

Docket Cover Memos

Docket Meeting Date: September 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy Fund
Date: September 14, 2012
Re: Democracy Fund September 24, 2012 Docket

We look forward to discussing the next Democracy Fund docket with you on Monday, September 24. Twenty (20) grant recommendations and a financial summary sheet are attached.

My colleagues – program officers Patricia Jerido and Nora Ranney, and program associates Maggie Corser and Heddy Nam – and I look forward to meeting with you. Since this is our first docket meeting with you as well as the Democracy Fund’s final full docket meeting (we’ll likely have only two additional recommendations to come in October), this is both an introduction and somewhat of a farewell. Indeed, 13 of the 20 recommendations we bring to you are for tie-off grants. Three recommendations are for new projects, either for time sensitive campaigns that are responsive to policymaking opportunities or one-time research investments to broaden U.S. Programs’ political knowledge and strategic savvy. Four grantee partners from these recommendations appear to fit fairly securely into USP’s emerging future architecture. We look forward to discussing with you and the USP Board the broader lessons we’ve learned from the Democracy Fund’s work and to explore how this might inform future USP priorities.

As you may know, the Democracy Fund (known as the Democracy and Power Fund until 2011) was established in 2008 to fund multi-issue organizations and build connective tissue within U.S. Programs, investing in high level idea generation as well as building the capacity of organizations to catalyze civic engagement on open society priorities from people of color, immigrant, and youth constituencies. Our grantee partners conduct some of the nation’s most successful advocacy work on the leading issues of the day, including tax and budget policy, educational opportunity, health access, housing justice, immigrants’ rights, and voting rights. Organizations recommended in this docket will play leading roles in debates on the Ryan budget, sequestration forced federal budget cuts, entitlement reform, student debt, and foreclosure policy as well as local and state issues. One grantee – the Southern Coalition for Social Justice – celebrated a significant victory in August for its work to stop, for now, a racially biased Texas redistricting plan. Another – the League of Young Voters – played a key role in stopping Texas’s new voter identification law and spotlighting the impacts of a similar law in Wisconsin.

Our recommendations for our fourth docket of the year advance the Democracy Fund’s three primary areas of investment: idea generation on social and economic policies; voter participation from the most marginalized constituencies; and grassroots engagement on open society priorities from both traditional and nontraditional sources. We pursue these priorities at the national, state, and local levels, dedicating 15% of our annual investments to North Carolina and Texas based organizations. These states were selected following an extensive, seven state field research effort in strategically significant Southeastern and Southwestern states that are at

demographic and political tipping points. We are now working to help inform the development of U.S. Programs' future City-State Initiative.

In this docket, we bring 20 recommendations to you totaling \$4.775 million. Among the recommendations are 17 renewals, including 13 tie-offs, mostly from our state-based portfolio. We recommend support to provide short-term, rapid response funding for three new efforts. They include: (1) the launch of a new, time sensitive United States Student Association Foundation campaign to address student debt; (2) a ProgressNow Education led state-based research project to expose the agenda and activities of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC); and (3) a project launched by the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation to provide in-depth research on ballot initiatives and referenda that will impact open society over the next two years. For the 13 tie-off recommendations, we are working with some, not all, to support donor outreach so that they do not face adverse fiscal realities after our support ends. We did not consider matching grants for these tie-offs but will do so for a tie-off that we'll bring to you in October.

One recommendation is for a USP core grantee for which the Democracy Fund serves as lead liaison, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The Center on Budget would be co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund, for a new project on immigration and fiscal policy. Another recommendation, for the Main Street Alliance, would be co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity and Transparency Funds. We find the Main Street Alliance's work to strategically engage small business owners in open society advocacy particularly compelling and I and my colleagues have played an active role – via hosting a funder's briefing and conducting targeted outreach to institutional, labor, and individual donors affiliated with the Democracy Alliance – in raising its profile in the funding community.

The docket features several organizations that conduct research and advocacy on federal and state fiscal policy. It includes 11 city or state-based organizations that seek to expand the civic engagement and open society advocacy impact of African Americans, Latinos, immigrants, and young people, principally in North Carolina and Texas. Each of the 20 investments recommended is for an organization that has significant city and state reach, via direct work or through local and state affiliates or partner organizations. We believe this to be an especially effective strategy to impact open society advocacy at multiple – city, state, and federal – levels.

A final snapshot for you of these investment recommendations is a quick demographic scan. Recognizing that an organization's executive leadership is not a full representation of an organization's true commitment to diversity and equity, we note that 40% of recommended organizations in this docket are led by women, with 39% of total recommended dollars following. Organizations led by young people, 30 years of age or younger, total 20% of our recommendations, with 8% of dollars recommended. People of color led organizations comprise 40% of our recommendations but only 16% of total dollars recommended. This is because a larger number of people of color led organizations in this docket are state-based groups, receiving, on average, smaller grants. Earlier in the year, when we made voter and civic engagement grants, the percentage of people of color led organizations ranged from 44% to 57% and the percentage of dollars recommended to them ranged from 52% to 75% of our total funding. We also track the smaller numbers of executive directors who are immigrants and/or LGBTQ identified. We are happy to share those numbers, too.

On behalf of my colleagues, we've found refreshing the comments that you've provided to other USP funds and campaigns which have already shared their first dockets with you. In particular, your interest in organizational capacity tracks closely with our own interests. It is hard to make wise investments without knowing more about

organizational leadership, management, and internal operations. In a similar vein, foundations and grantees that craft elaborate program plans that are divorced from the realities of politics and policymaking climates waste time and resources. Vis-à-vis a greater emphasis on organizational capacity, in candor there are several areas of due diligence you seek for us to answer – particularly on grantee Board development and a more comprehensive examination of financial management – that have been less of a priority in our work. We have provided details here, where possible, and have begun to incorporate internal capacity questions more thoroughly into ongoing grant report review and grantee check-in conversations.

The recommendations attached include:

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

\$1,300,000 total recommendation, including \$1,000,000/1 year renewal, general support; \$300,000/2 years, new, project support

To support the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, DC-based think-tank and one of the nation’s preeminent policy organizations. Founded in 1981 and led by OSF thought partner Bob Greenstein, the Center on Budget analyzes federal and state budget priorities, with a particular emphasis on the impact of various budget choices and tax policies on low-income Americans. At the state level, the Center runs the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, a well-regarded network of 41 state-based fiscal policy think tanks that protect the social safety net and advance policies to confront poverty. The Center is frequently rated, by political observers and opinion shapers of all stripes, among Washington’s most effective policy research and advocacy organizations and Greenstein recently served on USP’s Economic Equity Working Group.

State Fiscal Analysis Initiative

Project support for two state-based organizations, total recommendation of \$250,000/ 2 years

To support the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative (SFAI), based at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. SFAI is a national network of 41 state-based organizations that advance the interests of low- and moderate-income people through the provision of high quality and highly credible state-based research and policy support on budget, tax, and fiscal issues. The work of the SFAI network is particularly significant at a time when many states are confronting prolonged budget and revenue shortfalls and essential services have been – or may soon be – cut. SFAI organizations receive independent support from a funders’ collaborative that includes Annie E. Casey, Ford, Kellogg, Mott, Northwest Areas, and Stoneman foundations. OSF currently supports SFAI groups in Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas.

Louisiana Budget Project	\$150,000/2 years; renewal; tie-off
Mississippi Economic Policy Center	\$100,000/2 years; renewal; tie-off

ALEC State-Based Research Project, ProgressNow Education

\$100,000/1 year; new, project support

ProgressNow works with state partners to promote progressive ideas and causes with creative earned media strategies, targeted email campaigns, and cutting-edge new media. ProgressNow partners are multi-issue advocacy organizations in the states, able to utilize a coordinated communications hub year-round. This project seeks to connect national and state efforts to highlight the negative effects of the shadowy American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) on state policies, institutions, and infrastructure. National partners working on exposing ALEC include: the Center for Media and Democracy; Common Cause; Color of Change; and Center for American Progress. This grant will cover a full time researcher to work directly with state ProgressNow Education entities

and partners nationally to research, create, and publicize state-based reports exposing ALEC's agenda and activities.

Ballot Initiative Research Project, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation

\$100,000/1 year; project support

To support the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Foundation (BISC), a Washington, DC-based research and strategy center dedicated to supporting the work of progressive advocates in fighting negative ballot initiatives and referenda or advancing proactive ballot efforts. Founded in 1999, BISC has grown from a small, niche research operation studying the use of ballot measures by the right wing to a nationally recognized and relied upon clearinghouse on ballot measures. This project grant will allow BISC to conduct collaborative research in states on how the initiative and referendum process is used and to identify issues that have the potential to stem the tide of 40 years of conservative dominance on the ballot.

Main Street Alliance, Alliance for a Just Society

\$700,000/2 years; renewal, project support (including \$500,000 from Democracy Fund; \$150,000 from Transparency Fund; \$50,000 from Equality and Opportunity Fund)

To support the Seattle-based Main Street Alliance, a national network of small business coalitions that leverages small business voices to advance policies that promote racial, economic, and social equity. With the Democracy Fund's early support and continued donor outreach, the Alliance has grown quickly to represent more than 10,000 businesses in 15 states and has proven to be an effective counterweight to the national business lobbies that claim to represent small businesses but that take consistently regressive positions on the role of government, fair taxation, and social justice. Following a successful role in the health care debate, MSA is now focusing on workplace quality, fiscal policy, money in politics, and lending reform campaigns. The Main Street Alliance is a project of the Alliance for a Just Society.

Pacific Institute for Community Organizations (PICO)

\$600,000/18 months; renewal, general support

To support the PICO National Network, a 40 year old, Oakland, CA-based network of faith-based community organizations that brings the voices of local families and faith leaders to the public debate on national, state, and local policies. With more than 50 faith traditions represented in over 1,000 member institutions, PICO represents one million families in 18 states and 150 cities. Following the collapse of ACORN, PICO is now the nation's largest community-based organizing network and OSF support has helped to strengthen its leadership on campaigns for housing justice, bank accountability, and immigrant justice, along with building a new, non-partisan voter engagement effort.

National People's Action

\$600,000/18 months; renewal, general support

To support National People's Action, a 37 year old, Chicago-based national resource center that supports, strengthens, and coordinates grassroots community organizations working for social and economic justice. Through NPA, 29 affiliate organizations in 15 states and the District of Columbia link local and regional organizing efforts into powerful national campaigns that win accountability from decision-makers. OSF support will build the network's capacity and support its work to push forward a national economic and racial justice agenda on housing, job creation, and banking issues.

Student Debt Campaign, United States Student Association Foundation

\$100,000/1 year; project support

To support the United States Student Association Foundation, a current general support grantee, in launching a campaign to address the student debt crisis, which surpassed \$1 trillion in 2012 and grows at the rate of \$2,853 per second. The campaign will press for better federal regulation of loans as well as corporate lender accountability in order to bring relief to students and families caught in cycles of poverty due to student debt and unemployment. The campaign will mobilize student activists from USSAF's national network of public and private universities, community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities, and other minority-serving institutions.

Funders Collaborative for Youth Organizing (fiscal sponsor: Bend The Arc fka Jewish Funds for Justice)

\$100,000/1 year; renewal, tie-off, project support

To support the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, a Brooklyn-based national intermediary that seeks to increase funding for youth organizing organizations across the U.S. and develop strategies to promote to other funders the importance of investment in the leadership of low-income youth of color in social justice organizing. OSF has long supported FCYO, including board representation from Erlin Ibreck (Bill Vandenberg now serves as our representative), and this recommendation would continue OSI's support for FCYO's youth leadership pipeline project and a series of regional funder convenings to recruit new donors.

Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training

\$125,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Oakland-based Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training, a national training and capacity building organization that promotes the connection between fundraising, social justice, and social justice movement building, particularly for people of color communities and groups. GIFT assists organizations in building community-rooted grassroots fundraising capacity, administers an unique people of color development internship, and conducts research on people of color fundraising trends. Since 2010, GIFT has played a key supporting role in a Democracy Fund initiated funder collaborative to invest in experiments to grow the pool of resources – and reduce reliance on foundation funding – for community-based organizations.

School for Creative Activism, Center for Artistic Activism

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, project support, tie-off

To support the School for Creative Activism at the Center for Artistic Activism, a New York City-based organization, for its work to design and implement a cultural organizing curriculum to enhance the advocacy impact of interested USP grantees. Coming off of three highly successful and well-reviewed sessions with racial and economic justice advocates in North Carolina, San Antonio, and New York City, SCA will continue its work to build creative models of organizing which challenge organizers to engage constituencies differently and develop campaigns that reach a broader audience. This grant advances the Democracy Fund's support of innovative ideas with an emphasis on expanding the field's application of broad-based engagement strategies.

Blueprint North Carolina

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support Blueprint North Carolina, a Raleigh, NC based state civic engagement convening “table” with over 50 nonprofits dedicated to improving non-partisan voter participation and advocacy in the state. Founded in 2005 as the North Carolina partner of State Voices, a Democracy Fund grantee, Blueprint provides communications, research, coordination, high quality voter and demographic data, technical assistance, and outreach support to elevate efforts to expand access to health care, raise wages, secure affordable housing, advance a cleaner environment, and achieve freedom from discrimination. Blueprint builds the capacity of social justice non-profits so that they can engage in voter participation at a scale that is significant and more effectively communicate progressive ideas and values.

Institute for Civic Engagement and Social Change

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, project support, tie-off

To support the Institute for Civic Engagement and Social Change, a Durham, North Carolina-based organization housed within North Carolina Central University, an Historically Black College or University (HBCU). This renewal support will further advance the collaboration among North Carolina’s eleven HBCUs through the newly formed Student Empowerment Network, an effort to increase the civic capacity of undergraduate students at North Carolina’s HBCUs and increase collaboration across campuses. In order to build a greater force for social change, the project seeks to become a repository of civic engagement best practices, a clearinghouse for data and information, a producer of student-centered engagement materials, and a real and virtual “commons” where people can gather.

Center for Participatory Change

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Center for Participatory Change, an Asheville, NC based non-profit focused on supporting community-led, grassroots social justice work in western North Carolina. CPC integrates research, leadership development, and regional networking to build the capacity of small grassroots organizations, serving roughly 40 local groups annually with hands on and high quality technical support. CPC conducts deeply rooted multi-cultural work in a region with a complex racial history – fostering collaboration among African American, Latina/o, Native American (primarily Cherokee), and rural Appalachian white people. These alliances lead to more effective advocacy on local and state level issues, including environmental justice, affordable housing, immigrant’s rights, and public investment.

Latin American Coalition

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Charlotte-based Latin American Coalition, North Carolina’s largest Latino community-based organization and an important anchor of the state’s immigrant rights movement. The Latin American Coalition is a key civic engagement organization, working on a continuum of naturalization to voter participation, and works for the promotion and equal participation of Latina/os in the civic, economic and cultural life in North Carolina. The organization includes direct services, statewide civic engagement initiatives, and cultural programs to build a broad base of support for advocacy.

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$100,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a Durham, NC based organization that was founded in 2007 to provide legal, social science, organizing, and communications support to efforts throughout the South to dismantle structural racism. SCSJ works closely with grassroots social justice groups in North Carolina and across the South to support fair redistricting efforts, immigrant justice, protecting minority voting rights, examining “heirs property” rights of long-time landowners facing developers, and advancing criminal justice reform.

Texas Civic Engagement Table

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$150,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support the Austin-based Texas Civic Engagement Table, a state civic engagement convening “table” with over 40 nonprofits dedicated to improving non-partisan voter participation and advocacy in the state. Founded in 2010 with OSF seed funding, TCET serves as the Texas partner of State Voices, a Democracy Fund grantee. TCET provides communications, research, coordination, high quality voter and demographic data, technical assistance, and outreach support in order to enhance open society advocacy and impact.

La Union del Pueblo Entero

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$100,000/1 year; renewal, general support, tie-off

To support La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), a San Juan-based non-profit membership organization with a mission to engage farmworkers, immigrants, and their families in transforming the communities in which they live. LUPE anchors the Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network, a Marguerite Casey Foundation-supported alliance that represents over 10,000 families in the region. By virtue of its long and trusted history in the Valley, home to three of the U.S.’s five poorest counties, LUPE is well-positioned to lead civic engagement efforts in the Valley by convening a regional collaborative table that will offer trainings, mini-grants, access to voter files and software, and voter outreach support.

League of Young Voters Education Fund - Texas

Democracy Fund State-Based Strategy Grantee

\$75,000/1 year; renewal, project support, tie-off

To support the Houston-based Texas state affiliate of the League of Young Voters Education Fund for its work to empower young people to participate in the democratic process and create progressive change on the local, state, and national levels through outreach, trainings, leadership development, arts-based organizing, alliance building, and non-partisan voter engagement. The League has a unique niche in focusing its outreach and leadership development on young people of color who are not based on college campuses. The Texas League serves young people 18-35 years of age, particularly African-Americans and Latinos from Houston and surrounding areas.

Recommendations follow this memo. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let me know if there is further information that my colleagues or I may provide in advance of the docket meeting. Thank you, Chris.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette, Andy Ko and Kima Taylor
Date: September 17, 2012
Re: Campaign for a New Drug Policy, September 24, 2012 Docket

The Campaign for a New Drug Policy proposes the following five grants for U.S. Programs' 2012 Docket III, which we are scheduled to discuss with you on September 24, 2012. These grants would advance the Campaign's goal of promoting drug policy that prioritizes public and individual health and that implements nonpunitive alternative responses to drug use and drug markets.

Establish Access to Comprehensive Health Care as an Alternative to Punitive Drug Policies

The following proposed grant seeks to take advantage of national health care reform and its state level implementation as an opportunity to establish the infrastructure for a health based drug policy. This would advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's interest in shifting U.S. drug policy from its emphasis on punitive law enforcement and lay a necessary foundation for drug policy based on public and individual health priorities.

Community Catalyst, Inc., \$700,000 in renewed project support funding over two years to Community Catalyst, Inc. to advocate for State Medicaid expansion and ensure the inclusion of a meaningful substance use disorder treatment benefit in the state and local rules and regulations of health care reform. Community Catalyst will build on its current efforts to educate, mobilize, and engage mainstream health care consumers and advocates to promote the inclusion of services for drug users in health care reform rules and regulations and ensure accessible high quality addiction treatment. It will also mobilize consumers around addiction treatment coverage issues, develop a post reform strategy for addiction treatment, pilot state campaign models, and develop and disseminate tools to support its national network. This grant would take advantage of a major opportunity to establish a health care infrastructure to advance the Campaign for New Drug Policy's goal of shifting US drug policy to a health based model.

Building Support for an Alternative to the War on Drugs

The four proposed grants described below would support drug policy reform efforts to: (a) engage affected communities and other potentially influential voices, such as law enforcement professionals and parents, in advocating for nonpunitive alternatives to current drug policies; (b) educate the public on the damaging effects of current policies through effective and targeted communications; and (c) support community-level alternatives to punishment-based drug policy.

Institute of the Black World 21st Century, \$150,000 project renewal grant (\$25,000 as match funds) over one year to the Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW-21) to continue its Drug Policy Reform Initiative and its public education and organization of drug policy reform activism from within African American communities. The organization will continue its local campaigns in Washington, DC, Baltimore and Pittsburgh, as well as in nationally visible forums. In pursuing this project, IBW-21 will collaborate with national African American groups, such as the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, the NAACP and other prominent Black groups and leaders. IBW-21 will pursue these partnerships to advance its goal of establishing alternative responses to drug use in African American communities and a national paradigm shift away from punitive drug policies. These alternative responses include, but are not limited to, specifically addressing community needs, decreasing racial disparities in law enforcement, and mitigating other negative impacts of punitive drug policies. This grant will

advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's goal of building support for drug policy reform within affected communities, engaging influential individuals in advocating for drug policy reform, and establishing organized advocacy efforts to implement non-punitive alternative drug policies at the community level.

Mothers Against Teen Violence, \$75,000 renewal grant for general support for one year to Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV), a nonprofit organization based in Dallas, Texas that seeks to reform U.S. drug policy through public education, community mobilization and advocacy. MATV was originally founded in 1994 to provide services to crime victims and their families, eventually conducting violence prevention programs in Dallas schools. By 2008, MATV changed its mission and prioritized an effort to end the War on Drugs, which it identifies as a preventable cause of violence in its community. The organization articulates a broad theory of harm reduction that encompasses health care and justice system reform. This grant would advance the Campaign's interest in supporting drug policy reform work within affected communities of color, engagement of potentially influential individuals, prioritization of health-based drug policies, and community-level alternatives to punitive responses to drug use and demand.

Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, \$200,000 renewal grant for one year of general support to Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), a drug policy reform membership organization of active and former law enforcement professionals. LEAP is committed to ending the War on Drugs and transforming punishment-based drug policies that its members believe compromise public safety and health, degrade human and civil rights, and exacerbate the potential harms of drug use. LEAP supports non-punitive, regulatory approaches as the most effective means of addressing harmful drug use and reversing the death, disease, crime, and addiction caused by unregulated drug markets. This grant would advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's interest in supporting engagement of highly influential groups, such as law enforcement professionals, in drug policy reform efforts.

The Eisenhower Project, Inc., \$300,000 one-year project grant to The Eisenhower Project for combined broad-based and targeted public education and mobilization around Charlotte Street Films' documentary, *The House I Live In*. This film critically examines the U.S. War on Drugs from its historical and political context, through its escalation and catastrophic impact on the lives of racial minorities and lower-income Americans. The Eisenhower Project will align its efforts with established criminal justice and drug policy reform advocates, including coordination of the film's commercial release with targeted public screenings, public conversations, internet-based advocacy and distribution of educational materials, and adaptation of video material shot during the film's production. This grant would be the 2013 center piece of the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's support of strategic communications toward justice-related reform and offer a vehicle to initiate community-level discussions regarding alternatives to punitive drug policies.

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff
Date: September 17, 2012
Re: Criminal Justice Fund, September 24, 2012 docket

The Criminal Justice Fund recommends five grants, totaling \$1,020,000, for inclusion on U.S. Programs' Docket III, scheduled for September 24, 2012. These grants will advance our goals of reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment, and eliminating racial disparities and securing an equitable justice system.

Eliminating Harsh Punishment

We recommend three grants, totaling \$500,000, that advance our goal of eliminating harsh punishment. One grant would support the Fund's continued commitment to the national Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025, launched with OSF leadership. The remaining two would advance our work to address the harsh treatment of children, one to continue support for youth organizing, mobilization and policy advocacy to challenge a range of issues affecting youth in the California youth and adult systems; and a second to support research to evaluate the consequences of and explain why Sexual Offender Registration and Notification requirements should not be unduly expanded to children.

