would like us to address.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, and Hyon Seo Kwon
Date: October 19, 2009
Subject: National Security and Human Rights Campaign's Grant
Recommendations for Docket IV of 2009

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommends four grants on its last docket of 2009.

Toward its goal of mobilizing the public to advocate against abusive counterterrorism policies, the Campaign recommends renewed support for the **Bill of Rights Defense Committee**, a national grassroots organization that engages in public education, grassroots mobilization, policy advocacy, research, and communications to defend the civil liberties and human rights that have been eroded through U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

To advance its priorities of seeking accountability for torture, ending arbitrary and indefinite detention, and supporting new and credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy, the Campaign recommends renewed support for **Rabbis for Human Rights / North America**. This organization of rabbis from all the movements of Judaism provides religious and moral leadership on the issues of torture and detention, within the Jewish community and, increasingly, beyond it through strategic alliances with other religious communities and human rights activists.

In its effort to protect against the loss of privacy, the Campaign recommends renewed support for the **Cato Institute's** Information Policy Studies Department as it engages in a national and state education campaign on the dangers of creating a national system of identification in the name of increasing national security and strengthening enforcement of immigration laws.

Lastly, the National Security and Human Rights Campaign and Transparency and Integrity Fund jointly recommend support to the Open Government and Accountability Program of the **National Security Archive Fund** to strengthen the capacity of this watchdog organization to document government abuses and reduce excessive government secrecy in national security policy; build its Torture Archive, a searchable on-line repository of documents on U.S. interrogation and detention policies; and hold government officials and private actors to account for past abuses and violations of the law.

The total grant amount for the four grants on the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's fourth docket of 2009 is \$1,080,000, of which \$830,000 will be paid from the Campaign budget. Our grant write ups and financial summary are attached.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Helena Huang (Consultant to OSI), and the Seize the Day Grantmaking Committee

Date: October 23, 2009

Re: State Alliance Budgets Revisited

We are writing to provide you with additional information in response to the questions you raised at last week's Seize the Day Initiative docket meeting about budgets for grants we recommended to support state coalitions advancing transparency and equity. Helena Huang and Laleh Ispahani conducted another detailed review of each of the proposed budgets to assess each line by line and to compare their requests relative to one another. In most instances, their inquiry served to reinforce our earlier conclusions that the amounts we recommended for each state do in fact reflect the needs of that state alliance to do the work proposed. This was the case with the Texas, California and New York alliances. In the case of the Mississippi and Wisconsin alliances, however, the additional review provided us opportunities to refine our recommendations.

We are now confident that the slightly revised allocation of resources across and within the five states, is, as discussed below, appropriately tailored to address the particular circumstances presented by each state and the particular needs of the five alliances.

In addition, as we mentioned at the docket meeting, we have also withheld some of the total available grantmaking resources for state alliances. We did so in order to be able to consider additional meritorious proposals received during this round (but not recommended in last week's docket) in the next round, and in order to have the flexibility to propose second grants, if appropriate, to state alliances in the larger, more complex states such as New York, California, or in the next round, Florida.

Mississippi

In re-examining the budget of the Mississippi Alliance we saw an opportunity to both reduce and reallocate grant dollars. The lead organization of that state alliance, the Community Policy Resource Training Initiative (CPRTI), has requested a total of \$222,250 over two years for staff support. While the proposal made the case that these staff resources would benefit the entire Alliance, we believe that a 25% reduction of funding for CPRTI staff support will not compromise the long-term success of this project. As a result, we are amending our recommendation that the Mississippi Alliance be funded at the full amount of \$500,000 over two years. We now recommend this Alliance be funded at \$442,000 over two years (\$221,000 for 2009, \$221,000 for 2010).

