

**U.S. PROGRAMS
TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY FUND
Summary of Recommended Grants
April 17, 2009 Docket**

U.S. Programs, Transparency and Integrity Fund (21093)

Organization	Requested	Recommended	Term
American Prospect, Inc.	\$200,000	\$200,000	1 year
Communications Consortium Media Center	\$200,000	\$150,000	1 year
Focus Project (d.b.a. OMB Watch)	\$375,000	\$600,000 ¹	2 years
Free Press	\$450,000	\$350,000	2 years
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund	\$1,148,000	\$700,000	2 years
National Council of Jewish Women	\$200,000	\$190,000	1 year
National Institute on Money in State Politics	\$600,000	\$400,000	2 years
Project on Government Oversight	\$200,000	\$700,000 ²	2 years
Public Knowledge	\$200,000	\$200,000	2 years
TOTAL RECOMMENDED:		<u>\$2,190,000</u>	

¹ To be split between the Transparency and Integrity Fund T1:21093 (\$500,000) and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign T1:21095 (\$100,000).

² To be split between the Transparency and Integrity Fund T1:21093 (\$500,000) and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign T1:21095 (\$200,000).

Angel Weis

Approval Signature

April 17, 2009

Date

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Laleh Ispahani, and the Transparency and Integrity Fund
Date: April 13, 2009
Re: Transparency and Integrity Fund's April 2009 Docket

We look forward to meeting with you next Friday, April 17, 2009, to discuss the first docket of the Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF). We respectfully seek approval of 9 grants in this docket.

As you know, TIF's grant making and other program strategies include support for:

- Effective external oversight of government, including the development of strategies to strengthen the field of independent oversight (*i.e.*, watchdog) organizations and continuing our support for media policy reform and journalism;
- Efforts to promote transparency and integrity within key government institutions and systems, including continued support for judicial independence and electoral system reform initiatives, and some support for initiatives related to Congress and executive branch agencies and departments; and
- Efforts to strengthen support for the public sector, including an initiative to address the detrimental impact of outsourcing government functions in the name of privatization.

Grants in this docket

Watchdog Organizations

From its outset, the Transparency and Integrity Fund has sought to identify and support those watchdog organizations that work across transparency issues and strategies while demonstrating a deep commitment to collaboration and leadership. This docket includes general support grants for three organizations that fit this description: Focus Project (d.b.a. **OMB Watch**), the **Project on Government Oversight**, and the **National Institute on Money in State Politics**. The first two recommendations are jointly supported by TIF and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign. All three organizations are engaged in ongoing projects which fuel broader efforts for openness and reform. General support would guarantee that the organizations have stable funding to continue this work while also responding to new crises and opportunities as they arise.

Judicial Nominations

President Obama has begun nominating judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeal, putting forward nominees to the Second, Fourth, and Seventh Circuits. Prior to these

nominations, Senate Republicans unanimously stated their intent to filibuster nominees that did not meet their approval. Amidst increasing rumors suggesting that Justice Souter will announce his retirement at the conclusion of the Court's present term, the battle over judges has resumed. The Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary (the Coalition) has been working effectively since the beginning of the year to develop a strategy for informing and engaging the public in debates over the future of the federal judiciary. Over the past year, OSI staff has been re-evaluating and recalibrating its grant making to adjust to the new political and legal terrain in which these nominations are made.

This docket contains three recommendations that reflect the changing strategy of the Coalition and TIF. The first, a renewal recommendation to the **Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund** (LCCREF), supports that organization's significant role in leading the Coalition. While officially co-chaired by LCCREF, the Alliance for Justice, and People for the American Way, it is LCCREF that has taken on the lion's share of the work in leading weekly meetings, coordinating messaging and communications, and managing grassroots operations. A recommendation for the **National Council of Jewish Women** (NCJW) would, if approved, mark that group's first grant from OSI. NCJW has long been a Coalition member, organizing and supporting its local chapters' efforts in nominations debates. The group's expertise and past success on that front puts its work squarely within an evolving grant making strategy that recognizes the need for greater capacity at the grassroots. Finally, a renewal grant to the **Communications Consortium Media Center** (CCMC) would allow CCMC to continue providing communications assistance and media training to organizations such as NCJW and LCCREF that are working at grassroots levels. CCMC would also continue to provide communications support to smaller organizations within the Coalition.

Elections Systems Reform

We are making a recommendation that will kick-off a new and transformational election reform agenda: to modernize the nation's antiquated voter registration infrastructure. Our grant will be directed to the **Rockefeller Family Fund**, which will serve to coordinate funding for this special initiative. The groups participating (as a coalition) include a strategic range of organizations, many well known to U.S. Programs, either as grantees or as allies of grantees including the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU, AARP, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, US Public Interest Research Group, League of Women Voters, and the National Military Family Association.

Building on OSI's past elections-related grant making, this coalition will work to build support among policymakers, the public, and other key stakeholders for this effort, by, among other things, conducting and disseminating significant research and policy papers. The coalition will also simultaneously assess how this form of voter registration works in at least two states to build momentum toward a national policy change. This reform has already garnered significant press attention including lead editorials in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other media outlets.

The ability of citizens to participate in decision making through voting is a hallmark of representative democracy and essential to advancing open society interests. Yet, in the U.S., there continue to be significant obstacles to voter registration, with disproportionate barriers for society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. In the 2008 national elections, nearly 9 million Americans encountered problems related to registration and therefore did not vote. This reform would begin to remedy this problem, automatically and affirmatively registering eligible citizens; keeping voters on the rolls as long as they lived in a state; and allow voters who for some reason are not on the rolls at Election Day to register or update registration records with election officials or at the polls on Election Day. To meet these new requirements, states would receive federal funding toward implementation.

Journalism and Media Policy

The new Administration in Washington provides an enormous opportunity for OSI grantees to make substantial gains and advance a proactive vision for media and technology policies that foster democratic values. Open Internet and balanced copyright policies are central to the President's technology agenda, and he has made universal access to the Internet a cornerstone of his economic stimulus program. Many of the individuals now joining the Administration are, or have deep connections to, OSI grantees. For the first time in almost a decade, these public interest organizations will have significant access to key policymakers and opportunities for meaningful participation.

This docket includes renewal recommendations for **Free Press** and **Public Knowledge**, two core media policy reform organizations that work in coalition with other OSI-funded organizations including the Center for Media Justice, the New America Foundation's Wireless Future Program, the Media Access Project, and Consumers Union. As all types of media content are increasingly delivered via the Internet, these media policy reform groups have developed expertise in the rapidly evolving field of Internet/technology policy.

Specifically, Public Knowledge is dedicated to fortifying and defending a vibrant information commons and works with a wide range of stakeholders – including libraries, educators, scientists, artists, musicians, journalists, consumers, software programmers, civic groups, and enlightened businesses – to promote the core conviction that fundamental democratic principles and cultural values of openness, equitable access to information, and the capacity to create and compete, must be protected and intelligently regulated in the digital age. Free Press promotes diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, and universal access to communications. This year, Free Press has launched a new initiative to address the crisis in journalism, exploring proposals for policy solutions by convening a series of strategic policy roundtables with leading journalists, scholars and organizers to identify specific, viable policy proposals, discuss a coordinated policy agenda and a public campaign to support innovative models and creative solutions for American journalism.

This docket also includes what is likely to be a final general support grant to the *American Prospect* from the Transparency and Integrity Fund. The Fund is currently developing a grant making strategy for media and journalism that is unlikely to include major general operating support for national publications. This final grant does not absolutely preclude future OSI funding. The *Prospect* has expanded its coverage of criminal justice, immigration, and race issues, and individual U.S. Programs funds and campaigns may be interested in coordinated efforts to support specific issue coverage in the future.