Death Penalty Abolition - Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025

We recommend \$200,000 in renewed project support over two years to the **Capital Litigation Communications Project** (with Texas Defender Service as fiscal agent), to continue its ability to serve as a nationwide communications resource for capital litigators. Led by communications expert Laura Burstein, the Project will continue to address the media and communications needs of the anti-death penalty movement. The Project has been instrumental in locating new allies in the fight for abolition and directing invaluable media attention to death penalty cases. Over the next two years, the Project will continue to provide expert communications supporting strategic litigation and recruiting effective media messengers. This grant will advance CJF's goal of abolishing the use of capital punishment and is part of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025.

Children in the Justice System

The proposed grant to the **Youth Justice Coalition**, \$100,000 in renewed general support over two years, will support its continued efforts to build and advance a youth-led movement to challenge the Los Angeles and California juvenile and criminal justice systems. Over the next year, the organization will continue its focus on strengthening and supporting local groups to engage in criminal justice reform, building its membership base, and mobilizing youth-led campaigns, including the Redirect the 1% Campaign which seeks to build a youth development department in Los Angeles and transfer law enforcement funds to youth employment, community centers, and intervention workers (peace builders) in an effort to curtail L.A.'s decades-long addiction to incarceration.

We recommend \$200,000 in project support over 2 years (2nd year contingent) to **John Hopkins University** to conduct a comprehensive quantitative research project to systematically evaluate the collateral consequences of juvenile sex offender registration and notification (SORN) policies on youth, their families, and impact on public safety. This national study will fill a critical research gap by rigorously assessing through empirical evaluation the effects of SORN policies on youth and public safety outcomes.

Eliminating Racial Disparities and Securing a Fair and Equitable System of Justice

We recommend two grants, totaling \$520,000 that would advance CJF's goal of securing a fair and equitable system of justice and eliminating racial disparities. One would support continued efforts to provide training and technical assistance to ensure that non-citizens receive effective representation to address the potential immigration consequences arising from a criminal accusation; a second grant would enhance the communications capacity of the Communities United for Police Reform, the coordinating entity of the New York City police accountability campaign effort.

Improving Public Defense Services

\$400,000 in renewed project support over two years to the **Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)** (co-funded with the Equality and Opportunity Fund) will support the Defending Immigrants Partnership (DIP), a joint initiative of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, the Immigrant Defense Project, and the National Immigration Project. DIP works to ensure that indigent immigrant defendants receive constitutionally effective criminal defense in light of the extreme additional penalties that they face by virtue of their being immigrants. DIP provides training, technical assistance, education and consultation to public defenders throughout the country to ensure that public defenders meet the Sixth Amendment requirement of effective representation by advising non-citizen defendants on the immigration consequences of a criminal conviction, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Padilla v. Kentucky*. The project engages in strategic litigation, as well.

Ending Discriminatory Policing

We recommend a one-year project grant of \$120,000 to **Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)** (North Star Fund as fiscal sponsor), a newly-initiated, multi-organizational campaign that seeks to challenge the racially disparate impact of New York City Police Department's stop, question and frisk practices and zero tolerance policing, to strengthen and expand its communications capacity. This campaign was developed with the leadership and grant support of the Open Society Foundations and The Atlantic Philanthropies and launched publically in February 2012. The grant will allow CPR to respond to emerging media opportunities, craft media messages, proactively build public discourse about community safety and policing practices, improve social media platforms and bolster the existing communications capacity of CPR's member organizations.

Docket Cover Memos

Docket Meeting Date: October 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Raquiba LaBrie, Shawn Dove, Archana Sahgal, Rashid Shabazz, Luna Yasui, Shruti Garg, Stephanie Ramirez-Burnett, Hayley Roberts, and Li Zhou
Date: October 10, 2012
Re: Equality and Opportunity Fund Docket III, October 16, 2012

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. As reflected in its 2009-12 strategic plan, 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 for 2012 are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF houses two special initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, which is being integrated into EOF's core work and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. This is one of the final dockets for this configuration of EOF grantmaking.

The following is a brief summary of the EOF grant recommendations for Docket III of 2012.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

EOF recommends two organizations that are simultaneously working to advance racial justice reform and defend immigrant rights. The recommended grant to **Opportunity Agenda** (OA) will address both of these priority areas. OA is one of a small cadre of U.S. Programs grantees that have begun to explore development of a "shared fate" conversation that emphasizes the ways in which choices we have collectively made as a society, and the systems we have created, lead to disparities that threaten society as a whole. With renewed funding from EOF, it will begin to address a question that surfaced during the Race and Marginalized Populations (RMP) working group process: what narratives will effectively communicate the continuing need to remedy racial inequality in the current political climate? It will also use communications research to refine immigration reform narratives that resonate broadly and to identify openings to build public will to reduce racial profiling by law enforcement.

A project support grant to the **Race and Equity Collaborative** will help it to resource grassroots racial justice organizations that are well-established in their communities and capable of connecting organizing with overarching policy issues to address structural barriers that limit the opportunities of people of color and immigrants. The general operating support grant to the **Asian American Justice Center** will allow it to continue its role as the leading civil rights voice for Asian Americans on issues ranging from voting rights to immigration to affirmative action.

One other racial justice grant will support the **Common Counsel Foundation's** *Native Voices Rising*, an initiative launched in partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy. The project seeks to engage private and public foundations in collaborative grantmaking and capacity-building activities that in turn increase philanthropic support for social justice advocacy and organizing within Native American communities. The grant will support a cycle of re-granting as well as activities to strengthen the network of Native advocates and organizers.

Through the immigrant rights portfolio, EOF recommends grants to the **Four Freedoms Fund** and **Welcoming America**. The Four Freedoms Fund is a re-granting intermediary formed in the wake of September 11 to strengthen the immigrant rights field by supporting the most relevant and effective field groups working on policy advocacy, immigrant civic engagement, defense of civil rights, and alliance building with other marginalized communities. **Welcoming America** is a national, grassroots-driven collaborative that seeks to create a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants are more likely to integrate into the social fabric of their hometowns. Its state and local affiliates use a combination of local leadership development, strategic communications, and public engagement to reduce anxiety and promote healthy dialogue on immigrant integration in communities across the country. The recommended grant to Welcoming America is a tie-off.

GENDER JUSTICE AND LGBTQ RIGHTS

Pursuant to guidance from the U.S. Programs Board, EOF is winding down its gender justice and LGBTQ rights grantmaking by the end of 2012. In an effort to minimize the impact of OSF's departure from these fields, the Board approved technical assistance funds for organizations in those sectors aimed at strengthening their ability to fundraise and reach new donors. This docket includes support for two technical assistance collaboratives. The first is to the **Ms. Foundation** to provide a cohort of organizations working at the intersection of gender justice and immigrant rights with services to strengthen financial management and resilience, improve strategic communications, and bolster organizational development. With its focus on immigrant women, this project builds upon past U.S. Programs donor and field convenings designed to encourage meaningful and effective inclusion of immigrant women in the broader discourse on immigrant rights and immigrant integration.

The second grant is to the **Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice** to provide technical assistance of to a cohort of organizations addressing the needs of LGBTQ people of color in the United States. The recommended grant will be coordinated with the LGBT Racial Justice Collaborative Fund (the Collaborative) a joint effort of Astraea, the Arcus Foundation, and the Ford Foundation –with likely future support from the Gill Foundation, and Wellspring Advisors, LLC. The broad goal of the Collaborative is to identify and seize opportunities to strengthen alliances between racial justice and LGBT rights campaigns.

LOW-WAGE WORKER RIGHTS

EOF is also winding down its grantmaking in the area of low-wage worker rights, although parts of this work may continue as U.S. Programs' grantmaking in the areas of economic equity and race and marginalization evolves. This docket includes a recommendation for renewed project support to the **National Employment Law Project** (NELP) to resource efforts to protect and expand workplace protections for immigrant and low-wage workers. A national advocacy organization for employment rights of lower-wage workers, NELP will partner with national, state and local allies to promote policies that create good jobs, enforce core labor standards, and end exclusions from workplace protections. With continued OSF funding, NELP will lend its significant legal and policy expertise to smaller local and regional organizations working on behalf of low-wage

and immigrant workers. These partnerships will focus on securing state protections for vulnerable workers and coordinating administrative advocacy efforts to influence U.S. Department of Labor rule-making.

CAMPAIGN FOR BLACK MALE ACHIEVEMENT

The Campaign for Black Male Achievement has the following four goals: 1) ensure that black boys have the opportunity to excel academically, to prepare for college, and to learn skills essential to earning a living wage; 2) strengthen low-income black families through responsible fatherhood initiatives, policy advocacy, and supporting efforts that lift barriers facing single mothers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents raising black boys; 3) expand and ensure 21st century family supportive wage work opportunities for black males; and 4) strengthen the field of black male achievement by supporting efforts in strategic communications, philanthropic leadership, capacity building, and leadership development. As a result of the recent retreat with Board advisors Sherrilyn Ifill and Geoffrey Canada, CBMA is in the process of tightening its programmatic goals and strategies for 2013 and beyond.

Opportunity to Excel Academically

To explore how CBMA might narrow its focus in the education equity arena, staff recommends a grant to the **Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**, a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofits, and state and local government agencies to raise awareness of early reading challenges black boys face and to engage local communities to help identify effective tools, strategies, and models to increase their reading proficiency. The grant to the **Magic Johnson Foundation's Point Forward Campaign** will engage other funders, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and a host of CBMA grantees to inform local communities in CBMA cities about evidence-based interventions that improve educational achievement for black males and to mobilize black athletes, entertainers, and business leaders to provide philanthropic support the emerging field of black male achievement.

Responsible Fatherhood

To coordinate and strengthen the efforts of responsible fatherhood organizations nationally, CBMA has funded the **National Fatherhood Leadership Group**. Renewed funding will enable the organization to weigh in on a number of policy issues and other concerns that affect low-income fathers, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support administration, the importance of father presence for healthy child development, and the need to adequately fund the responsible fatherhood field so more fathers and families can be served.

Strengthening the Field

A centerpiece of CBMA's efforts to strengthen the black male achievement field is its recently launched Open Society Fellowship for Black Male Achievement. Renewed funding to **Echoing Green**, the organization that administers the fellowship program, will enable it to: 1) work with CBMA to identify and invest in up to eight fellows focused on developing innovative projects to support black male achievement in CBMA's target cities; and 2) build a long-term sustainability model for the fellowship program.

Finally, a grant to the **Black Male Engagement Initiative (BME)** will continue CBMA's partnership with the Knight Foundation to get more black men and boys engaged in their communities by highlighting the positive impact their engagement has on their neighborhoods and communities. To showcase the work of black males as change agents in their communities, BME relies on an online platform where video profiles can be uploaded and problem-solving strategies and other resources can be shared. We look forward to meeting with you on October 16 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

MEMORANDUM

From: Laleh Ispahani, for the Transparency Fund, and Lisa Magarrell, for the National Security and Human Rights Campaign
Date: October 9, 2012
Re: Transparency Fund & National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grant Recommendations for Docket III

We look forward to meeting with you on October 16th to discuss grant recommendations from the Transparency Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign in 2012. The Transparency Fund respectfully seeks your approval of ten grants in this docket, totaling \$3,985,000. The National Security and Human Rights Campaign seeks approval of five grants, totaling \$1,219,000, from its 2012 budget. Grant recommendations and financial summary sheets for the Fund and the Campaign are attached.