In addition to recommending this reduction of funding for CPRTI staff support, we are also recommending a reallocation of resources among the partner groups of the Mississippi Alliance. Currently, two key Alliance partners appear under-funded relative to the others, especially given the central roles they will be required to play. The Mississippi Economic Policy Center, a budget and tax policy organization already nationally known for its stimulus-related work in the state, is currently slated to receive \$30,000 over two years, and the Mississippi Center for Justice, a public interest law firm dedicated to advancing racial and economic justice, is slated to receive \$10,000 over two years. We are therefore recommending that the roughly \$30,000 currently allocated to the Mississippi ACLU be diverted in equal amounts to these two key partners. (We had clearly advised this Alliance that OSI could not fund the ACLU affiliate given OSI's prior arrangement with the national ACLU.) This reallocation will augment resources where we believe necessary without altering the amended total budget figure above.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Civic Engagement Project provided ample justification and detail to support its comprehensive dual strategy. Our further review of this Alliance's budget, however, brought to our attention that one partner organization, the Institute for Wisconsin's Future - which is currently slated to receive \$45,000 in 2009 and another \$45,000 in 2010 for its critical role in this Alliance - has also been recommended for a \$150,000 general operating support grant over two years from the Transparency & Integrity Fund on its October 27, 2009 Docket. Should this general operating support grant be approved, we recommend a 30% reduction in the total amount allocated for the Institute's work as part of the Alliance.

In this case, instead of the full grant award of \$500,000 over two years, we would recommend \$470,000 over two years (\$235,000 for 2009, \$235,000 for 2010).

Texas

Further review of the Texas Alliance's budget served to strengthen our recommendation for full funding in the amount of \$500,000 over two years. Texas is a large state with little local funding for advocacy work. The Alliance includes nine highly credible groups. In addition, its proposal provides extensive detail as to how funding will be distributed among the partners in ways that reflect the tasks each proposes to perform. The only issue that surfaced in our review of the budget for the Texas Alliance involves one of the partners, the Texas Observer. As an independent media organization, the Texas Observer may find itself in a precarious position were it to receive funds from the very state alliance it intends to cover. To protect the integrity of this leading journal - both real and perceived - we propose to have OSI, through the Seize the Day Fund, make a separate and direct grant to the Texas Observer. This small but important adjustment will serve to enhance the broader goals of the Alliance.

New York

Further review of this project budget supports our original recommendation to fund the New York Alliance at the full request of \$500,000 over two years. Given the relative sophistication of the alliance partners- as well as a reasonable distribution of resources

among the groups – the full grant amount will be necessary to begin to meet the project’s goals. One could even argue that Common Cause, currently slated to receive \$60,000 over two years for a very central role in the Alliance, merits greater support. We did consider adding some of the \$58,000 dollars by which we have reduced the Mississippi Alliance budget be diverted to Common Cause at this time, but decided instead to wait and make this decision as part of the next round of scheduled grantmaking to state alliances in November.

During the RFP process, we received several very strong proposals from New York. Given the magnitude of New York’s need and the potential for ARRA-related advances in New York (such as the inclusion of equity standards as a part of the state’s own oversight efforts), we may propose an additional grant to this New York Alliance, or a grant to another New York Alliance in the next round.

California

California, an enormous state with a statewide limited statewide advocacy infrastructure, is also in particularly dire financial straits. Initially, we were concerned that even the full grant award of \$500,000 over two years would not be enough to have a sufficient impact in this state. We recognized that whichever California proposal we funded would necessarily need to have significant fundraising capacity as well as to view this project as a part of a broader effort. Our review confirmed our conclusion that the PowerPac Foundation and its partners constituted the best of the proposed alliances given that alliance’s goals, fundraising capacity and statewide reach. At our request, PowerPac recently produced additional details concerning its budget. This information confirms our initial assessment that OSI dollars will be a piece of a larger project budget - of \$1,600,000 over two years - and that funding among the partners will be well allocated and used fully to leverage necessary additional resources.

Unlike the other state alliances, the PowerPac-led alliance proposes to allocate the bulk of OSI funding in the first year of the project. This strategy makes sense given the particularly large sums of ARRA dollars already flowing into California and the relatively high costs associated with deploying organizers across this huge state. However, this strategy also makes it incumbent on PowerPac to meet its ambitious fundraising goals in order to cover core costs in year two of the project.

PowerPac has already raised additional support from local funders for this project and has the kinds of relationships necessary to raise further resources for this work. Still, we recommend that the OSI grant agreement stipulate that OSI funding for year two be contingent on PowerPac’s ability to raise its core project support. Should PowerPac fall significantly short of its necessarily ambitious fundraising goals for the second year of this project, the foundation could decide not to renew its second year of funding support.