Name of Organization: American Prospect, Inc.

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$1,115,000
\$400,000 from Progressive Infrastructure (2007)
\$165,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2006)
\$160,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2005)
\$150,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2004)
\$150,000 from Governance and Public Policy (2002)
\$55,000 from Reproductive Rights (2001)
\$35,000 from Governance and Public Policy (1999)

Organization Budget: \$3,862,113

Project Budget: N/A

Major Sources of Support:

Ford Foundation	\$250,000
Popplestone Foundation	\$150,000
Stoneman Family Foundation	\$125,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$200,000 over one year

Term: January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Description of Organization

Founded in 1990 as a quarterly journal by Robert Reich, Paul Starr, and Robert Kuttner, *The American Prospect* now publishes ten print issues a year, and has a robust online presence. The *Prospect's* founding purpose was to energize civic democracy; restore the case for social investment to intellectual and political respectability; and to counteract the growing influence of conservative media.

The *Prospect's* print magazine is supplemented by special reports, which are published in most issues along with supplementary online material. Recent reports have examined new approaches to strengthening democracy and participation; explored the intersection of race and economic opportunity; and revisited the Gulf Coast three years after Katrina, with a special focus on African American, Vietnamese, and Houma communities.

Mark Schmitt, formerly of OSI, joined the *Prospect* as Executive Editor in 2008. Founding co-editors Robert Kuttner and Paul Starr are active leaders in the editorial

process. In November 2008, George Slowik, Jr., a veteran of commercial magazine publishing, joined the *Prospect* as President and Publisher. The *Prospect's* main offices are located in Washington, D.C. The *Prospect* has a paid circulation of 37,000 and a million unique monthly visitors to the website.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation

OSI support for the *American Prospect* most recently came from the Progressive Infrastructure Fund. When the Transparency and Integrity Fund (the Fund) was developed, most of the media and journalism grantees were transferred to the Fund to be assessed as their grants came up for renewal. The Fund is currently developing a grant making strategy for media and journalism that is unlikely to include support for national publications. Since the Fund cannot accommodate all of the Progressive Infrastructure media grantees it inherited, staff identified several that would likely receive final grants, including the *American Prospect*.

OSI's previous multi-year, general operating support enabled the *Prospect* to make several important organizational changes. In order to give them time to adjust to the loss of an important funder, we recommend a final one year grant of \$200,000. This final grant does not absolutely preclude future OSI funding. As grant making strategies related to media outlets and journalism evolve in the Transparency and Integrity Fund and across U.S. Programs, we may reconsider future topic-specific project support for the *Prospect*.

The *Prospect* is a magazine of opinion and ideas designed for a moment such as this one, when progressive ideas, like equity, cooperation, and justice, have a chance to be heard and to shape the future. In print and online, the *Prospect* provides an essential communications function among the advocates, activists, idea-generators, and engaged citizens of the center-left, as well as between them and the public officials with the power to make change happen.

The viewpoint of the *American Prospect* is that of engaged progressives – realistic but committed to the idea that there is a greater range of genuinely transformative policies than is often imagined, especially in Washington. The *Prospect* believes in an economy that provides broadly shared prosperity, and in which a foundation of economic security allows all people to make the most of their own talents and aspirations. *Prospect* writers and columnists have written about the need for a decisive and ambitious response to the current economic crisis, about the urgency of universal health care as well as the options for achieving it, about the revolutionary possibilities of climate change legislation as well as the political obstacles to achieving it.

In print and online, the *Prospect* serves as a forum for constructive debate and civil argument, including respectful engagement with philosophical conservatism. The

Prospect tries to be particularly attentive to issues in which the viewpoints of activists on the ground may differ from the consensus in Washington. The *Prospect's* website frequently features discussions involving people with different viewpoints on an issue. Recent online roundtables have addressed the means to achieve universal health care, the role of organizing in the Obama administration, and responses to the financial crisis.

The *Prospect* supports the work of progressive social change by shedding light on the possibilities and constraints of the political process. The *Prospect* describes its ideal reader as a deeply engaged local activist eager for some perspective on how the issues she's dealing with on the ground – housing, economic opportunity, environmental threats – relate to larger political challenges and trends. The *Prospect* aims to connect sterile policy debates to the lived experience of communities and families. The *Prospect* defines an ideal feature as “policy as narrative,” meaning that it should capture the reality of a community struggling to rebuild, or a family affected by a parent's deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan, or a set of workers seeking justice, and show how public policy decisions are relevant to their experience. In so doing, the *Prospect* aims to draw out the larger narrative of the progressive vision of America.

The *Prospect* also functions as a convener and collaborates on discussions and forums related to pressing domestic and foreign policy issues. Most recently, the *Prospect* hosted a conference on economic policy in partnership with Demos, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Institute for America's Future. Speakers included Paul Krugman, Governor Ed Rendell, Jacob Hacker, Theda Skocpol, and Deepak Bhargava. Staff expected 300 people to attend, but received over 900 RSVPs for the conference.

The *Prospect* is committed to creating opportunities for a new and diverse generation of public voices. The *Prospect's* Writers Fellowship Program offers two-year staff positions to promising young journalists. Fellows receive intensive mentoring, and routinely produce major articles for the magazine, such as Adam Serwer's March 2009 cover story on the NAACP and its new president, Benjamin Jealous. Former writing fellows Ezra Klein, Matthew Yglesias and Joshua Micah Marshall (who founded the influential *Talking Points Memo*) were recently named by *Forbes* as among the 25 Most Influential Liberals in the U.S. Media.

In the fellowship program as in other hiring, the *Prospect* has a greatly increased focus on diversity, including diversity of experience. Two of the three current fellows are African American, and three of the last four additions to the editorial staff have come from underrepresented communities. The *Prospect* has also increased salaries for fellows and entry level employees to a level that can attract a broader range of applicants, not limited to those supported by their families. They have also broadened the range of outside writers to include more women and non-white contributors.

The *Prospect* has expanded coverage of criminal justice, immigration, race, and poverty. For example, one of the *Prospect's* recent special reports, *The Color of Opportunity: Narrowing Racial Divides and Expanding Prosperity for All*, examined race as “one of the great cleavages in America that prevents the empathy needed for American workers

to bond together to demand a better course.” The report, guest edited by William Spriggs, Howard University economics professor and former director of the National Urban League, brought together activists and advocates who focus on race, gender, immigration, and economic justice. In addition to their routine distribution activities to policy officials and activists, *The Color of Opportunity* was requested for distribution at several events, including a 3-day convening hosted by Martin Luther King III. Copies were also distributed at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s legislative conference and at a Howard University convening of the Trotter Group, an organization of leading black newspaper columnists.

Going forward the *Prospect* will continue to cover the Obama administration’s promising agenda, and developments in Congress, while also holding it accountable to the progressive ideals it championed during the campaign. The *Prospect* will also continue to bring new ideas and perspectives into the debate, and provide a forum to test and refine them.