I. Transparency Fund Grants

As reflected in its 2010-2012 strategic plan, the Fund's grantmaking 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 policy and government watchdog groups, and the use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public involvement and access to information;
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing the field of journalism;
- Efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and
- Efforts aimed at expanding access to the ballot and addressing the impact of *Citizens United*.

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. This portfolio also includes support for media policy organizations working to achieve universal access to the networked public sphere, and a policy environment in which the public interest is vigorously protected and advanced when critical decisions are made regarding governance of the Internet. The Fund recommends two grants in this area on this docket, to **MapLight.org**, and the **New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute**.

We recommend a renewed grant (shifting from project to general support) to **MAPLight.org** (MapLight). MapLight is a nonpartisan political money tracker that combines information about lawmakers, votes, and interest groups to reveal money's influence on politics on an accessible online platform. MapLight pioneered the practice of connecting campaign contribution data with legislative votes in a single database. Combining this data makes visible key information such as contributions given by the special interest groups supporting and opposing each bill; average donations given to legislators voting yes and no on each bill; and, a timeline of contributions and votes for each bill, graphically identifying when legislators received large donations before or after their votes. MapLight's work covers U.S. Congress, the California Legislature, the Wisconsin Legislature, and the City of Los Angeles.

A renewed project grant would support the **New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute (OTI)**, which conducts research and develops policy recommendations to support universal, affordable access to open communications networks. OTI builds pilot community-based, open source communications networks to challenge existing private models, and conducts public education in order to engage policymakers, the press, and community groups in an informed debate about the future of the U.S. digital communication infrastructure. OTI is committed to maximizing the potential public benefit of new technologies by studying their social and economic impact – particularly for low-income, rural, and other underserved communities. The goal of this work is to attain universal access to a world-class communications infrastructure and ensure the vibrant and free flow of information and ideas.

Journalism for an Open Society

An open society requires a diverse, independent press that can provide rigorous and accurate reporting to help the public hold government and industry accountable. Core OSF concerns such as equality, justice, and a diversity of opinions are threatened when public debate rests on disinformation and propaganda instead of fact-based reporting from a wide array of commercial and noncommercial, professional and nonprofessional sources. The U.S. media landscape is undergoing a profound economic, technological, and cultural transition. Increasing numbers of people are participating meaningfully through new media even as the traditional journalism infrastructures are eroding. There is no single solution to the economic and structural challenges facing journalism, and a wide range of public, private and nonprofit models will need to be tested to support the full range of accountability journalism necessary to meet the demands of a truly open society.

Over the past four years, U.S. Programs' journalism grantmaking has supported new networked, participatory, data-driven models for producing and distributing reporting on state and city government, and beat reporting on critical issues such as prison conditions, or conflicts of interest in state government contracting and budgets. These emerging noncommercial models creatively fill some of the gaps created by the decline in newspapers and other commercial media outlets. Our grantees are forming networks and collaborating with each other, and with journalism schools, public radio and television, commercial news organizations, ethnic media outlets, and members of the public. In just the past five years, the nonprofit sector has taken on increasing responsibility for producing high quality yet unprofitable investigative and beat reporting. However, we are still years away from identifying and testing a sustainable funding model. In addition, these exciting new reporting outlets are not equally distributed across the country; they tend to spring up in places with a strong donor base, leaving low income communities at risk of becoming news deserts.

Although the U.S. Board recognized the importance of OSF support for journalism at the state and local level both before and during its September 2012 meeting, a constrained 2013 budget has resulted in a decision to close down the journalism portfolio at the end of 2012. Several U.S. Board members argued against discontinuing all U.S. journalism grantmaking. Therefore, staff will continue to monitor the field and may recommend opportunistic journalism grants.

The Fund recommends three journalism grants in this docket; the first two described below will be final grants. The first is a renewed project support grant to the **Chicago Reporter**. The *Chicago Reporter* is an investigative news organization that reports on the social, economic, and political issues of metropolitan Chicago with a distinctive focus on race and poverty. The grant would support the digital expansion of the organization. This digital expansion is designed to expand the *Chicago Reporter's* audience, generate new sources of revenue, increase opportunities to influence policymakers and, most importantly, transform the *Chicago Reporter* into a robust and sustainable multi-platform digital news organization.

We also recommend renewed support to the **Investigative News Network** (INN). INN is a consortium of 64 nonprofit reporting outlets in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. INN was established in 2009 to develop shared resources to benefit the rapidly growing field of nonprofit reporting outlets. INN helps its members produce and distribute high-impact collaborative investigations, save money by pooling operational and editorial resources and services, and build new revenue streams to help member organizations reduce their dependence on philanthropy.

The ultimate goal of this effort is to create a robust national network of state and regional centers for investigative and public interest reporting.

Finally, we recommend a new project support grant to the **MIT Center for Civic Media** for its Media Cloud project. The MIT Center for Civic Media creates and deploys technical and social tools that fill the information needs of communities. Media Cloud is an open source, open data platform that allows researchers to answer quantitative questions about the content of online media. Using Media Cloud, researchers, journalism critics and interested citizens can examine what media sources cover which stories, what language different media outlets use in conjunction with different stories, and how stories spread from one media outlet to another. Media Cloud can help us understand who sets the agenda for public discourse and political action in the 21st century, and identify the range of issues that can make it onto that agenda. If successful, Media Cloud will become a major resource for anyone trying to use media for social change, and for their financial supporters to understand what works, what fails and why. This grant recommendation does not fit squarely into the existing journalism strategy. Instead, it is responsive to the Public Sphere working group discussions and the U.S. Board's interest in understanding how to improve the quality of civic discourse in the U.S.

A Fair, Diverse & Impartial Judiciary

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 at both state and federal levels. A robust judiciary that fulfills its role as a co-equal branch of government by safeguarding constitutional and legal rights while rendering impartial decisions is critical to advancing the many issues U.S. Programs addresses. Judiciary-related funding advances two goals: 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 in the courts, scholarly world, and the public sphere. In this docket, the Fund recommends four grants in this area.

Although the U.S. Board recognized the importance of OSF support for state courts work during its September 2012 meeting, a constrained 2013 budget has resulted in a decision to discontinue our longstanding state courts grantmaking at the end of 2012. Several Board members expressed interest in our continued involvement in this field, and staff will continue to monitor the field.

On this docket, we propose renewal project support of three grants, to the **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** (Lawyers' Committee), the **Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund** (Lambda Legal), and the **Proteus Fund**. These organizations are key partners of Justice at Stake, a non-partisan campaign aiming to keep state and federal courts fair and impartial, protect judicial independence, and support the judiciary's role in our democratic system. Created in 2000 with support from the Open Society Foundations, Justice at Stake brings together more than fifty partners representing a wide spectrum of groups – business leaders, judges' associations, good government groups, religious organizations, and bar associations – to speak

out on behalf of courts when they are attacked, and seek reforms to ensure that courts are protected from political and economic influence. In 2010, Justice at Stake led its partners in a strategic planning process to identify mutual goals and targets and to develop coordinated strategies to achieve those goals in the next five years. The five-year plan focused on six areas: (1) Improving judicial selection through campaign finance reform and reform of judicial appointment systems; (2) Defending fair courts through litigation, court rules, and recusal reform; (3) Protecting the integrity and impartiality of the federal courts; (4) Increasing diversity on the bench; (5) Strengthening court funding and access to justice during the fiscal crisis; and (6) Providing strategic communications support.

The **Lawyers' Committee** Judicial Diversity project will work in coordination with the Justice at Stake judicial diversity working group. The Judicial Diversity Initiative, launched in 2010 in Washington State, will expand into two more states, beginning with North Carolina. The goal of the Initiative is to increase the number of prospective minority judges by facilitating mentor relationships with current minority judges, leading to a long-term increase in judicial diversity. **Lambda Legal** will continue its Fair Courts Project, a public education and non-litigation advocacy effort that provides a much-needed LGBTQ voice and presence in advocacy for fair and impartial courts. In the coming year, the Fair Courts Project will focus on three goals in coordination with the five-year plan: 1) strengthening public support for the role of the courts as a necessary and appropriate institution for upholding civil rights and the Constitution; 2) bringing new identity-based organizations and civil society groups into the national fair courts community, and more specifically in the Justice at Stake coalition, using the connections and alliances it has built through its litigation efforts and coalition work on other issues; and 3) developing a shared communications strategy for the fair courts community.

With a focus on addressing the exponential growth of outside money in judicial elections, the **Proteus Fund** seeks support for the Judicial Independence initiative of the Piper Fund (a donor- advised fund dedicated to reducing the influence of money in American politics). The initiative's core goal is to identify, evaluate, and support the most promising state-level efforts to reduce the corrupting influence of money in judicial elections through policy reform. Piper supports coalitions of state and national organizations working to educate the public; brings new constituencies and organizations into the Justice at Stake Campaign; builds the communications capacity of advocates of judicial reform; and provides state advocates the ability to take advantage of windows of opportunity for advancing state reforms, counter attacks on the judiciary, and other efforts to undermine judicial independence.

We also propose a new project support grant to the **National Center for State Courts** (NCSC), a non-partisan, non-profit organization created in 1971 by Chief Justice Warren Burger to improve the administration of justice in the state courts. In response to the U.S. Programs Board's interest in judicial professionalism, we have commissioned NCSC to research and produce a report on relevant topics. NCSC will conduct a national survey among a random sample of state trial court judges to better understand attitudes and practices related to judicial professionalism, including the current nature of judges' work styles, morale, sense of community, and attitudes, as well as how these factors influence the character of their work.

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 changing the narrative on voting; protecting citizens from unreasonable restrictions on the right to vote and of broadening access to the ballot for underrepresented and marginalized constituencies; modernizing the nation's outdated voter registrations systems; and responding to the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*.

The Transparency Fund and the Criminal Justice Fund jointly recommend renewing a project support grant to **Demos** to support two projects: Public Agency Voter Registration, and Ending Prison-Based Gerrymandering. 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. 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. We also recommend a project support grant to **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law's** Voting Rights Project. The project will work to address suppressive voter policies and practices proliferating across the country, advocate for affirmative reforms, and strive to change the discourse around voting in the long-term. The Project will use a mix of strategies, including litigation, and voter education and outreach.

II. National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grants

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommends five renewal grants on the third docket of 2012.

In light of the Campaign's priorities of ending torture and indefinite detention, seeking accountability for these abuses, and promoting government transparency and oversight, we recommend renewed project support for the **Center for Constitutional Rights**, the **Center for Victims of Torture**, and the **New York University School of Medicine Center for Health and Human Rights**, three organizations which pursue distinct but complementary strategies. The Center for Constitutional rights will conduct litigation, public education, and advocacy in favor of restoring civil liberties and human rights protections to U.S. national security policies. Its work will focus on challenging the indefinite detention and targeted killing of terrorism suspects, coordinating the efforts of habeas counsel representing Guantánamo detainees, and preventing domestic civil rights violations in the name of national security. The Center for Victims of Torture will leverage its experience and moral authority as a service provider for survivors of politically-motivated torture to explain to the American public that "enhanced interrogation equals torture." It will continue to play a key coordinating role among advocates who are seeking accountability for torture committed after 9/11 and working to eliminate passages of the Army Field Manual that sanction detainee abuse. NYU's Center for Health and Human Rights provides medical and psychological care for torture survivors. The health professionals at the Center will offer legal teams and advocacy organizations clinical assessments on detainee treatment and work to educate policymakers about the medical consequences of torture, abuse, and indefinite detention.