A more detailed breakdown of budget allocation by state partner groups follows. Non-partner specific allocations such as non-personnel expenses have not been included in the listing below. An asterisk indicates a proposed amendment to an allocation.

AMENDED BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

Mississippi

Name of Organization:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Community Policy Research Training Initiative2. Mississippi Economic Policy Center3. Mississippi Low Income Childcare Initiative4. Children's Defense Fund5. Mississippi Center for Justice6. MIT CoLab – national partner
Amount Requested:	\$500,000 over two years
Amount Recommended:	\$442,000 over two years (\$221,000 for 2009, \$221,000) for 2010 through the Seize the Day Fund
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. \$232,500 (\$116,250 for 2009, \$116,250 for 2010) *2. \$30,000 over two years *3. \$25,000 over two years4. \$25,000 over two years5. \$10,000 over two years *6. \$30,000 over two years

Wisconsin

Name of Organization:

1. State Voices
2. Wisconsin Citizen Engagement Project
3. Institute for Wisconsin's Future
4. WISDOM
5. Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund
6. Wisconsin 9to5
7. Wisconsin League of Young Voters Education Fund
8. Midwest Environmental Advocates
9. Voces de la Frontera
10. Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
11. Institute for One Wisconsin

Amount Requested:

\$500,000 over two years

Amount Recommended:

\$470,000 over two years (\$235,000 for 2009, \$235,000) for 2010 through the Seize the Day Fund

1. \$25,000 (\$12,500 for 2009, \$12,500 for 2010)
2. \$30,000 (\$15,000 for 2009, \$15,000 2010)
3. \$90,000 (\$45,000 for 2009, \$45,000 for 2010) *
4. \$ 70,000 (\$35,000 for 2009, \$35,000 for 2010)
5. \$60,000 (\$25,000 for 2009, \$35,000 for 2010)
6. \$30,000 (\$15,000 for 2009, \$15,000 for 2010)
7. \$40,000 (\$20,000 for 2009, \$20,000 for 2010)
8. \$10,000 for 2009
9. \$20,000 (\$10,000 for 2009, \$10,000 for 2010)
10. \$20,000 (\$10,000 for 2009, \$10,000 for 2010)
11. \$15,000 (\$7,500 for 2009, \$7,500 for 2010)

Texas

Name of Organization:

1. Texas Impact Education Fund
2. Texans Together
3. Sierra Club
4. Texas Legal Services
5. La Fe
6. Texas Observer
7. Public Citizen
8. Center for Public Policy Priorities
9. Texans for Public Justice

Amount Requested:

\$500,000 over two years

Amount Recommended:

\$500,000 over two years (\$250,000 for 2009, \$250,000 for 2010) through the Seize the Day Fund

1. \$101,000 (\$48,000 for 2009, \$53,000 for 2010)
2. \$80,000 (\$40,000 for 2009, \$40,000 for 2010)
3. \$70,000 (\$35,000 for 2009, \$35,000 for 2010)
4. \$42,000 (\$21,000 for 2009, \$21,000 for 2010)
5. \$50,000 (\$21,000 for 2009, \$29,000 for 2010)
6. \$50,000 (\$25,000 for 2009, \$25,000 for 2010)*
7. \$40,000 (\$20,000 for 2009, \$20,000 for 2010)
8. \$22,000 (\$11,000 for 2009, \$11,000 for 2010)
9. \$16,000 (\$8,000 for 2009, \$8,000 for 2010)

New York

Name of Organization:

1. Make the Road
2. Community Voice Heard
3. Gamaliel
4. National People's Alliance of NY
5. New York Immigration Coalition
6. Common Cause NY

Amount Requested:

\$500,000 over two years

Amount Recommended:

\$500,000 over two years (\$250,000 for 2009, \$250,000 for 2010) through the Seize the Day Fund

1. \$140,000 (\$70,000 in 2009, \$70,000 for 2010)
2. \$80,000 (\$40,000 in 2009, \$40,000 for 2010)
3. \$80,000 (\$40,000 in 2009, \$40,000 for 2010)
4. \$60,000 (\$30,000 in 2009, \$30,000 for 2010)
5. \$60,000 (\$30,000 in 2009, \$30,000 for 2010)
6. \$60,000 (\$30,000 for 2009, \$30,000 for 2010)