Name of Organization: Communications Consortium Media Center

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

Purpose of Grant: To support CCMC communications training and technical assistance project in support of the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary

Previous OSI Support: \$1,224,000
\$200,000 from Progressive Infrastructure (2007)
\$275,000 from Independence of Judiciary (2005)
\$200,000 from S.O.F. (2003)
\$475,000 from Reproductive Rights (1998, 2000 – 2002)
\$74,000 from Media Grants (1999)

Organization Budget: \$5,031,000

Project Budget: \$200,000

Major Sources of Support:

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	\$900,000
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	\$850,000
United Nations Population Fund	\$517,500

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$150,000 over one year

Term: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Description of Organization

The Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) is a public interest media center dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations use media and communications technologies for public education and policy change. Working both domestically and globally, CCMC has developed and implemented successful communications campaigns on a range of issues, including child care and early education, juvenile justice, gender equality, reproductive rights, voting and citizenship, and immigration. Based in Washington, DC, CCMC also provides technical assistance to nonprofits, helping them gain access to the media.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

CCMC seeks renewal funding to continue providing technical assistance and training to the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary (the Coalition). That work includes organizing trainings for members of the Coalition’s grassroots, state-level coalitions as

well as smaller national organizations that lack in-house communications staff and expertise.

CCMC was formed in 1988 after its founding partners came together to coordinate the media efforts in the campaign to keep nominee Robert Bork off the Supreme Court. While CCMC has greatly expanded its scope of activities, it continues to engage on federal judicial nominations as an active member of the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary. In 2005, during the nomination battles over John Roberts and Samuel Alito, CCMC provided the Coalition and its members with media training, news monitoring, and editorial board and radio outreach assistance. For groups such as the National Coalition for Disability Rights (NCDR, an OSI grantee), CCMC staff worked with the head of NCDR and the Coalition's communications committee to draft op-eds for newspapers around the country tying the fight over the Supreme Court to concerns about disability rights. While NCDR supplied the substantive input on the nominations, CCMC helped tailor a message that fit within the Coalition's overarching message framework. It also helped NCDR place the op-eds, doing the footwork necessary to get the pieces published. CCMC also helped small organizations in the Coalition secure radio placements to discuss the nominations and trained them prior to such appearances. Finally, CCMC trained local activists to speak effectively about federal judicial nominations. These trainings were based on OSI polling to determine what constituted effective messages (those centered on law and the Constitution).

CCMC wishes to continue these efforts. Working in close collaboration with the Coalition (particularly the grassroots operations committee and the communications committee) and the National Council of Jewish Women (also in this docket), CCMC will conduct two to four media trainings for grassroots coalitions in key states. These trainings will educate local advocates on nominations, while helping solidify collaborative relationships among coalition members. CCMC will also continue to support organizations within the Coalition in communicating about nominations. CCMC will continue to maintain its media contacts database (particularly important in a rapidly-changing journalism landscape) and conduct outreach to print, radio, and blog media members. And it will continue its involvement in the Coalition's communications effort, particularly as the Coalition is developing a new approach to discussing nominations.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a grant of \$150,000 over one year. This grant would advance the Fund's goal of supporting efforts to restore the integrity of the Federal judiciary by educating citizens about the importance of the courts on a wide range of issues. Specifically, this grant would advance the portfolio's goal of engaging and educating key constituencies about the federal judiciary and building greater capacity at the grassroots level.

As the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary gears up in anticipation of forthcoming federal court nominations, CCMC's supporting role in the coalition continues to be not just relevant, but very important. Over the past three years, OSI has

evaluated its grant making strategy and the field of nominations work and adjusted accordingly. OSI's new strategy involves: 1) a new set of messages that focus on law and the Constitution, and 2) a long-term effort to support and engage constituencies at the state and local level. This grant will advance both of these efforts.

CCMC was an early adopter of OSI's new strategy on messaging. While many groups were initially reluctant to drop messages that focused on specific cases or issues (i.e. "Save *Roe*") in favor of "traditional, civics class" messages that advocate for judges who respect the rule of law and the Constitution, CCMC understood the need for a new approach. This belief came in no small part because of polling the organization has done on other issues (such as reproductive freedom) that demonstrates that even tried and true methods may need to be abandoned if we seek to attract support beyond the traditional progressive base. Thus, CCMC is a valuable partner in our new strategy.

The increased emphasis on building a grassroots base that is as engaged as the conservative base on this issue requires additional resources. CCMC will play an important role in working with local advocates, giving them the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to play a constructive and meaningful role in nominations battles. CCMC is working in close collaboration with the national Coalition's grassroots committee to design and implement these strategies. It is also working with OSI grantee The Infinity Project to help that largely volunteer project's members develop the skills needed in speaking with the press and the public about nominations.

Name of Organization: Focus Project, Inc. (d.b.a. OMB Watch)

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$800,000
 \$375,000 from Seize the Day (2009)
 \$250,000 from TIF and NSHR (2008)
 \$175,000 from SOF (2003, 2006)

Organization Budget: \$2,285,767

Project Budget: N/A

Sources of Support:

Ford Foundation	\$700,000
Sunlight Foundation	\$343,713
Bauman Foundation	\$200,000

Amount Requested: \$375,000 over two years

Amount Recommended: \$600,000 over two years [\$500,000 from TIF; \$100,000 from NSHRC]

Term: January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010

Description of Organization

OMB Watch was created in 1983 to track and expose the activities of the White House Office of Management and Budget. Based in Washington, D.C., the organization has since grown into a leading nonprofit research and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting government accountability, citizen participation in public policy decisions, and the use of fiscal and regulatory policy to serve the public interest. It is incorporated under the name Focus Project, Inc.

OMB Watch’s work divides into four primary categories of focus on the federal government: fiscal stewardship, government openness, regulatory reform, and non-profit rights. The organization’s fiscal stewardship work engages in oversight and advocacy in relation to federal taxation and expenditures. It seeks to bring greater transparency to these processes while also advocating for more equitable taxation and spending. Most visible in this area has been OMB Watch’s work on earmark transparency and its website fedspending.org. That website has made information on earmarks highly accessible and visible since its creation a few years ago, garnering attention as a model for future web-based transparency projects.

Over the past year OMB Watch's **government openness** program has been largely focused on leading a large, "transpartisan," Right to Know coalition in developing transparency and classification reforms for the new administration. That coalition's report, released soon after the November elections, has been successful far beyond the coalition's expectations. On his first day in office President Obama signed executive orders and memoranda signaling a major rethinking of government secrecy and openness very much in line with the recommendations made in the coalition report. OMB Watch is also playing a leading role in coalitions working on the financial bailout and the economic recovery.¹ And the group continues to play an ongoing role in pressuring the new administration to abandon the pseudo-secrecy and over-classification that were emblematic of much of the previous administration's work.

With respect to **regulatory reform**, OMB Watch has spent many years closely watching and seeking reform of the federal government's regulatory apparatus. OMB Watch has led efforts to highlight regulatory problems in the food industry as well as to track toxics releases by manufacturing and chemical industries. The group also coordinated the Regulatory Reform Initiative (funded by TIF in 2008) to make recommendations to the new administration about needed changes to the regulatory system. It is now working with members of the coalition (including TIF grantees the Center for Progressive Reform and the Union of Concerned Scientists) to implement that agenda.

Finally, OMB Watch dedicates significant resources to its **non-profit rights** project. Since 9/11, the group has worked to protect non-profit organizations constrained by overbroad government counterterrorism restrictions. OMB Watch organized the Charity and Security Network Project (funded by NSHR in 2007), a collaboration between civil liberties and civil rights organizations, grant-makers, charities, and foundations seeking to overhaul a set of draconian U.S. counterterrorism measures that have a chilling effect on the international work of U.S.-based humanitarian aid and development organizations, charities, and nonprofits. OMB Watch also continues to lead the field in working to minimize restrictions on the ability of 501(c)(3) non-profits to engage in political speech and electoral activities.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommend a grant of \$600,000 over two years (\$500,000 from TIF, \$100,000 from NSHR). This grant would advance TIF's goal of supporting key national watchdog organizations in efforts to increase transparency and accountability of government

¹ The Seize the Day Fund made a grant to the Focus Project in March 2009 to support the Bailout Watch partnership of 6 organizations working on gathering, analyzing and disseminating information relating to the government's financial bailouts. Last November, the National Security and Human Rights Campaign made a grant to the Focus Project to support its recently launched Charity and Security Network.

institutions. It would also advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's priorities of strengthening the capacity of watchdog organizations to document government abuses and reducing excessive government secrecy in national security policy.

