

**Transparency & Integrity Fund**  
**Brief Descriptions of Grants Recommended for 11/12/10 Catch-Up Docket**  
**(descriptions circulated September 29, 2010)**

**8 grant recommendations totaling \$2,580,000 are listed below by TIF portfolio area.**

**Access to Information**

**1 grant of \$500,000**

**Focus Project (d.b.a. OMB Watch)**

*General Support (renewal), \$500,000 over two years*

This recommended grant would support the ongoing efforts of OMB Watch to provide valuable oversight of the Federal government. OMB Watch plays an important role in the transparency/right to know community in Washington, leading coalitions on broad transparency goals as well as coordinating efforts connected to the Open Government Directive. The organization also conducts important work relating to administrative agencies and the regulatory state more generally.

**Journalism**

**2 grants totaling \$450,000**

**Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism**

*General support (renewal), \$100,000 over two years*

The Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism (WCIJ) works with its partners and mainstream and ethnic news media to improve the quality and increase the amount of accountability journalism in Wisconsin. OSI support enabled WCIJ to launch in 2009 as a first-of-its-kind alliance with public broadcasting journalists in six cities around the state, plus students and faculty of the journalism school at Wisconsin's flagship university. WCIJ produces investigative reports independently and in partnership with Wisconsin Public Broadcasting. WCIJ assists a range of Wisconsin news outlets, including ethnic media, to pursue their own investigations or produce joint projects. WCIJ focuses on government integrity and quality of life issues of importance to the people of Wisconsin, including the environment, justice system, education, economic issues, health and public safety.

Recent WCIJ coverage includes a six-part series on the impact of the recent influx of immigrant dairy workers into the Dairy State; the only complete analysis of requests for post-conviction DNA testing by Wisconsin prisoners claiming innocence; the vast underreporting of sexual assaults on University of Wisconsin campuses; and an examination of life in Rock County, Wis., hard hit by the closing of a General Motors plant.

**Investigative News Network**

*General support (renewal), \$200,000 over two years*

This renewal grant would support the Investigative News Network (INN), a collaboration of over 30 non-commercial news organizations. INN aims to maximize the quality,

audience and sustainability of public interest watchdog journalism on the state and local levels. INN will explore possibilities for collaborative content development (such as state capitol coverage schemes, means of covering and engaging communities, multi-media approaches to reporting, etc.), shared resources (such as legal help, data analysis and research), shared distribution, and revenue/sustainability options --syndication or advertising networks for example. The ultimate goal of this effort is to build and link together state and regional investigative organizations to create a 50-state network of state and regional centers for investigative and public interest reporting.

### **Texas Tribune**

*Project support (new), \$150,000 over one year*

The Texas Tribune is a non-profit, nonpartisan public media organization. Its mission is to promote civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government, and other matters of statewide concern through both original journalism and public events. Today, the actions of state representatives and senators in Texas remain largely cloaked in decades-old technology: Their votes aren't recorded in databases, most of their speeches aren't on television —and video of their proceedings can only be viewed in an antiquated Internet stream. In response to the shrinking press corps, the Texas Tribune will record on video the entire 2011 Texas legislative session. The Tribune will make that video available, unfiltered, and in a format familiar to current Web consumers. The Tribune will create searchable transcripts, which will be indexed and time coded to make searching easier.

### **Election Reform**

**2 grants totaling \$ 280,000**

#### **Common Cause Education Fund**

*Project Support, new, \$230,000 over one year (\$200,000 from JEHT)*

This grant would support Common Cause Education Fund to launch a national conversation about the role of corporations in our democracy. Common Cause, in partnership with others, will bring the activist shareholder community together with democracy reform groups to identify and promote effective and achievable mechanisms for checking the influence of corporate power given the reality of Citizens United and other recent cases and Federal Election Commission actions.

#### **Democracy 21**

*Project Support, renewal, \$50,000 over one year (\$40,000 from JEHT)*

This grant would provide Democracy 21 support to continue its vigorous public education and advocacy concerning the new office of Congressional Ethics, monitoring and education about the new ethics and transparency rules as well as the Federal Election Commission.

## **Judiciary**

### **1 grant of \$100,000 (TIF and CJF)**

#### **Cardozo Law School**

*Project Support, \$100,000 over one year*

This grant would provide start-up support to the National Center for Access to Justice as it establishes itself as an independent organization dedicated to access to justice issues in civil and criminal settings. Founded by David Udell, who until recently was the founding Director of the Brennan Center's Justice Program, the Institute will engage in research, advocacy, and provision of technical assistance to state governments, reform advocates, and others on matters including indigent defense and language access in the courts. In the past year, Udell has become deeply engaged in bringing access to justice issues into much sharper focus within TIF-supported Justice at Stake campaign and its related coalition. That work will continue with greater intensity as this Institute establishes itself with the support of other foundations. A key element of the Center's first year will involve exploring the possible creation of a "Justice Index" to better assess the performance of state courts systems in both civil and criminal contexts. This planning would be done in conjunction with TIF grantees Justice at Stake and the National Center for State Courts.

## **State Strategies**

### **1 grant totaling \$900,000**

#### **Greater New Orleans Foundation**

*Project Support (renewal), \$900,000 over one year (\$350,000 from SOF)*

This grant will provide renewal support to the member organizations of the New Orleans Coalition on Open Governance, a collaboration of good government, journalism, and community-based organizations dedicated to improving access to and responsiveness of New Orleans government. In the Coalition's second year, the groups will focus on reforming the city's budget process, with particular emphasis on criminal justice/public safety spending. In conjunction with this campaign, the Coalition will conduct leadership training workshops to build a strong base of leaders concerned with open governance issues. Activities they've been engaged in since year one that continue include their joint work to secure implementation of the newly authorized Citizen Participation Project, and capacity building training for Coalition members in areas including organizational development, fundraising, and strategic communications.