

U.S. Programs Overview

U.S. PROGRAMS VISION & MISSION – May 2009 DRAFT

OSI's U.S. Programs supports people and organizations that advance a more open society in the United States. We envision a vibrant open society that invites all people to participate fully in civic, economic, and cultural life, encourages diverse opinions and critical debate, and protects fundamental human rights, dignity, and the rule of law.

Our work grows out of a strong commitment to supporting the efforts of people and communities to press for change on their own behalf. We are dedicated to addressing the most pressing threats to open society, and we seek bold, integrated solutions that address root causes and advance systemic change.

U.S. Programs supports grantmaking, programming, and policy initiatives that:

- Build an inclusive society that increases opportunity for all while addressing the unique struggles faced by women, people of color, immigrants, poor people, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.
- Promote civic participation and develop new leaders, especially among communities who have been historically underrepresented.
- Ensure fair criminal justice, immigration, and national security policies, and reduce the over-reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment.
- Increase the transparency, integrity and accountability of institutions vital to open society.