OMB Watch has long been a leader in efforts to bring transparency and accountability to the federal government. Its record of leadership and collaboration within the right to know community is widely recognized and respected. In interviews conducted by U.S. Programs staff while developing the Transparency and Integrity Fund, leaders in the field consistently named OMB Watch as one of two groups that are doing the best work on issues of transparency and integrity in government (the other being the National Security Archive, which is a current NSHR grantee and will be considered by TIF later this year).

OMB Watch's executive director, Gary Bass, was also singled out for his leadership in the field. Whether it is in the OpenTheGovernment.org coalition, the Regulatory Reform Initiative, or other efforts, Bass and his colleagues have demonstrated a commitment to working across issue areas and "turf" lines to craft advocacy campaigns that yield results. Supporting the kinds of collaboration and cross-issue work that OMB Watch does is a major goal of U.S. Programs' funding. OMB Watch connects dots and can timely detect patterns across government branches and agencies, working effectively with single-issue or agency-focused organizations. It is also a leading innovator in the use of technology to advance government transparency as exemplified by projects such as fedspending.org. It is now exploiting its experience with technology to inform the new administration's efforts to create web-based transparency tools.

OMB Watch's leadership has been particularly evident over the past year as the group led the Right to Know coalition in the development of recommendations on secrecy and open government. Following the rush of excitement around President Obama's issuance of the Open Government directive on his first day in office, OMB Watch has continued to play a major role in keeping pressure on the White House to implement policies consistent with that directive and campaign promises. The group has been willing to work with the administration when appropriate but at all times maintained a critical distance.

That healthy skepticism remains essential as we see the administration taking certain actions inconsistent with its promises to end unnecessary government secrecy, curtail the use of signing statements and stem executive overreaching. There remains important work to be done not only to reverse the worst policies of the preceding administration, but to establish and implement policies consistent with open and democratic governance. OMB Watch's deep expertise and respected leadership are essential to achieving these goals.

Name of Organization: Free Press

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$1,260,000
\$450,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2007)
\$10,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2006)
\$400,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2005)
\$200,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2004)
\$200,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2003)

Organization Budget: \$5,400,000

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support:

Anonymous	\$750,000
Ford Foundation	\$300,000
Torrance Foundation	\$100,000

Amount Requested: \$450,000 over two years

Amount Recommended: \$350,000 over two years

Term: April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011

Description of Organization

Free Press is a nonpartisan organization working to reform the media and involve the public in media policymaking. Free Press was founded in 2003 by Robert McChesney and John Nichols. Josh Silver is the current Executive Director.

Free Press promotes diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, and universal access to communications. Free Press has a particular goal of increasing the numbers of individuals and groups traditionally underrepresented in media policymaking and media activism. Current Free Press initiatives aim to:

- promote universal, affordable, open, high-speed Internet access;
- promote more diverse, independent local media and oppose further media consolidation;
- raise public awareness of and support for a slate of policies that would create a robust and politically insulated noncommercial media system;
- build a broad and inclusive media reform movement.

Free Press uses creative communications as well as traditional media coverage to raise awareness about the importance of media reform. The organization serves as an

educational resource for policymakers, scholars, journalists, media producers, activists and citizens. Free Press works to develop a broad activist base by forming coalitions and networks with allied groups both within the media reform movement and with organizations in other issue areas (e.g., the environment, civil rights and labor). Free Press works with local organizations to organize turnout for FCC hearings and broadband forums in cities across the country.

Over the next two years, Free Press plans to intensify its outreach efforts to new constituencies across the political spectrum, as well as to women, minorities, social justice activists, environmentalists, and other groups whose agendas are impeded by the failures of the current media system. Free Press uses presentations, workshops, keynote speeches, exhibit booths, and bilingual educational materials to connect media reform to other important social issues.

In 2009 Free Press plans to launch a new initiative to address the crisis in journalism and explore proposals for policy solutions. Free Press is convening a series of strategic policy roundtables this Spring with leading journalists, scholars and organizers to identify specific, viable policy proposals, discuss a coordinated policy agenda and a public campaign to support innovative models and creative solutions for American journalism.

Free Press also convenes the National Conference for Media Reform. Held every 18 months since 2003, the conferences have become the largest gathering of media reformers in the nation. The 2008 conference was attended by 3,500 people and featured more than 100 workshops, policy roundtables, and training sessions. Over 200 lower-income people received travel assistance and fee waivers to attend the conference.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a grant of \$400,000 over two years. This grant would advance the Fund's priorities of supporting groups that work to ensure that the public interest is vigorously represented in policy arenas that determine the structure of the U.S. media system. This grant would also advance the Fund's goals of strengthening the field of journalism as an essential tool for transparency and accountability.

OSI has supported Free Press since its inception in 2003. In just over five years, Free Press has contributed to the creation of a robust and growing political and grassroots infrastructure for media reform. Free Press has the expertise and credibility required to advance an ambitious and proactive media reform agenda both at the grassroots level and in Washington.

During the Bush administration, Free Press primarily operated in defense mode, working to block an onslaught of policies that did not serve the public interest. During the Presidential Campaign, Barack Obama published a detailed agenda containing goals and proposed policies for media and telecommunications. The core of this agenda aligns squarely with Free Press' central mission of creating a more democratic media system. Obama has promised to preserve the openness of the Internet, to foster diversity of media ownership, and to reinvigorate and transform public media. This represents a fundamental shift toward communications policymaking in the public interest.

Many of the individuals now joining the new Administration have deep connections with Free Press and its allies, many of which are OSI grantees. For the first time in almost a decade, these public interest organizations will have significant access to key policymakers and opportunities for meaningful participation.

The new President, coupled with a democratic majority in Congress and at the FCC, offers the media reform movement a level of political support and opportunity that has never been greater — but it also poses several underlying challenges. Despite President Obama's stated commitment to media reform, his candidacy was supported by over \$8 million from the telecommunications and high-tech industries — eight times the amount that went to John McCain. These industries will expect a return on their investment in the form of continued policy favors and stimulus funding. Free Press is making sure that the new President and Congress are aware that a powerful organized media reform movement, made up of thousands of groups and millions of individuals, will be watching and demanding that the public's interest — and not just the corporate bottom line — determines the direction of future policy changes.

Blending on-the-ground citizen education and activism with sophisticated communications and advocacy, Free Press has cultivated a base of over 500,000 activists. Their successful National Conference for Media Reform, Future of Media town hall meetings, national house parties, and videos are infusing the movement with comprehensive education, skill-building, and networking. The Free Press website has registered nearly ten million visits in the past year.

The Free Press Internet for Everyone coalition currently includes almost 200 groups including the Center for Rural Strategies, Color of Change, the ACLU, the American Library Association, the National Baptist Convention, the National Hispanic Media Coalition, Progressive States Network, US PIRG, SEIU, YouTube, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and many other national, state, and local organizations and businesses, many of which are OSI grantees. As part of this initiative, Free Press is organizing a series of "deliberative democracy" forums across the country to discuss the ways citizens, as well as municipal, educational, and civic leaders, are using high-speed Internet access. The first forum, held in December 2008 in Los Angeles, drew a diverse audience of more than 200 people of all ages and income levels.