The Campaign also recommends renewed funding for **September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows**, an organization whose unique and compelling voice lends vital support to the goals described above and discredits fear-based arguments for intolerance. Through its 9/11 Voices for Restoring the Rule of Law Campaign, Peaceful Tomorrows will conduct education and outreach to promote due process rights for terrorism suspects, end torture and indefinite detention, and counter anti-Muslim bigotry.

The Campaign's final grant recommendation for this docket speaks to the need for increased transparency and accountability regarding the long-term influence of post-9/11 national security policy in the U.S. Renewed project support will enable the **Center for Investigative Reporting** to examine the ways in which law enforcement agencies are using the ever-broadening national security mandate to justify surveillance and

intelligence-gathering on the margins of the law. The Center will report on topics such as law enforcement's increasing use of technology to spy on and store information about U.S. residents, the use of drones for domestic surveillance, and the Border Patrol's under-regulated foray into counterterrorism and intelligence operations.

We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you on October 16.

Docket Cover Memos

Docket Meeting Date: October 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
From: Bill Vandenberg, for the Democracy Fund
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Democracy Fund October 26, 2012 Docket

We look forward to discussing a short – and final – Democracy Fund docket with you on Friday, October 26. Two grant recommendations and a financial summary sheet are attached. In this docket, we bring two recommendations to you totaling \$350,000. They include: Recommending \$200,000 in renewed project support to the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service (TxLIHIS), a 24-year old, Austin-based organization that supports low-income leaders and organizations to address challenges related to housing, community conditions, fair housing and civil rights, and securing economic assets. The recommended grant, co-funded by the Democracy Fund and the Equality and Opportunity Fund, will allow TxLIHIS to assist local leaders and organizations in low-income communities of color in South Texas to secure an equitable share of federal disaster recovery funding under a recent landmark fair housing conciliation agreement. This project advances two program priorities: (1) to increase civic engagement and political participation from low-income communities of color so that the voices of those most impacted by injustice can amplify their voices to advance open society; and (2) to advance our “building state-based power” strategy through investing in issue advocacy, nonpartisan voter participation, and organizational capacity in Texas’s communities of color, particularly in Houston-Harris County and the Rio Grande Valley. While this is a Democracy Fund tie-off recommendation, TxLIHIS could be considered for future support via the Race and Marginalized Populations program.

Recommending \$150,000 in renewed general support to the Young People’s Project, a 16-year old, Cambridge, Massachusetts-based national organization that uses math literacy workshops to provide opportunities for young people, particularly from low-income communities of color, to succeed academically. Formed out of the work of the Algebra Project, the Young People’s Project equips students with organizing tools to engage their peers and communities in advocacy for the right to a quality education. The Young People’s Project is a co-funded grantee of the Democracy Fund and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and we recommended it in recognition of its innovative approach to engaging young people in changing their schools and communities for the better. This is a tie-off recommendation in light of shifting U.S. Programs priorities. To strengthen the organization’s grassroots fundraising capacity, we recommend that this be a matching grant, with \$100,000 awarded outright and \$50,000 in matching funds.

As is our program’s practice, we track several measures of an organization’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. One measure is the organization’s leadership. Recognizing that an organization’s executive leadership is not a full representation of its commitment to diversity and equity, both organizations are led by co-directors, with the Young People’s Project led by an African American male and an African American woman, and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service is led by an Anglo man and an Anglo woman. Neither of the organizations is led by a person 30 years of age or younger, an immigrant or child of immigrants, or someone openly LGBTQ identified.

Recommendations follow this memo. We look forward to discussing them with you when we meet next week. Please let me know if there is further information that my colleagues or I may provide in advance of the docket meeting. Thank you.

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Raquiba LaBrie, Archana Sahgal, Solomon Greene, Shruti Garg, and Li Zhou
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Equality and Opportunity Fund Catch-Up Docket, October 26, 2012

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. As reflected in its 2009-12 strategic plan, 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 for 2012 are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF houses two special initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, which is being integrated into EOF's core work and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. This is one of the final dockets for this configuration of EOF grantmaking.

EOF TIE-OFF GRANTS

At the October 16 docket meeting, you asked for more information about how EOF is handling tie-off grants. By way of background, in late 2011, when the U.S. Programs Board decided to discontinue grantmaking in the areas of LGBTQ rights, gender justice, and low-wage worker rights, staff devised a standard tie-off practice. For grantees with less than nine months remaining in their grant term, we would provide one-year tie-off funding at the same annualized amount of the current grant. For those grantees with more than nine months remaining in their grant term, we would provide notice that EOF would not renew their grants.

In 2012, EOF tied off a total of eight grants that were funded through the LGBTQ rights, gender justice, or low-wage worker rights budget lines. Given more recent Board and staff decisions about U.S. Programs' future racial justice and immigrant rights priorities, staff is beginning the process of identifying other grantees that will be tied off. As a general matter, we will follow the same policy identified above of offering additional support to organizations with less than nine months of OSF support remaining. Given new budget constraints, there will likely be a few exceptions.

We have invited all tie-off grantees to keep us apprised of their work beyond the standard reporting requirements. For those organizations that have requested, we have provided guidance on other possible sources of funding. For the bulk of the LGBTQ, gender justice and low-wage worker rights grantees, we will not be as actively involved as in the past in large part because Luna Yasui, our former program officer responsible for these areas, recently left OSF to join the Ford Foundation.

In the discontinued portfolios, we funded a number of grantmaking collaboratives that have regular donor meetings. For example, the State Equality Fund, is a donor collaborative that funds LGBTQ anti-discrimination advocacy in select states that are ripe for reform. We have declined to participate in future State Equality Fund donor meetings for the remainder of the grant term. But we also recently made a tie off grant to the Ms. Foundation to provide a cohort of organizations working at the intersection of gender justice and immigrant rights with services to strengthen financial management and resilience, improve

strategic communications, and bolster organizational development. Because of the grant's focus on immigrant women and its relevance to our ongoing immigrant rights work, staff will play an active role in shaping this grant.

We will keep you apprised as we wind down other areas of work.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED GRANTS

The following is a brief summary of the EOF grant recommendations for the 2012 Catch-Up Docket.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

EOF's racial justice and immigrant rights portfolios recommend four grants in this docket. The first is to the **America's Voice Education Fund (AVEF)**, the primary communications resource hub for the immigrant rights field. With renewed support, AVEF will continue to support various segments of the field – from litigators to grassroots organizers to elite policy advocates – in making the case that reform is a practical and humane solution to a broken immigration system.

The **NAACP** is currently considered a U.S. Programs (USP) anchor grantee because of the moral weight and leadership it exercises on a number of open society concerns, including criminal justice, drug policy reform, and addressing racial disparities in school discipline policies. EOF recommends renewed anchor funding for the NAACP, but plans to use the coming months to re-assess whether the organization is sufficiently engaged on USP's new priorities to merit continued anchor status.

The recommended grant to the **New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice** will support its project, the National Guestworker Alliance, a national membership initiative that works to expose and challenge exploitation of temporary immigrant workers and to defuse competition between native-born U.S. workers and immigrant workers.

Last year, the U.S. Programs Board authorized special funding to support efforts to scale up naturalization service delivery and advocacy across the country. Staff recommends use of the remaining Board-authorized funding as well as some EOF funds to support a project grant to the **New Americans Collaboration**, a national naturalization initiative dedicated to 1) helping eligible immigrants become U.S. citizens; 2) increasing the capacity of legal services providers to support the naturalization application process; and 3) challenging barriers to citizenship.

GENDER JUSTICE AND LGBTQ RIGHTS

A general support grant to the **National Domestic Worker Alliance**, a national coalition of 35 domestic worker organizations in 18 cities across the country, will help it to improve the living and working conditions of domestic workers and end the exclusion of domestic workers from recognition and protection as a workforce. We look forward to meeting with you on October 26 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

MEMORANDUM:

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Laleh Ispahani, for the Transparency Fund, and Lisa Magarrell, for the National Security and Human Rights Campaign
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Transparency Fund & National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grant Recommendations for Catch-up Docket

We look forward to meeting with you on October 26th to discuss grant recommendations from the Transparency Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. The Transparency Fund respectfully seeks your approval of seven grants in this docket, totaling \$3,055,000. The National Security and Human Rights Campaign seeks approval of five grants, totaling \$1,250,000. Grant recommendations and financial summary sheets for the Fund and the Campaign are attached.

I. Transparency Fund Grants

As reflected in its 2010-2012 strategic plan, the Fund's grantmaking 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 policy and government watchdog groups, and the use of emerging technology tools and practices that increase public involvement and access to information;
- Creative responses to the challenges and opportunities facing the field of journalism;
- Efforts to ensure a fair, impartial and diverse judiciary; and
- Efforts aimed at expanding access to the ballot and addressing the impact of *Citizens United*.

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. This portfolio also includes support for media policy organizations working to achieve universal access to the networked public sphere, and a policy environment in which the public interest is vigorously protected and advanced when critical decisions are made regarding governance of the Internet. The Fund recommends one grant in this area on this docket, to **Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)**.

We recommend a renewed general support grant to CREW, an aggressive watchdog group dedicated to ensuring the integrity of public officials and the federal government. Using a combination of research, litigation, and strategic communications, CREW investigates and exposes government officials who violate ethics rules and laws, and thus undermine public trust in government. Following the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Citizens United*, CREW has also begun to play a significant role in the money in politics field. With its experience publishing hard-hitting investigative reports and developing and deploying comprehensive communications strategies that expose corruption, CREW has uncovered much of the pay-to-play dynamic in Washington. This grant would advance the Transparency Fund's additional goal of reducing the undue influence of money and politics.

Journalism for an Open Society

Over the past four years, U.S. Programs' journalism grantmaking has supported new networked, participatory, data-driven models for producing and distributing reporting on state and city government, and beat reporting on critical issues such as prison conditions, or conflicts of interest in state government contracting and budgets. These emerging noncommercial models creatively fill some of the gaps created by the decline in newspapers and other commercial media outlets. Our grantees are forming networks and collaborating with each other, and with journalism schools, public radio and television, commercial news organizations, ethnic media outlets, and members of the public. In just the past five years, the nonprofit sector has taken on increasing responsibility for producing high quality yet unprofitable investigative and beat reporting. However, we are still years away from identifying and testing a sustainable funding model. In addition, these exciting new reporting outlets are not equally distributed across the country; they tend to spring up in places with a strong donor base, leaving low income communities at risk of becoming news deserts.

Although the U.S. Board recognized the importance of OSF support for journalism at the state and local level both before and during its September 2012 meeting, a constrained 2013 budget has resulted in a decision to close down the existing journalism portfolio at the end of 2012. Several U.S. Board members argued against discontinuing all U.S. journalism grantmaking, and endorsed continued support for NPR's StateImpact. Staff will continue to monitor the field and may recommend opportunistic journalism grants over the course of 2013.