California

Name of Organization:

1. CA Alliance
2. PowerPac Foundation
3. Equity California
4. Mobilizing the Immigrant Vote

Amount Requested:

\$500,000 over two years

Amount Recommended:

\$500,000 over two years (\$400,000 for 2009, \$100,000 for 2010) through the Seize the Day Fund

1. \$225,000 (\$150,000 for 2009, \$75,000 for 2010)
2. \$100,000 (\$75,000 for 2009, \$25,000 for 2010)
3. \$75,000 (\$50,000 for 2009, \$25,000 for 2010)
4. \$75,000 (\$50,000 for 2009, \$25,000 for 2010)

Memorandum

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Helena Huang (OSI Consultant), and the Seize the Day Initiative Grantmaking Committee

Date: November 16, 2009

Re: Seize the Day Initiative Special Docket of Recommendations for Funding State Coalitions to Advance Transparency and Equity

Enclosed please find five grant recommendations from the Seize the Day Initiative. You will be meeting with the Initiative's grantmaking committee, Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani, Raquiba LaBrie, Leonard Noisette, Bill Vandenberg, and Helena Huang, on November 23rd at 3:00 pm to discuss these recommendations.

Recent American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) developments suggest there will be an increasingly greater role for advocacy at the state level to ensure that citizens have a voice in the allocation of recovery dollars, and that those funds reach communities most in need. Since our last grants committee meeting with you on October 16th, the federal government released for the first time information from recipients receiving federal stimulus dollars intended to provide a full accounting of how recovery dollars have been spent to date. As predicted by national advocates and government watchdog groups (many of them OSI grantees) such as the STAR Coalition, PolicyLink, and OMB Watch, both the data reporting process and the information it produced was inconsistent and sufficiently lacking in detail. Even the federal government was quick to acknowledge this first report was a "work in progress," with more adjustments to come.

In fact, this initial setback may have created some new opportunities to improve reporting requirements. With national advocates continuing to push for better reporting standards such as more demographic information of funding recipients while at the same time continuing to praise the integrity and promise of ARRA the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, the federal agency that oversees ARRA, has begun to consider making some important changes. Some of these changes, for instance, would require the name of subcontractors in addition to primary contractors; would require states to provide demographic information on job recipients, specifically, racial breakdown and zip code, represent precisely the kind of information necessary for advocates to fully track stimulus spending. In another hopeful sign for advocates, Recovery Board Chairman Earl E. Devaney has indicated that in the future, ARRA recipients who fail to submit reports by the mandated deadline will risk public disclosure on the federal government's website.

Ensuring faithful, timely, and accurate reporting, particularly with small agencies at the local levels, will not be easy. State governments and local agencies continue to exercise enormous influence on how stimulus dollars are spent and accounted for. In most instances, local advocacy will be required to apply the precise combination of support,

resources, and pressure to get the job done. This is compounded by the possibility that many of these proposed new reporting requirements could go into effect as early as January 1, 2010. That would create an even greater need for coordinated stimulus advocacy at the state and local levels as a growing number of these agencies would be mandated to fulfill the new reporting requirements before the end of the second quarter in April.

This is precisely the role our State Alliances are designed to serve. In our first round of grantmaking in response to our special Request for Proposals, we recommended funding for state-based alliances working to fulfill the promise of ARRA in six targeted states, including California, New York, Mississippi, Texas, Wisconsin, and Maryland, under a separate process. In this docket you will find five additional state-based alliances and/or projects recommended for funding. Our targeted states included Colorado, Louisiana, and Florida. Again, we used the same process to solicit proposals as we had with our first round: we released the RFP and hosted informational calls in each state for interested applicants, their national allies, and state-based funders. In several instances, again, we facilitated introductions between organizations working in the same state and encouraged groups to partner with those with complementary skills. We received a total of 13 proposals (one from Colorado, five from Louisiana, and seven from Florida).