Free Press places a high priority on collaborative efforts with other organizations, recognizing that advocacy for better media policy depends on vibrant independent media,

progressive think tanks, media monitoring and criticism, and the combined, coordinated strengths of large national issue groups like NOW, MoveOn, U.S.PIRG, Consumers Union, Media Alliance, Prometheus Radio, and the National Hispanic Media Coalition. Free Press works closely with other OSI media policy grantees including Public Knowledge (also recommended for funding in this docket), the Center for Media Justice, the New America Foundation's Wireless Future Program, the Media Access Project, and Consumers Union.

Free Press staff members have worked with representatives of Rainbow Push, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, National Council of La Raza, National Association of Hispanic Journalists, League of United Latin American Citizens, Coalition for the People's Agenda, NAACP of California, and the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership on issues relating to the intersection of racial justice and media reform.

The seismic change in our political landscape, combined with Free Press' successful grassroots organizing and political alliance and relationship building presents an unprecedented opportunity to achieve significant media and technology policy change in the next few years. Free Press is well positioned and prepared to move from defense mode to one in which it works in cooperation with other organizations alongside the new administration and the FCC to generate workable, affirmative policy initiatives and to implement a vision of a healthy and vibrant media system.

Name of Organization: Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

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

Purpose of Grant: To support the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary and its work around the federal judiciary

Previous OSI Support: \$4,094,400
\$1,000,000 from Democracy and Power (2008)
\$1,365,000 from S.O.F. (2004 – 2007)
\$200,000 from US Justice Fund (2006 – 2007)
\$500,000 from Progressive Infrastructure (2006)
\$1,029,400 from Independence of the Judiciary (2005)

Organization Budget: \$5,514,300

Project Budget: \$1,148,000

Major Sources of Support:

Major gifts	\$450,000
Ford Foundation	\$350,000
Verizon Foundation	\$150,000

Amount Requested: \$1,148,000 over two years

Amount Recommended: \$700,000 over two years

Term: January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010

Description of Organization

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (LCCREF), established in 1969, is a research organization that works to strengthen Americans’ commitment to civil rights and equality of opportunity for all. Based in Washington, DC, it is affiliated with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (a 501(c)(4) organization), the nation’s oldest and broadest civil rights coalition with over 200 member organizations representing a diverse set of constituencies.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

Since 2003, OSI has provided core support to LCCREF’s leadership of the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary (the Coalition), a long-term, nonpartisan national public education campaign to engage Americans in discussions and advocacy efforts in support of federal judges who are committed to protecting the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans. The project engages in nonpartisan research, analysis and advocacy for the benefit of the Coalition, co-chaired by LCCREF, the Alliance for Justice (the Alliance), and People for the American Way (PFAW), and comprised of dozens of civil rights,

social justice, labor, and environmental organizations.

LCCREF now seeks funding to continue the roles mentioned above as well as its role as convener of the Coalition. While in the past LCCREF has had less capacity than the Alliance and PFAW to oversee significant elements of the Coalition's work, with OSI's support over the past four years LCCREF has built that capacity and has now established itself as the lead organization amongst the three. With OSI support, LCCREF will coordinate the Coalition's strategic direction, running weekly Friday meetings that serve as the primary space for strategic development and information exchange. LCCREF's communications team will also take primary responsibility for coordinating communications of all Coalition members. Importantly, the team will develop shared messages using the framework of respect for the rule of law and the Constitution. LCCREF will also chair the Coalition's grassroots outreach efforts, working with the Alliance and the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW, also in this docket) to support and coordinate state-level coalitions engaged on matters related to federal nominations.

In order to fully support state-level work, \$125,000 of LCCREF's project budget (\$75,000 in year one; \$50,000 in year two) is dedicated to pass-through grants to support state judicial nominations coalitions. LCCREF is currently working with Coalition partners to assess where state support will be most needed and beneficial, but they currently foresee making three to five sub-grants to either build diverse coalitions from scratch or help broaden and diversify coalitions already in existence (NCJW, the Alliance, and People for the American Way will support others). Grants will be made to coalitions with: 1) dedicated staff (half- to full-time), 2) diverse membership (i.e. representation by Latino, African-American, Native American, faith communities, etc.), and, whenever possible, 3) connections to established state progressive coalitions with proven experience in building and leading diverse, engaged coalitions. The amount of the individual sub-grants will depend on a variety of factors but are likely to be in the range of \$5,000 to \$20,000.²

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a grant of \$700,000 over two years. This grant would advance the Fund's goal of supporting efforts to restore the integrity of the Federal judiciary by educating citizens about the importance of the courts on a wide range of issues. Specifically, this grant would advance the portfolio's goal of engaging and educating key constituencies about the federal judiciary and building greater capacity at the grassroots level.

Over the past few years, OSI has engaged in a significant evaluation of its support for work relating to federal judicial nominations. We have devoted significant resources to

² These amounts are modest but are aimed at building short-term grassroots engagement in the event of major nominations fights. Separate and more significant grants (i.e. NCJW, the Equal Justice Society, the Infinity Project) are aimed at fulfilling OSI's long-term strategy of building grassroots capacity on nominations.

evaluating the strategies and message frameworks used by Coalition members in the past. This exercise has revealed the need for us to recalibrate our grant making strategies. Our support for the DC-based Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary has served to create a more cohesive and organized group of national organizations. National groups representing important constituencies that had not been deeply involved in nominations matters previously (i.e. the LGBT, environmental, and disability rights communities) are now more engaged than in the past. And the Coalition is beginning to speak with one voice and act from a common set of goals and strategies. Particularly important is the fact that the Coalition is now using messages that put law and the Constitution at the center of their communications about the federal courts and judicial nominations.

In the past six months, LCCREF has played a leading role in bringing the Coalition back together. With Nancy Zirkin leading the Coalition's many members, the various organizations have developed a well-thought out plan for how to work in a significantly different political landscape than that faced in the past eight years. An energized and vehement conservative opposition will make efforts to ensure a fair and independent judiciary challenging. The grassroots strategy that OSI is now emphasizing and that this proposal (along with those to NCJW and the Communications Consortium Media Center) details, will play an important role in meeting this challenge.

LCCREF's capacity building over the past few years has put it in an excellent position to play the leading role in the Coalition as it now possesses adequate and talented staff to carry out an ambitious strategy. Significant expansion of field operations and communications staff, along with major work on affirmative action, immigration, and other issues, has helped hone skills that will be highly valued in coming judicial nominations battles. LCCREF's and the Coalition's embrace of a new, overarching strategy will help build public will to ensure a fair and independent judiciary.

Important to note with this two-year grant to LCCREF is the fact that 2009 will mark the beginning of significant reductions in OSI's support for judicial nominations work. Our spending on this work in previous years was made possible by large budgetary allocations for the "progressive infrastructure" field. This year staff will be recommending two year grants for many organizations in the portfolio, providing stable funding in a period when major nominations fights are likely and other sources of funding are difficult to develop. Grantees will be notified accordingly.