The Fund recommends one journalism grant in this docket to **NPR** for its StateImpact Initiative. StateImpact is a reporting network dedicated to explanatory, data-driven reporting on how state-level public policy issues affect people's lives. Launched with OSF support in 2011, StateImpact is a collaboration among NPR and local public radio stations in eight pilot states. NPR developed StateImpact with an objective to expand state reporting resources to provide consistent, high quality, issue-driven journalism to traditional public radio audiences as well as new online audiences. StateImpact is designed to transform the culture of public media through national-local collaboration that fosters exchange of technological and editorial resources and new standards for joint fundraising. StateImpact reporters produce radio reports, digital news reports and interactive multimedia presentations. A core team at NPR provides editorial coordination, training, data analysis, and digital support. In addition to producing great journalism, StateImpact is also influencing the larger culture of NPR in important, positive ways. StateImpact is easing longstanding, unproductive tensions between NPR and its member stations, pioneering a collaborative fundraising model, breaking down barriers among "competing" member stations, and testing new digital tools and practices.

A Fair, Diverse & Impartial Judiciary

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 at both state and federal levels. A robust judiciary that fulfills its role as a co-equal branch of government by safeguarding constitutional and legal rights while rendering impartial decisions is critical to advancing the many issues U.S. Programs addresses. Judiciary-related funding advances two goals: 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 in the courts, scholarly world, and the public sphere. In this docket, we recommend two grants in this area, to Life of the Law and the Committee on Economic Development. The latter grant straddles both the judiciary and elections portfolios.

We propose a renewal project support grant to the **Life of the Law**, a new radio and multi-media project that examines, analyzes, and explores the role and function of law and the legal system in American society through a combination of investigative journalism, interviews, explanatory segments with issue experts, and narrative storytelling. The project's work is distributed through broadcast on public radio stations, a podcast, and a website. This grant would advance the Transparency Fund's goal of promoting better communications about ideas related to the role of law, courts, and the Constitution in American society.

We also propose renewal project support to the **Committee for Economic Development (CED)**. CED is an independent, nonpartisan organization of business and university leaders dedicated to policy research and advocacy on major economic and social issues. This grant would support its work to educate, engage, and activate business leaders on the issues of judicial independence and money in politics. Specifically, it would educate and organize business and academic leaders around the country in support of judicial selection reform, as well as public financing and transparency in corporate political spending.

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 changing the narrative on voting; protecting citizens from unreasonable restrictions on the right to vote and of broadening access to the ballot for underrepresented and marginalized constituencies; modernizing the nation's outdated voter registrations systems; and responding to the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*. In this docket, we recommend four grants in this area.

The first grant is to the **Center for Political Accountability**. CPA is a non-partisan organization that seeks to bring transparency and accountability to the political contribution policies and practices of U.S. companies by working with corporate leaders, institutional shareholders, and business ethics organizations to first establish best practices for corporate political spending and then persuade corporations to adopt those standards. To date, CPA has persuaded over half the S&P 100 to adopt such policies. CPA produces an index to rate companies on their political disclosure and accountability policies & practices, using the index to persuade poorly-ranked corporations to change their practices. After a number of years supporting CPA's work, we have come to the conclusion that changing individual corporate behavior is not the most impactful strategy and are therefore making this our final grant to CPA.

We also recommend two new project support grants to **Ohio State University Moritz College of Law's** Election Law at Moritz program (EL@M) and **Fordham University's** Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy, which, with the grant to CED above, represent part of our evolving strategy on money in politics. The Moritz College of Law is OSU's law school and is the home of Election Law @ Moritz (EL@M), a nonpartisan research, education, and outreach program with a mission of providing accurate information and analysis of election law for the public, the media, the scholarly community, election administrators, and policy makers. This grant would support the Election Law @ Moritz program in conducting a research project to better understand the role that independent expenditures play in contemporary federal election campaigns and how those expenditures influence the federal legislative process. The research will primarily entail in-person interviews with current and recently retired members of Congress, Congressional staffers, defeated candidates, campaign operatives, and individuals involved in the operation of organizations that make independent expenditures in federal campaigns. Researchers will produce a report that may be used by litigators, academics, the media, policymakers, and judges to better understand the impact (if any) that independent expenditures are

having on the decisions and actions of federal elected officials. **Fordham University's** Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy is located within its Political Science department.

Overseen by a board of advisors and led by Professor Costas Panagopoulos, the Center's mission is to advance the study of elections (including money in politics) in order to improve democratic systems and practices. This grant would support the creation of a research working group dedicated to conducting and disseminating new studies on the influence of money in our political system. . Led by professors from Fordham University, Columbia University, and Binghamton University, the working group will design, vet, and implement a series of field experiments that examine the various ways in which campaign contributions and expenditures do (or do not) buy access and influence in the governing process. These grants would advance the Fund's goal of reducing the influence of money in politics by challenging existing Constitutional jurisprudence—a major barrier to significant reform.

Finally, we recommend a project support grant to **Public Citizen**, a national organization dedicated to ensuring that government and corporations are held accountable for their actions. This grant would support Public Citizen's Corporate Reform Coalition (the Coalition), an alliance of over 70 government watchdogs, socially responsible investment firms, academics, unions, state pension funds, and corporate governance experts. The Coalition plans to: 1) advance state-level policies that require disclosure of all political spending and mandate shareholder approval of such spending; 2) persuade selected S&P 500 corporations to adopt similar policies internally; 3) win Securities and Exchange Commission adoption of a regulatory rule that requires all publicly-traded companies to disclose political spending as part of their larger SEC-mandated reporting processes, and; 4) convince several target university endowments to vote for shareholder resolutions.

II. National Security and Human Rights Campaign Grants

The National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommends four renewal grants on the third docket of 2012. The National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommends four renewal grants on the catch-up docket of 2012.

To promote the goals of building a broad constituency of credible messengers in support of progressive national security policies and combating anti-Muslim bigotry, the Campaign recommends renewed project support for two faith-based groups that collaborate closely to mobilize support from within the religious community to demand tolerance and acceptance of Muslims and Islam in America, accountability for U.S.-sponsored torture in the decade since 9/11, and an end to the arbitrary detention of terrorism suspects. The first grant will support Rabbis for Human Rights-North America, which will mobilize rabbis to educate their communities, participate in national interfaith efforts, and engage in human rights advocacy in order to seek accountability for U.S.-sponsored detainee torture, end the indefinite detention of terrorism suspects, and combat anti-Muslim bigotry. The second grant will support the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) for its work to educate and mobilize its multi-faith membership around this set of issues. This grant also includes a recommendation for project support from the Criminal Justice Fund to support NRCAT's work to end long-term solitary confinement in U.S. jails and prisons. The NSHR Campaign recommends two-year grants to

each of these organizations because the religious and interfaith voice is—and will remain—critical and irreplaceable in the movement against torture and bigotry in post-9/11 America. The organizations work in close partnership and have been front and center at moments when these issues have drawn national attention.

Although the Campaign is poised to launch a strategic review, we are confident that these groups will have a key role to play in seizing opportunities likely to emerge in the next two years and beyond.

In light of the Campaign's priorities of combatting anti-Muslim bigotry and supporting new voices and paradigm-shifting research in the movement for a progressive national security policy, we recommend a one-year renewal grant to the New America Foundation for the Rights- Based Counterterrorism: Empowering Communities project. Launched in 2011 with NSHR support, the project aims to advance rights-based domestic counterterrorism policies by building bridges between American Muslim thought leaders and government officials, empowering communities to use new media to amplify their voices, and conducting research and education to broaden the public discourse on terrorism beyond its current, disproportionate focus on Muslims.

Finally, to advance the Campaign's goals of restoring broad privacy protections and limitations on domestic spying and supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy, we recommend renewed funding for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). This grant will support the organization's litigation and advocacy to defend digital privacy and place restraints on electronic surveillance, and for its work to advance government transparency through education, advocacy, and Freedom of Information Act litigation. EFF is one of the Campaign's core grantees in the privacy and surveillance sphere—an area currently ripe with opportunities for innovative advocacy and possible victories that could have major implications for national security policy and civil liberties. Maximizing the potential of this moment will require sustained dedication and longer-term strategies, including litigation and efforts to educate and engage the public. EFF's work in this regard will be critical in the next few years, and so the Campaign recommends a two-year grant.

We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you on October 26.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Erlin Ibreck for the Strategic Opportunities Fund
Cc: Timothy Dorsey, Raquiba LaBrie, Rashid Shabazz
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Strategic Opportunities Fund October 26 Docket

We look forward to meeting with you on Friday, October 26 to discuss eight grant recommendations, six of which are from the Strategic Opportunities Fund (SOF), one that is recommended by the Equality and Opportunity Fund, and finally a recommendation that was initiated during Aryeh Neier's term as OSF president. With the exception of the latter, this cluster of grants represents the discrete initiative SOF has undertaken in 2012 that seeks to reduce the inappropriate and harmful use of suspensions, expulsions, and arrests in public schools in an effort to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. It builds on a narrow line of work begun by SOF in 2009 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.

In recent years, many schools have replaced traditional education-based disciplinary practices with harsh “zero-tolerance” measures imported from the criminal justice system. As a result, rather than engaging students around behavioral problems or matters of diversity, schools are increasingly relying on suspensions, expulsions and other punitive approaches towards students deemed “disruptive” or “different.” This alarming trend towards exclusion and punishment is at odds with open society values. Several USP funds and campaigns, as well as OSI-Baltimore, have supported specific efforts in schools aimed at improving educational outcomes and school climate for students of color and LGBTQ students. USP has also funded a number of civil rights and social justice organizations advocating for policy reforms that reduce push out factors for students of color and otherwise ensure all students have access to a quality education. Across this work USP has sought to ensure that public education is a vibrant and inclusive cornerstone of open society by 1) stemming the encroachment of punitive and correctional measures in schools; 2) promoting educational policies and programs that foster safe and positive learning environments for vulnerable students; and 3) informing the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB/ESEA) about ways in which reliance on standardized tests had unintended consequences on school climate and disciplinary policies. We have aimed to consolidate these strands of work in this docket. Within a new framework of US Programs' priorities in 2013, school push-out policies will remain a focus. To that end we are convening an internal “school push out” table to develop a coordinated and coherent strategy among different USP components.

The following is a brief summary of the grant recommendations in this docket.

The **Advancement Project (AP)** is 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 has played a coordinating role for OSI's grantees that work on school-to- prison-pipeline issues. 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 period. They are in the process of meeting with their partners to share plans and develop a coordinated work strategy for the next year that anticipates the possible scenarios following the November elections.

The **Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)** seeks project support to address the use of school disciplinary records in the college admission process. This practice came to light in CCA's work to make college more accessible to young people with criminal records and it was revealed that a majority of colleges collect not only criminal justice information but also school discipline information during their admissions process. CCA plans to address the use of school disciplinary records in college admissions by documenting the ways in which punitive disciplinary actions and their records can have a disparate impact on students of color, highlight racial disparities in the application of harsh school disciplinary practices and thereby in equal access to higher education; and advocate for an end to the use of school disciplinary records in the admissions process. This project extends the organization's current scope of work on use of criminal records in the college admissions process, particularly as CCA works to remove these and other barriers to higher education for youth of color.

The grant to the **Equity Center at Indiana University (Equity Center)** is proposed by the Equality and Opportunity Fund and will be for renewed project support for Equity Center's Race and Gender Disparities Research and Practice Collaborative (the Collaborative), a research and evaluation project that strives to connect research to practice in order to reduce disproportionality in school discipline. The Collaborative coordinates the efforts of advocates, policymakers, educators and researchers to advance its mission. Serving as a repository of new and existing research, it takes a community and policy advocacy driven approach to advance specific interventions and policy recommendations capable of achieving both district-level and state-wide school reforms. Its current focus is on the disproportional effects of school discipline practices and policies on African American males and LGBTQ students. We present the recommendation in this docket to illustrate the approaches we have taken within US Programs to address school-to-prison related issues.

