

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE, U.S. PROGRAMS VISION AND PRINCIPLES

The Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs is working to build a vibrant society that invites all people to participate fully in civic, economic, and cultural life. We encourage critical debate and respect diverse opinions. We protect fundamental human rights, dignity, and the rule of law.

U.S. Programs recognizes that power is not broadly shared and that inequalities cut across multiple lines, including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and citizenship. To build a just and open society, we support efforts to expand accountability for those currently in power and to build power for historically excluded groups. We work to ensure that the benefits, burdens and opportunities of society are distributed equally among all groups within our society.

We are committed 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 that 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.

The following principles guide our work in U.S. Programs.

We continually seek to identify the most critical and urgent threats to open society and to respond nimbly and flexibly to emerging challenges. We take on controversial issues and support innovative solutions.

We develop grantmaking guidelines that are transparent and accessible, and engage in affirmative outreach efforts to ensure a broad and diverse pool of grantees.

We evaluate the impact of our programs and ask our grantees to do the same. We believe that evaluation should not be burdensome, but designed to ensure that we learn from our experiences and continue to improve our strategies for social change.

We encourage and reward effective collaboration across our programs and between organizations, communities, constituencies, and sectors. We dedicate time and resources to create opportunities for organizations and leaders to share ideas and develop new strategies.

We partner with a wide range of organizations and support a multitude of strategies, including advocacy, organizing, field building, public education, research and litigation. We support the creation of robust, strategic and interconnected fields capable of achieving systemic change at the national, regional, state and local level.