

**Transparency & Integrity Fund**  
**Docket II – 2011 Grant Recommendation Blurbs**  
**Circulated June 6, 2011 for August 4, 2011 Docket Meeting**

The Transparency & Integrity Fund continues to support groups working to promote access to information, and to support a vibrant and credible news media, an impartial and diverse judiciary, and broad access to the ballot -- cornerstones of an open society. We will present 12 grants for approval on our second docket of 2011 – for a rough total of \$3,095,000.

The fund includes a portfolio of 75 grantees with a 2011 grantmaking budget of \$13.75 million. Of this, roughly \$1.65 million will support grantee partners that work at the local and state levels in New Orleans, Baltimore, and Wisconsin and Texas, the fund's priority cities and states, and 88% will support national organizations, including some with networks of local or state-based affiliates, chapters, or partner organizations.

**Guarantee Broad and Equitable Access to Information**

**Good Jobs First**

Project Support, \$200,000 over two years (renewal)

Good Jobs First seeks \$100,000 a year for two years to grow and enhance its new Subsidy Tracker database, the first-ever web-based tool for finding data on state economic development subsidies (such as tax breaks) given to specific corporations. Subsidy Tracker serves as a centralized clearinghouse for data from scores of different websites and PDF documents, making it much easier to get a picture of the multiple forms of government assistance large companies (or industries) are receiving around the country. Good Jobs First plans to make its data link up with campaign finance data collected by the National Institute on Money in State Politics to help illuminate how campaign spending influences state economic subsidy decisions. Subsidy Tracker is critical to both economic development reform and to government transparency and corporate accountability. In economic development, disclosure is the cornerstone reform because it enables every kind of analysis that drives other reforms: revealing companies that pay poverty wages and should be covered by Job Quality Standards; exposing companies that have fallen short on job-creation promises and should be penalized by money-back guarantee clawbacks; mapping geographic patterns that fuel suburban sprawl and undermine older areas and communities of color; and documenting subsidies that undermine funding for schools and other public services. It is valuable to investigative journalists, academics, auditors and others concerned about taxpayer costs and benefits. It can also be used by unions, environmentalists, community organizers, public interest groups and others to show that companies associated with unpopular activities (e.g., offshoring jobs and/or closing plants, making large campaign contributions, polluting, discriminating, getting taxpayer bailouts, paying excessive CEO compensation, violating workplace laws, privatizing public services) are also receiving taxpayer subsidies. Good Jobs First's project complements Subsidy Scope, a Pew Charitable Trusts project tracking *federal* subsidy spending.

### **Free Press**

Project Support, \$400,000 over two years (renewal)

Free Press is a national media advocacy organization working to protect a vibrant, diverse, and independent media that can serve as the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Through public education, organizing, research, and advocacy, Free Press promotes diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, quality journalism, and universal access to communications. This grant would support Free Press' work to ensure universal, affordable access to an open and neutral Internet; its policy research and public education campaign to address the journalism crisis; and its collaboration with New America Foundation (also in this docket) to develop a campaign to strengthen public media in the United States.

### **Strengthen Accountability Journalism**

#### **Center for Public Integrity**

Project Support, \$400,000 over two years (renewal)

The Center for Public Integrity produces original investigative reporting on significant public issues to make institutional power more transparent and accountable. This project grant would support the Center's initiative to create a major new fact checking initiative, in collaboration with FactCheck.org, AOL/Huffington Post, and NewsTrust. This project grant would also support the Center's reporting on money in politics, led by journalist Peter Stone. The Center for Public Integrity houses the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which is a grantee of the Open Society Media Program.

#### **Center for Investigative Reporting**

General Support and Project Support, \$600,000 over two years (renewal)

Founded in 1977, the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) is the nation's oldest nonprofit investigative news organization. CIR produces in-depth, original investigations that are distributed widely through partnerships with multiple news organizations. This grant would support CIR's reporting on immigration, criminal justice, national security and privacy, drug policy, and the impact of fiscal crises at all levels of government. This grant would also support California Watch, launched in 2009 and now the largest investigative reporting team in the state, covering education, money and politics, criminal justice, health care, and the environment. California Watch has dozens of distribution partners across the state, including ethnic media outlets that translate relevant stories into Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese.

#### **New America Foundation**

Project Support, \$200,000 over one year (renewal)

The New America Foundation is a nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in new thinkers and new ideas to address the next generation of challenges in the United States. This grant would support New America's Open Technology Initiative and Media Policy Fellowship Program. The Open Technology Initiative conducts research and analysis on the social and economic impacts of communication technology and develops policy proposals aimed at achieving universal and affordable broadband access and widespread adoption of technology, particularly in low income, rural, and other underserved

communities. The Initiative includes a Media Policy Fellowship program, which brings together fellows with expertise in public media, independent journalism, municipal broadband, intellectual property and privacy policy, open-source software development, economics, and telecommunications policy.