Likewise the **Gay-Straight Alliance Network (GSA)** was previously funded by OSF through the Equality and Opportunity Fund in 2010. The proposed work concentrates efforts on contextualizing and eliminating the school-to-prison pipeline from the angle of school climate and safety. GSA Network works at the intersection of LGBTQ rights, racial equity, and economic justice as it seeks to address violence against and harassment of marginalized youth in schools. Its work is constituent-driven and strives to unite racially diverse youth constituencies in creating a shared view of equality and safety. The project seeks to prohibit discrimination and punitive school discipline measures that disproportionately impact LGBTQ youth, youth of color, and particularly LGBTQ youth of color that are low-income. By addressing these discriminatory school policies and practices and supporting youth leadership around this issue, GSA Network's efforts in this arena enable more young people to participate fully in educational, economic, social, and political life.

The **Just and Fair Schools Fund (JFSF)** is a donor collaborative fund that supports grassroots organizing initiatives working to eliminate harsh school discipline policies and practices and to uphold the right to education for all youth. Through grantmaking, technical assistance and capacity building, the leveraging of matching funds, and donor education and engagement, the JFSF strengthens the field of community organizers working to achieve school discipline reform. While supporting local, state, and national efforts that are led by students and parents seeking to end school push out policies that fuel the school to prison pipeline, JFSJ also connects funders

concerned about these issues as thought partners, to ensure that community-driven reforms become reality. JSFS understands that students, as well as parents and other family members, have become a powerful force in fostering local and regional action and national momentum around these issues. This would be our first grant to JFSF and is made to a collaborative entity to support grassroots efforts that are a powerful force in fostering local and regional action and national momentum around these issues.

The **National Center for Fair and Open Testing** (FairTest) focuses 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 an important partner in this initiative, given the networks they have in the education reform arena and their existing partnerships with organizations like the Advancement Project and NAACP-LDF. As an advocacy organization FairTest's operating theory is that change comes from a confluence of factors including: educating policy makers (from Congress to college administrators); educating the public; building alliances to focus on key decision makers (in the national, state or local governments and the private sector); and mobilizing constituents to focus on the critical targets. By utilizing all of these approaches, adapted to the specific issue, they effectively combine education with the exercise of power to fight for needed change. A large part of FairTest's efforts to end standardized testing misuses is their aggressive program to influence public opinion and policy-maker behavior in support of assessment reform initiatives. FairTest consistently speaks out against the false notion that test scores equal merit through speeches, invited legislative testimony, and frequent appearances in the news media, opinion columns, letters to the editor, talk show interviews as well as through their own newsletter *FairTest Examiner*. While FairTest has a large profile on issues of high stakes testing, they represent the riskiest grant in this portfolio based on the lack of a stable funding base and ongoing struggles to remain solvent. Despite these challenges, the organization is nimble at recalibrating when necessary while remaining a constant force in tackling its priority issues. FairTest is an important player in the myriad efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline because they have adopted a unique focus in this regard.

Our final recommendation that addresses school push out policies is for the **New York Civil Liberties Union's** (NYCLU) School Discipline Reform Campaign. Since its founding, the NYCLU has led the way in expanding opportunities and freedoms for young people of color and other vulnerable populations in New York. Relevant to the proposed project have been the organization's efforts to: integrate New York schools in the 1970s; guarantee equal funding for all students; ensure the due process rights of students through the 1975 implementation of suspension hearings; challenge abstinence-driven curricula to achieve HIV/AIDS education in New York City public schools in the 1990s; pass school anti-bullying laws in 2010; and most recently to report on the disproportionate criminalization of Black and Latino students. Its commitment to defending and promoting full and equal civil liberties and civil rights for all people has required that it address inequality in all of its forms, and as such the organization has established a high degree of expertise in identifying intersections between marginalized groups and across the barriers they face through direct and indirect discrimination.

In conclusion, the recommendation to Amnesty International USA is to assist the organization in the development, implementation, and evaluation of its fundraising and resource development mechanisms. As a venerable organization, Aryeh Neier thought that we might assist Suzanne Nossel, the dynamic new leader, revamp and re-energize the organization by addressing some key institutional development issues. In particular, the organization, which must give a significant portion of the funds it raises to its headquarters office in London, has over the years been primarily reliant on direct mail appeals, which are expensive and can be inefficient. Nossel, with some strong development staff, would like to broaden the vehicles AIUSA uses for fundraising,

specifically by using the internet more. Among other things, this can be an effective channel for raising small donations and donations from a younger demographic—an important constituency for the organization to cultivate given its current aging donor base.

We look forward to meeting with you on October 26, and welcome any comments or questions ahead of time that you would like us to address.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Criminal Justice Fund, October 26, 2012 Docket

The Criminal Justice Fund recommends 4 grants, totaling up to \$524,500 in U.S. Programs' Catch Up Docket scheduled for October 26, 2012. These grants advance our goals of eliminating harsh punishment, eliminating racial disparities and securing an equitable justice system.

Eliminating Harsh Punishment - Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025

We recommend 1 grant that advances our goal of eliminating harsh punishment and specifically our continued commitment to the national Campaign to End the Death Penalty by 2025, which was launched in 2007 with Open Society Foundation's leadership:

\$135,000 in renewed project support over two years to **Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR)** will enhance the organization's efforts to influence public opinion against the death penalty by working in collaboration with state and national anti-death penalty organizations to incorporate murder victims' family members and their perspectives into campaigns for death penalty reform, moratorium and repeal. The grant will increase MVFR's capacity to strengthen national and state-based infrastructures of murder victims' families advocates; support post-abolition states' efforts to defend against reinstatement of the death penalty; and forge partnerships with traditional victims' rights organizations and directly affected community members to advance abolition efforts.

Securing a Fair and Equitable Justice System and Eliminating Racial Disparities.

In addition, we recommend 3 grants totaling \$389,500 that advance our goals of securing a fair and equitable justice system and eliminating racial disparities. One grant will advance our goal of improving public defense services by supporting the development of a campaign to help sustain public defense reform efforts in New Orleans, Louisiana, a longtime geographic priority of the Fund. The remaining grants will support the development of short advocacy films alongside a social media campaign and website that address excessive biased-based policing enforcement in New York City.

Improving Public Defense Services

\$125,000 in project support over fifteen months to **Orleans Public Defenders (OPD)** will support the planning and launch of a new campaign to address the chronic underfunding of indigent defense services in Orleans Parish and throughout Louisiana. These efforts will continue to improve the quality of representation provided to indigent defendants in New Orleans and ensure that OPD maintains its presence in the criminal justice landscape by remaining a strong voice for reform in public debates about the future direction of public defense in New Orleans, a Parish that consistently sees the highest number of public defendants per year in the State of Louisiana.

Ending Discriminatory Policing in New York City

In collaboration with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, we recommend two grants to advance our efforts to combat the problem of discriminatory policing in New York City. The first would provide \$114,500 in project support over eight months to **Firelight Media** to produce a series of advocacy videos that address policing practices of the New York City Police Department. The project will be a partnership between Firelight Films, a renowned film production company, and Firelight Media, a nonprofit media arts organization. To provide a deeper understanding of the human impact, harm and collateral consequences of discriminatory policing practices, Firelight will develop a creative, character-based approach to the video series employing a mix of interviews with key players impacted by policing practices including young men of color, law enforcement, judges and families of directly-affected community members.

To complement Firelight Media's short video series, we recommend \$150,000 in project support over one year to **Fenton Communications** to develop a social media campaign and website to raise public awareness of these policing issues. The campaign, which will be built in partnership with Fission Strategy and will include a comprehensive social media platform with integrated tools, will seek to elevate the issue of discriminatory policing to a national audience and influence the public debate in other jurisdictions that may be considering employing, or are actively practicing, similar methods of unconstitutional policing.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone and Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette, Andy Ko and Kima Taylor
Date: October 19, 2012
Re: Campaign for a New Drug Policy, October 26, 2012 Docket

The Campaign for a New Drug Policy proposes the following grant for U.S. Programs docket review on October 26, 2012. The proposed grant to Protestants for the Common Good, summarized below, would support the Campaign For a New Drug Policy's efforts to: (a) engage affected communities and other potentially influential voices, namely in faith based communities, in advocating for non-punitive alternatives to current drug policies; and (b) support community-level alternatives to punishment-based drug policy.

Protestants for the Common Good, up to \$100,000 project grant (up to \$25,000 matching funds), over one year, to intensify its advocacy for drug policy reform. The project has three major goals: 1) to expand public support for marijuana decriminalization and medical marijuana; 2) to increase public and governmental support for pre-arrest and pre-booking diversion programs for low level non-violent offenders; and 3) to develop a Midwestern state network of faith-based support for an alternative drug paradigm. PCG will host a symposium to facilitate sharing of ideas and successes among its partners around its marijuana reform work and the process of building constituencies for broader drug policy reform.

Docket Cover Memos

Docket Meeting Date: November 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone and Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette, Andy Ko and Kima Taylor
Date: November 9, 2012
Re: Campaign for a New Drug Policy, November 13, 2012 Docket

The Campaign for a New Drug Policy proposes the following grant for U.S. Programs docket review on November 13, 2012. The grant, summarized below, will support the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's efforts to seed and support community-level alternatives to punitive drug policies.

LEAD Policy Coordinating Group with The Defender Association as fiscal sponsor (LEAD-PCG), \$444,000 project grant over two years to complete the pilot phase of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion project, a pre-arrest diversion model for reducing the harms of low-level drug related offenses in the Belltown and Skyway neighborhoods of Seattle/King County, Washington. LEAD is an ambitious project to divert individuals accused of low-level drug possession and sale away from the criminal justice system and into harm reduction- oriented case management to reduce adverse effects of drug abuse and subsistence-driven participation in the drug economy. This grant would advance the Campaign for a New Drug Policy's goal of supporting community-level alternatives to punitive drug policies. Co-funding by the International Harm Reduction Development program will supplement funds for program related services, and enable LEAD staff and partners to extend their reach and participate in national and international knowledge exchange. The Ford Foundation and Riverstyx Foundation are major external co-funders of LEAD.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Leonard Noisette and Criminal Justice Fund Staff
Date: November 9, 2012
Re: Criminal Justice Fund, November 13, 2012 Docket

The Criminal Justice Fund recommends 3 grants, totaling \$590,000 in U.S. Programs' Docket V, scheduled for November 13, 2012. These grants advance our goals of eliminating harsh punishment and promoting justice system accountability.

Eliminating Harsh Punishment

We recommend two grants related to confronting the harsh treatment of children in the justice system.

\$75,000 in project support over one year to **Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama** will help the organization advance the implementation of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Miller v. Alabama*, which now prohibits the mandatory imposition of life without parole sentences on juveniles 17 years old or younger. The project consists of two components: 1) research of complex legal issues in a number of jurisdictions impacted by *Miller*; and 2) a national training conference for attorneys, mitigation experts and corrections experts to support successful resentencing hearings of individuals impacted by *Miller*. The grant will advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in challenging extreme punishment as well as reducing mass incarceration and promoting justice system accountability. This grant supplements a general support grant we provide to EJI for its broader range of work.