From Colorado, we received one meritorious proposal comprised of five complementary research and grassroots organizing groups that are connected to an extensive network of state-based organizations. After a thorough review of the budget, we have concluded that the amount recommended does in fact reflect the needs of the Colorado Alliance to do the work proposed and the funds are allocated reasonably among the partner organizations. This is the only proposal we have recommended for funding at the full request of \$500,000 over two years.

In the case of Louisiana, we did not find a single proposal able to demonstrate sufficiently an ability to bridge some of the historical divides that often keep good government organizations and base-building groups from working together, one of our key criteria. After much consideration on the part of USP staff, we decided it would be best not to recommend funding Louisiana through this process, but rather to look for other opportunities to fund much needed capacity in this state.

We received three strong proposals from Florida and recommend two for funding on this docket. The first is a grant to the Miami Workers Center (also recommended for a grant by the SOF for its census work) and its seven partner organizations as our designated "Florida Alliance." This Florida Alliance offers unparalleled credibility and access to key communities of color across the state and an impressive early track record on stimulus-related advocacy. The second is a grant to the Collins Center for Public Policy, an independent think tank, with an expressed interest in supporting community-based efforts. Collins proposes a new partnership with the Florida Office of Economic Recovery, a new state agency appointed to oversee recovery spending in the state, and offers a level of access to government data that none of the other RFP applicants have been able to attain. We see support for Collins as a supplemental grant designed to

strengthen the work of the proposed Florida Alliance as well as to support transparency in government for the state more generally.

Also included in this docket are two strong proposals from our first round of grantmaking proposals. We reserved some funds in order to be able to consider a second grant to some of the larger, more complex states, such as California and New York State. For California, we are recommending funding a second Alliance that will focus on the timely and often neglected interests of low-income rural and unincorporated urban communities in discrete communities within the San Joaquin Valley. For New York State, we propose funding a small team of lawyers from Legal Aid and the Empire Justice Center to provide targeted legal analysis for our recently funded New York State Alliance as a one-year, supplemental grant.

The lead organization is also the fiscal sponsor for each state alliance, and will regrant funds to its partner organizations. The groups are listed below with more detailed descriptions to follow:

- Colorado:** Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (lead); 9-5 Colorado, FRESC, Progress Now Colorado Education, Colorado Common Cause

- Florida:** Miami Workers Center, Research Institute on Social & Economic Policy Florida Immigration Coalition, Florida Legal Services, Power U Center for Social Change, Jobs with Justice/Central and South Florida Chapters, Kirwan Institute, Advancement Project

- Florida:** The Collins Center for Public Policy (Supplemental Grant)

- New York:** The Legal Aid Society, Empire Justice Center (Supplemental Grant)

- California:** California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, PolicyLink which will not receive additional OSI funding from this grant. (A second Alliance for this state)

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss these recommendations on November 23rd.

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
Via: Ann Beeson, Diana Morris
From: Victor Capoccia
cc: Erlin Ibreck, Lindsey Caruso
Date: September 29, 2009
Subject: Docket for National Drug Treatment Quality Measurement

In preparation for the October 27 docket meeting, we have attached a recommendation for a grant to be awarded to the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Addiction Directors from funds granted to OSI by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for National Drug Treatment Quality Measurement.

As you may recall, in 2007, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) asked OSI to complete work measuring the quality of addiction treatment and awarded OSI a grant of \$775,000 to support related grantmaking and administrative expenses. The grant recommendation that is attached will establish and test a specific measure for medication assisted treatment. This work addresses the latter two of three tasks associated with the RWJF grant to OSI: 1) disseminating the National Quality Forum National Consensus Standards for Addiction Treatment; 2) developing specific measures for two of the 11 Consensus Standards; and, 3) testing and incorporating the two measures into a national data tracking survey. Together these grants are relevant to the comparative effectiveness research that is part of the current health care reform discussion.

This is the third grant for this project. OSI awarded the first grant to Treatment Research Institute of Philadelphia, which has held two different briefings about the standards for state officials, accrediting organizations, and staff at other interest groups such as National Council of State Legislators and National Governors Association. OSI awarded the second grant to the National Quality Forum, which commissioned a white paper, and convened a technical advisory group to develop a working definition of ‘continuing care. Neither grant is yet completed.

We would be pleased to discuss any questions that you may have.