Name of Organization: National Council of Jewish Women

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide support for development and implementation of a grassroots organizing and action plan relating to federal judicial nominations

Previous OSI Support: N/A

Organization Budget: \$4,966,446

Project Budget: \$235,000

Major Sources of Support:

Mandel Supporting Foundation	\$200,000
Estate of Lenore Feldman Fischler	\$100,000
Ford Foundation	\$50,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$190,000 over one year

Term: May 1, 2009 – April 30, 2010

Description of Organization

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is the oldest Jewish women’s volunteer organization in the United States. Founded in 1893, NCJW works to unite people of diverse backgrounds who share a commitment to Jewish activism and a determination to improve their communities and country for all regardless of faith, ethnicity, race, or gender. NCJW boasts more than 90,000 members organized in a network of approximately 100 sections (local affiliates). NCJW’s State Public Affairs Network trains volunteer advocates in 18 states for work at the state and local level. Based in New York City with a legislative office in Washington, DC, NCJW is an active participant in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choices, the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination, and the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

NCJW seeks support for a project to develop its grassroots organizing work in coordination with the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary (the Coalition). Building on judicial nominations education and organizing work it conducted between 2001 and 2008, NCJW would work with local volunteers in three key cities – Omaha, NE; Cleveland, OH, and; Pittsburgh, PA – to lead diverse coalitions of citizens concerned about the current state and future of the federal judiciary. These coalitions will re-build

local infrastructure established in 2005 at the time of the Roberts and Alito nominations. They will educate members of their communities to understand the importance of the judiciary in protecting fundamental legal and Constitutional rights, engage and mobilize communities in efforts to build support for a fair and independent judiciary, and speak to the media and key decision makers about the need for judicial nominees who will uphold important legal and Constitutional rights. Coalitions will be coordinated by NCJW's DC office. The DC office provides an essential bridge between DC-centered organizations in the Coalition and citizens engaged on the issue at the state and local level.

NCJW's concern with reproductive freedom first led the group to work on judicial nominations in 2001. *Benchmark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe* sought to educate and engage Jewish women on the impact of Supreme Court nominations and decisions on their lives. Following the attacks of 9/11 and actions by the federal government undermining civil liberties, NCJW expanded its Campaign to include work on those issues. The result of this work was a handful of coalitions in key states that actively engaged communities in discussions of federal judicial nominees, particularly in 2005 when there were two vacancies on the Supreme Court.

NCJW now proposes to expand its work on the federal judiciary. Having educated and engaged Jewish women over the past eight years, NCJW now seeks to expand its local coalitions to include a diverse set of organizations. Working with the constituent members of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Alliance for Justice (two of the three co-chairs of the Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary), these NCJW-led coalitions will provide the local capacity for message development, media efforts, training, and public education.

NCJW's Washington office, working closely with the Coalition's field and communications sub-committees, would help train and manage the local coalitions, guiding them in ways to tailor messages for local communities while remaining true to the Coalition's overarching message framework (i.e. emphasizing the need for judges who remain faithful to the rule of law and the Constitution), providing media training in collaboration with the Communications Consortium Media Center (also in this docket), and offering adaptable materials (model op-eds, organizing advice, etc) to assist in the local efforts.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a grant of \$190,000 over one year. This grant would advance the Fund's goals of supporting efforts to educate and engage citizens around the need for a fair and independent federal judiciary. Specifically, this grant would advance the portfolio's goal of building viable models for grassroots engagement on the issue of federal judicial nominations.

Over the past few years, staff has engaged in a significant evaluation of OSI's support for work relating to federal judicial nominations. OSI has devoted significant resources to evaluating the strategies and message frameworks used by Coalition members in the past.

This exercise has revealed the need for us to recalibrate our grant making strategies. Our support for the DC-based Coalition for a Fair and Independent Judiciary has served to create a more cohesive and organized group of national organizations. National groups representing important constituencies that had not been deeply involved in nominations matters previously (i.e. the LGBT, environmental, and disability rights communities) are now more engaged than in the past. And the Coalition is beginning to speak with one voice and act from a common set of goals and strategies. Particularly important is the fact that the Coalition is now using messages that put law and the Constitution at the center of their communications about the federal courts and judicial nominations.

If there is one piece that is still missing, it is a solid grassroots foundation on which to ground these efforts. Key to conservative activism on the courts has been an educated and engaged grassroots constituency that dependably mobilizes on nominations and other court-related matters. National groups in our coalition have not sufficiently reached out (beyond questionably effective “email blasts”) to their constituents to involve them in the process in a meaningful way. We believe that this grant would begin to fill this gap.

NCJW is one of the few DC-based organizations with a significant network of local volunteers and activists ready to move on issues related to the judiciary. Aply led by a veteran advocate, NCJW’s DC director Sammie Moshenberg, NCJW’s groundwork over the past eight years shows that local citizens can have an impact on the shape of the judiciary. Their expanded efforts will engage a more diverse set of communities in the nominations fights.

Funding for these grassroots efforts also fits well with the Democracy and Power Fund’s goal of building capacity for organizing and advocacy at the state and local level. The Transparency and Integrity Fund is working in collaboration with D&P as it develops this grassroots prong of the larger strategy on nominations.

Name of Organization: National Institute on Money in State Politics

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$2,043,000
 \$320,000 from Progressive Infrastructure (2007)
 \$690,000 from Independence of Judiciary (2002 – 2006)
 \$100,000 from US Justice Fund (2005 – 2006)
 \$325,000 from Governance and Policy (1999, 2001, 2002)
 \$333,000 from Law and Society (1999 – 2000)
 \$275,000 from Political Campaign Reform (1997 – 1998)

Organization Budget: \$1,846,700

Project Budget: N/A

Major Sources of Support:

Ford Foundation	\$195,000
Pew Charitable Trusts	\$200,000
Data Licensing Agreements	\$96,000

Amount Requested: \$600,000 over three years

Amount Recommended: \$400,000 over two years

Term: April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011

Description of Organization

The National Institute on Money in State Politics (the Institute) is a nonprofit organization that traces the influence of campaign money on state-level elections and public policy in all 50 states. Working in close collaboration with the reform community, the Institute has developed the country’s first and only comprehensive, verifiable and free public-access archive of records on campaign contributions in state elections. Based in Helena, Montana, the Institute works proactively to make its data and research available to journalists, public interest lawyers, public officials, academics, and citizen groups across the nation.

The Institute works with state officials and watchdog groups in all 50 states to gather, code, and analyze campaign finance information in every state-wide election. This includes not only gubernatorial and legislative elections, but judicial elections as well. The organization’s work involves an arduous process of sorting data and reorganizing it in open source databases that allow for comprehensive searches of donors back to 1988. In 2007 and 2008, the Institute began to gather lists of registered lobbyists in every state,

allowing for better connections between the statehouse work of lobbyists and donations from lobbyists and the clients they represent. In May 2008, the Institute launched a “Legislative Committee Analysis” tool to better analyze donations to members of key legislative committees from the industries impacted by those committees’ decisions.

The data the Institute collects serves as the backbone of many watchdog groups’ efforts. Groups such as Maplight.org as well as many other cutting-edge projects of the Sunlight Foundation depend upon it and upon the Institute to connect the dots between money and political action. Thousands of journalists turn to the Institute’s databases each year in the process of investigating political news stories. Most recently, the Institute is collaborating with the Coalition for an Accountable Recovery³ to better track stimulus spending-related decisions at the state level.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a grant of \$400,000 over two years. This grant would advance the Fund’s goals of providing support to watchdog organizations, supporting work that makes innovative use of technology as a means of increasing transparency, and supporting efforts to increase government transparency and accountability at the state level, a direction this Fund is taking across its various portfolios.