### **Native Public Media**

General Support, TBD over two years (new; co-fund with SOF: \$150,000 from TIF, amount to be determined from SOF)

Native Public Media (NPM) advocates for policies that enable native people across the U.S. to participate actively in all forms of media. NPM provides direct services to 34 Native-owned public radio stations in 13 states, a media network that will expand to include 38 additional public stations over the next three years. This grant will support NPM's policy work to increase broadband access and affordability in tribal communities, which is particularly critical as more than 90 percent of tribal populations in the United States lack high-speed Internet access. This grant will also support NPM's efforts to strengthen the newsgathering and reporting capacity across the 34 Native-owned public radio stations. In 2011, Native Public Media and the New America Foundation (also in this docket) developed a new partnership to strengthen and expand Native American media capacity, and to raise the visibility of those efforts inside the D.C. beltway.

### **Establish Fair and Accessible Elections Systems**

#### **Public Citizen**

Project Support, \$125,000 over one year (new)

Public Citizen is leading efforts to uncover the many ways in which money is influencing politics and policymaking in the United States. Grant support would fund efforts on two fronts. First, Public Citizen will coordinate professors from law and business faculties as well as other researchers to examine corporate law and governance standards in order to develop new theories and rules about corporate spending in the political arena. Public Citizen will "translate" and disseminate this research (which can often be confusing to people without deep understanding of corporate governance and corporate law) for the media and advocates working on corporate accountability. Second, Public Citizen will begin a new project on "pay to play" practices in local, state, and federal governments. Pay-to-play deals are a form of government contracting abuse in which a business entity makes campaign contributions or expenditures on behalf of a public official in order to obtain preferential treatment in receiving government contracts. Occasionally, pay-to-play constitutes outright bribery for a government contract. More often, pay-to-play involves a business entity buying favoritism in consideration of a government contract by providing politicians what they need most – campaign money. The practice is widespread but is usually kept well hidden due to inadequate monitoring of government contracting procedures. Public Citizen will work to improve government accountability by encouraging pay-to-play reforms through research and public education.

## **Ensure Fair, Impartial and Diverse Courts**

### **League of Women Voters Education Fund**

Project Support, \$165,000 over one year (renewal)

The League of Women Voters Education Fund (the League) has long been an important partner in the Justice at Stake coalition. Over the past two years the League has led two targeted campaigns on judicial diversity in Kansas and South Carolina, holding multiple public forums, meeting with stakeholders, and educating public officials about the importance of diversifying state court benches. This grant would provide one more year of funding for the efforts in those two states while it assesses state and local league interest in pursuing further judicial diversity work in other jurisdictions going forward.

### **National Center for State Courts**

Project Support, \$400,000 over two years (renewal; contingent)

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) seeks funding for work in conjunction with other Justice at Stake coalition partners to: (a) defend Canon of Judicial Ethics provisions against litigation challenges, (b) establish judicial campaign oversight committees in Justice At Stake (JAS)-identified target states, (c) develop new ways to measure the economic impact of the courts, and (d) develop a Justice Index to measure access to justice and court services in state courts. NCSC will use research, public education, and technical assistance in working towards these goals. These activities will be coordinated with JAS and partners such as the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Brennan Center, the Committee for Economic Development, the National Association of Women Judges, and the National Center for Access to Justice.

### **Lambda Legal**

Project Support, \$150,000 over one year (renewal; co-fund with EOF: \$100,000 from TIF, \$50,000 from EOF)

Lambda Legal's *Fair Courts Project* seeks renewal funding to engage LGBTQ and judicial independence organizations to educate citizens about the importance of fair courts to democracy. Over the past two years the project has worked in Iowa to defend the Iowa courts from attack following the state Supreme Court's recognition of same-sex marriage rights. Lambda Legal has been a valuable and active member of the Justice at Stake Judicial Diversity Working Group, bringing an often overlooked perspective to developing efforts to advance judicial diversity around the country.

### **Defenders of Wildlife**

Project Support, \$120,000 over one year (renewal)

Defenders of Wildlife seeks renewal funding for "Judging the Environment" project. The project's primary output is a comprehensive, daily e-mail service compiling media mentions of judicial nominations issues from the mainstream media, blogs, the Congressional Record, etc. This may be the single most valuable resource available to groups working on federal judicial nominations (including colleagues at OSPC). It is also important to Senate staffers and members of the executive branch. It allows allies to keep on top of the key news on judicial nominations as well as better understand *how* the issue is being discussed.

**Infinity Project (University of Minnesota)**

Project Support, \$160,000 over two years (renewal)

The Infinity Project seeks renewal support for its a coalition of lawyers, activists, educators, and others concerned with bringing greater diversity to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Since OSI provided start-up funding to the Infinity Project in 2008, the Project has been increasingly influential in shaping the public conversation about the federal courts and the need for diversity on the bench in the Midwest. (The 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas). Infinity now has active members in all 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit states except Nebraska and is doing more intensive work in Minnesota, Iowa, and Arkansas.