\$300,000 in renewed general support over one year to **Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia** will support its continued use of strategic litigation and public policy advocacy to reduce the number of youth transferred to adult court; reform sentencing policies for youth tried as adults, such as ending life without parole sentences for youth; end the overreliance on incarceration; improve conditions of confinement, such as ending the use of solitary confinement of children; promote opportunities for successful reentry; advance civic engagement; and ensure the fair and equitable treatment of children. JLC's work on confronting life without parole sentences for juveniles is complementary of EJI's efforts, with a targeted focus on different states, and a greater emphasis on amicus support. The two organizations have collaborated on efforts to provide training and support to enhance efforts to secure meaningful implementation of the *Miller* decision.

Promoting Justice System Accountability**Ending Discriminatory Policing in New York City**

\$215,000 in project support over one year to **Research Foundation of City University of New York** will support research by John Jay College of Criminal Justice to evaluate the impact of the New York Police Department's stop, question, and frisk practice on crime rates across police precincts and spatial areas in the City from 2006 to 2011. This grant will advance the Criminal Justice Fund's priority of promoting justice system accountability and in particular its efforts to challenge bias-based policing practices in New York City through the Communities United for Police Reform campaign.

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Raquiba LaBrie, Archana Sahgal, Solomon Greene, Shruti Garg, and Li Zhou
Date: November 9, 2012
Re: Equality and Opportunity Fund November 13, 2012 Docket

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. As reflected in its 2009-12 strategic plan, 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 for 2012 are economic security and anti-violence advocacy. Beyond this, EOF houses two special initiatives: the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, which is being integrated into EOF's core work and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. This is the final docket for this configuration of EOF grantmaking.

In this docket, we submit three grant recommendations for your approval. The first three are complementary and seek to ensure sound implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the 2012 federal policy that exempts qualifying undocumented youth from removal proceedings and provides work authorization for a two-year period. The fourth grant recommendation seeks to promote housing choice and dismantle residential segregation in Maryland by maximizing gains of the recent settlement in the landmark *Thompson v. HUD* litigation and by reforming Maryland's Low Income Housing Tax Credit system.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

EOF staff and many of our colleagues agree that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy directive announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012, is the most significant U.S. federal immigration policy gain since the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which granted amnesty to approximately 3 million undocumented immigrants. To ensure that as many eligible young people as possible are able to take advantage of DACA, advocates and funders have moved quickly to address resource needs and gaps. The first recommended DACA grant to the **National Immigration Law Center** (NILC) would support the "Own the DREAM" campaign, an effort led by national immigrant rights groups to train, prepare practice materials for, and provide technical assistance to local service providers; develop and implement outreach and communications strategies to reach potential applicants; and engage in administrative advocacy with relevant federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, to ensure sound DACA implementation. "Own the DREAM" members include the American Immigration Council, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Immigration Advocates Network, NALEO Educational Fund, NILC, the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, and the United We Dream Network. Because staff is seeking a special \$1.5 million allocation from the U.S. Programs Board to supplement EOF funding for "Own the DREAM," we are seeking conditional approval from you as we send the recommendation simultaneously to Sherrilyn Ifill for Board approval.

The second recommended DACA grant to the **New York Community Trust** would support the “Delivering on the DREAM” project, a national philanthropic effort to secure state and local matching funds for local DACA-related service delivery in four principal regions: Los Angeles County, the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, and the Chicago and New York City metropolitan areas. These areas were chosen because of their high concentration of potential DACA applicants and the presence of receptive state and local funding partners. If additional resources are raised, “Delivering on the DREAM” plans to expand its efforts in other cities and regions that meet this criteria, as well as areas with large farmworker populations.

This grant to **MIT** will support a joint project of the MIT Center for Civic Media and United We Dream Network to develop an online screening tool for DACA eligibility, build the technological capacity of the “Own the DREAM campaign” referenced above, and launch a DREAMtech network that will build new media literacy among DREAM activists.

Leadership of the efforts described above will work in close coordination to ensure that the technical assistance, communications strategies, and administrative advocacy led by the national advocacy groups that comprise “Own the DREAM” and the technology development led by MIT will strengthen the work of local service providers supported by “Delivering on the DREAM.”

EXPAND HOUSING CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY IN MARYLAND

The recommended grant to the **American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland (ACLU-MD)** presents an opportunity to invest in a unique regional affordable housing model that can be replicated elsewhere. The recent settlement in the landmark *Thompson v. HUD* fair housing litigation will enable the successful Baltimore Housing Mobility Program to double in size and continue through 2027. The housing mobility program, which is currently administered by a private contractor, provides public housing residents with vouchers that allow them to secure private market housing in low-poverty, high-opportunity neighborhoods. Successful implementation of the settlement hinges on the development of the infrastructure needed to administer vouchers and counseling services. ACLU-MD proposes to work with the Citizens Planning and Housing Association to establish a new non-profit organization dedicated solely to administering the mobility program and capturing lessons learned from the Baltimore experience to inform fair housing programs in other jurisdictions.

ACLU-MD also seeks to reform Maryland’s process for distributing Low Income Housing Tax Credits, which is one of the most restrictive state processes in the nation and creates unfair barriers to siting affordable housing in high-opportunity communities across the state. ACLU- MD has recently filed an administrative complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that challenges the State’s tax credit allocation system under the Fair Housing Act. This will be the first case to test HUD’s authority to review state tax credit programs under the Act, and if successful, it will create precedent for future federal review of state tax credit programs to ensure that they do not perpetuate residential segregation and unfairly limit housing choices for low-income racial minorities.

We look forward to meeting with you on November 13 to discuss this docket and any other issues pertaining to the Equality and Opportunity Fund.

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Laleh Ispahani
Re: Transparency Fund November 13, 2012 Docket

Grantee: Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

This grant would support the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law to work with State Voices, a national network of state tables, to mobilize national and state resources to advocate for fairer ID policies in two to three target states, states in which ID reforms are likely to prevail and to impact broad swaths of historically marginalized communities. We anticipate that the work in these states will yield lessons and create models that will be applied to other states facing similar challenges; we have begun to appeal to other funders to resource the work in such similarly-situated states. To meet their common goals, Lawyers' Committee and State Voices will build on existing infrastructure to assemble coalitions in the target states whose aim will be to lessen the impact of overly restrictive ID reforms. The coalitions will use strategies and tactics drawn on lessons learned from the last two years of back-to-back ID fights - many of them successful - as well as from other battle-tested movements. In doing their work, Lawyers' Committee and State Voices will continue to leverage the OSF-funded research and communications tools to shape the media narrative and public opinion on these suppressive policies in the target states. This project's combination of a national and state-based group will ensure that national groups engage in ways that maximize resources and best serve state groups.

The funds for this grant are drawn from the larger sum the U.S. Programs Board allocated earlier this year for defensive and affirmative voting work. (This grant, specifically, is the portion of that sum approved for affirmative work.) This grant would advance the Transparency Fund's goals of protecting citizens from unreasonable restrictions on the right to vote, and of broadening access to the ballot for underrepresented and marginalized constituencies.

Docket Cover Memos

November 2012 Out of Docket Recommendations

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
From: Ken Zimmerman
Date: November 21, 2012
Re: Out of Docket Recommendations

As I recently discussed with you, the attached five grants represent the remaining USP recommendations which were not ready in time for the November 13 docket meeting. These have all been the subject of internal review and consideration for some time. I have met with the lead staff, raised a number of questions with them, and requested that the write ups reflect at least those areas we discussed that could quickly be incorporated. While we are still developing an approach to dockets that fully represents my priorities (and yours), I am supportive of these recommendations based on my review and those conversations. These are:

1. \$250,000 grant to Center for Budget and Policy Priorities for program support to expand its capacity to support and help lead the state and local level network it has catalyzed. These funds are beyond the general operating support USP has provided and are warranted by the need for increased capacity given the intensity of the budget battles ahead.
2. \$137,000 grant to the Center for Public Representation related to integrating disability law expertise into school discipline and push-out policy advocacy. As the write-up reflects, this grant which is part of USP's historic commitment to this field (split between two funds) is intended to allow the experts at CPR and the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law to expand the tool kit available in this field. Note that this reflects a partnership between US Programs and the Disability Rights Initiative, which is contributing some funding and has been involved in the development of the proposal— one of the first partnership efforts between that thematic program and USP.
3. \$1.6m grant (3 years) to (NY) Fund for Public Schools for school-based mentoring program as part of Young Men's Initiative. This is the last of the elements of the Bloomberg-OSF partnership to be implemented and reflects substantial negotiation between DOE and OSF staff, which accounts in significant part for the intended mid-year launch of the project. The effectiveness of the effort will be monitored in several ways, including the joint working group which includes OSF-funded educational and mentoring experts.

4. \$158,640 grant to Revenue Watch to promote transparency and robust adherence to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards in the United States, as the U.S. adopts them in the coming year. Initially brought to USP's attention by Anthony Richter, this grant reflects the application of USP expertise (as reflected in the re-granting of a portion of these funds to a long-time USP grantee, POGO) to a global program initiative.

5. \$100,000 general support grant to Storycorps as recommended by George Soros.

I and the relevant staff are happy to talk about each further and, if you wish, schedule a docket meeting. Given my understanding of the internal deadlines around processing of grants, however, we do need to move forward with some dispatch.

MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Erlin Ibreck (SOF), Raquiba LaBrie (EOF), Alison Hillman (Disability Rights Initiative)
Date: November 20, 2012
Re: Out of Docket Recommendation

Attached is a grant recommendation made jointly by the Strategic Opportunities and Equality and Opportunity Funds, and the Disability Rights Initiative. The proposed grant to the Center for Public Representation, which partners with the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, supports the U.S. Programs priority focus in 2012 to address harsh disciplinary policies and practices that disproportionately affect young people of color and increasingly, the disabled. We are pleased to be partnering with our colleagues in the Disability Rights Initiative on a shared concern.

Through OSF funding the Center for Public Representation will be connected to a cohort of current USP grantees (most of which apply a civil rights lens) working on school climate and school discipline issues to ensure that the rights of the disabled are also at the center of efforts to improve ways in which schools deal with students who are deemed “disruptive” or ‘different.

The lead staff person on this grant has been Allison Hillman, from the Disability Rights Initiative with further due diligence by Raquiba LaBrie and Erlin Ibreck from US Programs. We look forward to addressing any questions that may arise from this grant recommendation.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chris Stone
Via: Ken Zimmerman
From: Erlin Ibreck, Shawn Dove, Rashid Shabazz
Date: November 20, 2012
Re: Young Men's Initiative Recommendation for Mentoring for REAL Program

Attached for your approval is a NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) grant recommendation for the Fund for Public Schools, Inc. As part of OSF's million partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies and the City of New York to launch YMI, the Fund for Public Schools requests a \$1,600,000 project support grant over three years to fund the newly developed program, Mentoring for REAL (Resiliency, Education, Attendance, Leadership). Designed in collaboration with US Programs staff, Mentoring for REAL is a pilot hybrid school and community-based mentoring strategy designed to significantly reduce behavioral incidents and suspensions for up to 225 black and Latino male students in three NYC public high school students. The young men being mentored will have either had contact with the juvenile justice system; have experiences previous school suspensions or have exhibited behavior that has put them at-risk of school suspension.