The problem of money in politics has a long history. Yet despite state disclosure requirements, accessible information about campaign contributions remains elusive. The Institute has led the effort to change that. Along with the Center for Responsive Politics which collects, codes, and analyzes data in federal campaigns, the Institute provides an essential service for those interested in understanding the link between money, politics, and law making. Journalists, campaign reform advocates, and citizens all make regular use of the Institute’s online database. Organizations such as MapLight take the Institute’s data and combine it with legislative vote data to better demonstrate how campaign contributions shape legislative decisions. And the American Judicature Society is now using the Institute’s data on state judicial campaign contributions to study the connection between contributions and justices’ votes in cases. Without the Institute, these groups’ efforts to make the case for reform would be seriously hampered.

Today, the Institute is playing a major role monitoring the economic stimulus, as part of a broad coalition of issue-specific and good government groups that are exposing waste, fraud and abuse in the allocation of stimulus dollars. It also continues to develop new

³ The Coalition for an Accountable Recovery (CAR) and State Action for an Accountable Recovery (STAR) are two nascent coalitions concerned with transparency, accountability, and equity in economic recovery and stimulus efforts. The Seize the Day Fund is likely to recommend funding for these coalitions in the coming two months.

tools that will make its data easier to search as well as creating new ways to disseminate its data. Of particular value to TIF's goal of supporting the media's ability to engage in government oversight, each year the Institute conducts numerous trainings for journalists and bloggers, introducing them to the Institute's tools and resources and assisting them in making use of those resources as they report on government actions. And, as TIF develops its focus on state-level transparency and integrity efforts, the Institute's knowledge, expertise, and resources will be a great asset to the state-level networks of groups OSI would fund, providing useful data and technical assistance to those networks as they build the case for reform on many fronts.

The Institute is ably run by Edwin Bender. Bender and his staff of researchers and technology experts play an important role in bringing together a broad range of issue advocates – campaign finance reformers, judicial independence supporters, technology transparency developers – to explore ways that the Institute and other “data shacks” (as the Institute is affectionately known in the field) can be used by the field. The Institute has also adeptly created cross-issue liaisons that help the transparency and integrity field function more cohesively.

Name of Organization: Project on Government Oversight

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$484,000
\$200,000 from Transparency and Integrity Fund (2008)
\$34,000 from Revenue Watch (2008)
\$200,000 from Civil Liberties (2007)
\$50,000 from U.S. Programs (2003)

Organization Budget: \$1,752,555

Project Budget: N/A

Major Sources of Support:

Ford Foundation	\$200,000
Anonymous	\$180,000
MacArthur Foundation	\$150,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over one year

Amount Recommended: \$700,000 over two years [\$500,000 from TIF; \$200,000 from NSHRC]

Term: April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011

Description of Organization

Founded in 1981, the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) is an independent non-profit organization that investigates and exposes government corruption and misconduct and advocates for an open and accountable government. Initially established to monitor defense spending, in 1991 POGO expanded its mission to include oversight of federal spending, holding all federal agencies accountable to the public, and restoring public confidence in our elected and appointed officials.

Based in Washington, D.C., POGO is now frequently contacted by whistleblowers, anonymous sources and high level government officials with insider information on instances of government misconduct. When POGO decides to investigate an issue it conducts exhaustive research, issues reports and recommendations, broadens and deepens media and public awareness of the issue, and collaborates with Congressional oversight bodies and other allies to explore corrective measures and bring about reforms.

Today, POGO is widely known for its robust investigative programs in the areas of nuclear security, contractor oversight, energy and natural resources, defense and national security. Since the September 11th attacks, POGO has focused attention on the problem of

excessive executive secrecy. Most recently, it has pioneered and championed creation of a federal contractor misconduct database, exposed government failure to inspect airline parts and revealed wasteful spending by Air Force generals on so-called “comfort capsules.” For such work, POGO receives prominent attention from national media such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and National Public Radio. Its website receives nearly one million hits each month. More recently, with OSI funding, POGO has been engaged in a survey of contracting practices in the ten largest federal government departments. That research will serve as the basis for the first broad-scale analysis of the privatization of government functions over the past decade.

POGO has also conducted training sessions for members of Congress, Senators and their staffs on the scope and use of legislative branch oversight powers. These bipartisan sessions, funded since 2007 in part by OSI, have been extremely well-received, filling an acknowledged gap in Capitol Hill knowledge that has hampered Congressional oversight efforts.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation

The Transparency and Integrity Fund (TIF) and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign recommend a grant of \$700,000 over two years (\$500,000 from TIF; \$200,000 from NSHR). This grant would advance TIF’s goals of strengthening key government watchdog organizations and advancing efforts to rebuild the integrity of Congress and the Executive Branch. It would also advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign’s priorities of strengthening the capacity of watchdog organizations to document government abuses; and reducing excessive government secrecy in national security policy.

POGO is a leader in the constellation of federal-level watchdog organizations. From its original work concerning oversight of defense spending and contracting, POGO has broadened its scope to exposing fraud, waste, and abuse across the federal government. It has earned a justified reputation as a non-partisan source of information. POGO’s research and advocacy is of high quality and the organization is regularly sought out for its expertise by congressional committees, whistleblowers, the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, Inspectors General, the media, and the public.

POGO recognizes that its limited resources are often best aimed at leveraging the significant power of Congress to engage in oversight. Its Congressional trainings are a particularly effective use of funding and are enthusiastically attended by Hill staffers from both parties. POGO thus extends its reach in creative ways that benefit the broader transparency and integrity agenda and advance a progressive national security policy.

Over the past year POGO has been deeply involved in efforts to roll back the anti-transparency policies of the past administration while pushing for greater transparency and accountability in the government's response to the economic crisis. POGO has been a key member of the Right to Know coalition that significantly influenced the Open Government Directive signed by President Obama on his first day in office. The organization is also one of the core members of the Bailout Watch partnership (funded through OSI's Seize the Day fund) and the Coalition for an Accountable Recovery, a coalition now coming together to assure the transparency, accountability, and equity of federal and state stimulus efforts.

Danielle Brian, POGO's executive director since 1993, is widely respected for her expertise and collaboration with others. Brian has conducted numerous investigations leading to cuts in wasteful spending and reforms in areas including oil industry fraud on public lands, drug industry influence on health policy, nuclear security, government secrecy, and defense contractor waste and fraud. She frequently testifies before Congress and has appeared in major news outlets including ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX News, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, and NPR.

Under Brian's leadership, POGO has also developed a well-deserved reputation as a generous and dependable collaborator working closely with OMB Watch, the Center for Public Integrity and others. Given TIF and the NSHR Campaign's emphasis on collaboration among watchdog organizations and national security and human rights groups, this trait is particularly valuable as it ensures the field works more efficiently and effectively.

Name of Organization: Public Knowledge

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

Purpose of Grant: To provide general operating support

Previous OSI Support: \$755,500
 \$200,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2007)
 \$200,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2006)
 \$78,500 from Network Information Program (2005)
 \$88,500 from Network Information Program (2004)
 \$100,000 from Strategic Opportunities Fund (2004)
 \$88,500 from Network Information Program (2003)

Organization Budget: \$1,543,000

Project Budget: N/A

Source of Support:

Ford Foundation	\$600,000
MacArthur Foundation	\$200,000
Kahle-Austin Foundation	\$50,000

Amount Requested: \$200,000 over two years

Amount Recommended: \$200,000 over two years

Term: January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

Description of Organization:

Founded in 2001, Public Knowledge works to ensure the free flow of information through policy advocacy, public education, and coalition building. Public Knowledge promotes communications and copyright policies that 1) ensure universally accessible, affordable communications networks; and 2) promote creativity, innovation, competition and civic discourse.

Public Knowledge is dedicated to fortifying and defending a vibrant information commons and works with a wide range of stakeholders – including libraries, educators, scientists, artists, musicians, journalists, consumers, software programmers, civic groups and enlightened businesses – to promote the core conviction that fundamental democratic principles and cultural values of openness, equitable access to information, and the capacity to create and compete, must be protected in the digital age.

Public Knowledge’s core programmatic work consists of policy and legal advocacy on a wide range of federal, state and international communications and copyright policy issues. This advocacy is accomplished through filings with administrative agencies and

courts and meetings with key policymakers; coalition building between and among affected constituencies; and a strategic communications initiative.

Public Knowledge seeks to fulfill four broad policy goals: (1) preserving an Internet that is built upon open standards and protocols, and which fosters innovation and user control; (2) protecting consumers of digital technology from market practices designed to erode competition, choice, and fairness; (3) ensuring that U.S. intellectual property law and policy reflect the “cultural bargain” intended by the framers of the Constitution: providing an incentive to creators and innovators while benefiting the public through the free flow of information and ideas; and (4) ensuring that international intellectual property policies are adopted through democratic processes and with public interest participation.

Public Knowledge also manages three projects that deal with specific areas of intellectual property:

1. The “Open Access Project” promotes the free and unrestricted world-wide electronic distribution of peer-reviewed journal literature. (This project was funded by the OSI Information Program.)
2. The “Empowering Creators Project” addresses the impact of new digital technologies and increasingly restrictive copyright policies on the ability of artists to create.
3. As the Internet begins to knit nation-states and commerce into a tighter international fabric, there is corporate pressure to influence the international intellectual property laws that will govern e-commerce and Internet communications. The Public Knowledge “Global Knowledge Initiative” represents the public’s interest in various international intellectual property rights debates. This initiative works to bring transparency to international policymaking arenas that have historically carried out their work in secrecy and without public participation.

One of Public Knowledge’s key strategies is to engage key industry partners and nonprofit organizations in its efforts to preserve an open information commons. These industries and organizations regularly seek out Public Knowledge’s support and leadership when coalition building is needed to move a good initiative or to stop a bad one. These collaborations have led to greater coordination of policy activity, as well as resource and information sharing.

Public Knowledge is a member of the Open Internet Coalition, an industry and public interest collaboration dedicated to ensuring an open and non-discriminatory Internet. Public Knowledge’s industry allies in that coalition include Google, eBay and Skype. It is also a member of both SavetheInternet.com, a public interest/grassroots coalition fighting for net neutrality, and Internet for Everyone (IFE), which focuses more broadly on universal and open access to the Internet. Public Knowledge is assisting IFE in recruiting

new members to the cause, including filmmakers, broadcasters and artists. Both of these coalitions are led by Free Press, which is also recommended for funding in this docket.

Public Knowledge is the founder, organizer and one of two financial supporters of the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition (PISC), which consists of a dozen public interest organizations working to advance open and non-discriminatory access to wireless services and more unlicensed uses of spectrum, which holds the promise of increasing high-speed broadband Internet access for underserved populations. Members of that coalition include, among others, OSI grantees Free Press, Media Access Project, the New America Foundation, Consumers Union, and the Consumer Federation of America. Since its inception, PISC has been a model for how public interest groups can work together towards common goals, and the coalition is respected by its allies, adversaries and policymakers.

Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:

This recommendation seeks general operating support.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Transparency and Integrity Fund recommends a two-year grant of \$200,000 to support Public Knowledge's work to ensure that communications, intellectual property, and technology policies provide the public broad access to the wealth of information and creativity of an open Internet. This grant will also help Public Knowledge continue its work to assist in reforming the Federal Communications Commission by making it a more open and transparent agency. This grant would advance the Fund's priorities of supporting groups that work to advocate for media polices that serve the public interest; and restoring transparency and integrity in key executive agencies and departments

Now seven years old, Public Knowledge is an established leader in the media and technology policy field. With a reputation as a smart, effective, tech-savvy advocacy organization, Public Knowledge is a trusted voice in Washington and around the country, maintaining a high degree of credibility on complex communications policy issues. The organization is also considered to be among the best builders of industry/public interest coalitions, which are critical to success in these policy areas. Public Knowledge is respected among its allies, its adversaries, policymakers, the press and the general public.

Public Knowledge is unique in the field because it has expertise in federal media and telecommunications law, Internet law and copyright law. While the industries that are regulated by these laws have converged, the laws themselves have not. Thus, Public Knowledge's understanding of all of these related areas of law and policy puts it in an ideal position to advocate for communications policies that serve the public interest.

For example, one of the most hotly debated technology policy issues today pertains to whether or not Internet service providers like Verizon, AT&T and Comcast should filter their networks for copyright violations. Movie studios have asked both the FCC and

Congress to impose such a mandate, and are working to create a climate in which such behavior would be acceptable, even without formal legal authorization from the Commission or Congress. This issue is not simply a copyright issue – it has a direct impact on the core question of whether Internet service providers will serve as Internet gatekeepers, by picking and choosing which speech is proper and which is not. This would have an enormous impact on public access to information, which is of great interest to the Transparency and Integrity Fund. To address this issue and related issues intelligently, an organization must be well versed in telecommunications law, Internet law and copyright law.

Public Knowledge maintains active and open channels of communication with policymakers, often serving in an educational role. Public Knowledge staff reviews new technologies, and often briefs less-technically inclined policymakers on how specific technologies work and implications for public policy.

Public Knowledge has an ambitious communications strategy. Communications staff talk daily with the press, and are quoted frequently in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and a wide variety of other media outlets. Public Knowledge staff and their speaker's bureau constantly speak at a wide variety of conferences, and are on panel discussions and debates. Public Knowledge also organizes an annual conference with the New America Foundation's Wireless Future Program, which is an OSI grantee.

When communications and copyright law clash, Public Knowledge's key allies include consumer electronics, telecommunications, and high technology companies, as well as broadcasters, satellite radio providers, and cable companies that have found their services and devices under attack by Hollywood and the recording industries. The companies and trade associations Public Knowledge works with on these issues include Google, eBay, Cablevision, Comcast, Sony Electronics, the Consumer Electronics Association, AT&T, Intel, the Computer and Communications Industry Association, Verizon and the Printing Industries of America (photo developers). In the public interest world, cyber liberties groups like the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the American Library Association, the Center for Democracy and Technology and the ACLU have been joined by the higher education community (including EDUCAUSE and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges), and artist groups (including a variety of independent and documentary filmmaker groups) in partnering with Public Knowledge. What is striking about this coalition is that a number of the members, most notably the cable and telephone companies, strongly disagree with Public Knowledge on a number of communications policy issues. That those differences can be set aside is a testament to Public Knowledge's leadership in the field.

The new Administration in Washington provides an enormous opportunity for Public Knowledge and its allies in the media reform field to make substantial gains and advance a proactive vision for media and technology policies that foster democratic values. Open Internet and balanced copyright policies are central to the President's technology agenda, and he has made universal access to the Internet a cornerstone of his economic stimulus program. Many of the individuals now joining the new Administration

have deep connections with Public Knowledge and its allies, many of which are OSI grantees. For the first time in almost a decade, these public interest organizations will have significant access to key policymakers and opportunities for meaningful participation.

Vera Franz of OSI's Information Program is supportive of this grant. She reports that Public Knowledge is an important member for the Access to Knowledge coalition that the Information Program has been nurturing. She also noted that Public Knowledge's ability to build coalitions that include industry representatives is an extremely valuable contribution to the field and has a positive impact on the Information Program's work related to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties.