



US HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
FUND

## **US Human Rights Fund Distributes \$1.7 Million in Grants**

The US Human Rights Fund (the Fund), a partnership of funders who have pooled their resources to provide strategic, field building support to US human rights work, is pleased to announce \$1.7 million in grants to be awarded to seventeen domestic social justice organizations. The Fund seeks both to promote human rights organizing and advocacy in the United States and to increase awareness of and support for this work amongst its own members and other donor partners. After a highly competitive review process, the Fund's Steering Committee approved the multi and single year grants for both program and organizational capacity-building work. A grants list is attached.

The Fund's first docket prioritizes program grants in the areas of human rights capacity building and networking, two of its four priority areas. The Fund believes that providing support within these areas not only enhances the reach and effect of US human rights work by recipient groups but also contributes to the strategic development of the US human rights field as a whole.

As US social justice organizations increasingly integrate human rights into their domestic advocacy and organizing work, they require increased knowledge of human rights values, norms, strategies and mechanisms, as well as stronger partnerships with peer and allied groups. The Fund's first docket includes capacity building initiatives to help build broad based and substantive knowledge of human rights in the United States, and national and regional networks that will foster greater cohesion, shared strategy and stronger links between US human rights organizations and with US rights groups more generally. The grantee organizations are based throughout the United States. They work at local, regional and national levels, and across a broad range of issue areas and organizational sectors.

A limited number of program grants were supplemented with organizational capacity-building support, to help enhance the program planning, fundraising, and self evaluation efforts at these organizations. The Fund also awarded single year planning grants to groups aiming to further integrate human rights into their organizing and advocacy work in key issue areas and, ultimately to promote expanded human rights leadership and mobilization in those areas.

The US Human Rights Fund was launched in July 2005. Its Steering Committee is comprised of members from contributing foundations, including The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, The Libra Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, The Overbrook Foundation, the Shaler Adams Foundation, the Starry Night of the Tides Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

The Fund expects to complete its second docket in November 2006, when it will consider proposals from organizations in the areas of communications and applied human rights law and advocacy. This docket will be a closed application process, and proposals will be solicited only from select organizations whose letters of inquiry for the April 2006 docket were deferred for review, pending further elaboration of the Fund's grantmaking priorities and guidelines. The Fund will release its next open Request for Letters of Inquiry in November 2006, and will make related grant decisions in May 2007.

**US HUMAN RIGHTS FUND GRANTEES  
APRIL 2006**

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

***ACLU of Michigan***

*Detroit, Michigan*

\$50,000 program grant over one year

***Advocates for Environmental Human Rights***

*New Orleans, Louisiana*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

\$25,000 capacity building grant

***The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro, Incorporated***

*Greensboro, North Carolina*

\$50,000 program grant over one year

***Border Network for Human Rights***

*El Paso, Texas*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

\$25,000 capacity building grant

***Center for Community Alternatives; The W. Haywood Burns Institute; and Justice Policy Institute***

*New York, New York; San Francisco, California; Washington, DC*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

***Coalition of Immokalee Workers***

*Immokalee, Florida*

\$75,000 program grant over one year

***Gender Public Advocacy Coalition***

*Washington, DC*

\$25,000 planning grant over one year

***Indian Law Resource Center***

*Helena, Montana*

\$125,000 program grant over two years

***Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund***

*Washington, DC*

\$25,000 planning grant over one year

***Montana Human Rights Network***

*Helena, Montana*

\$150,000 program grant over three years

***National Economic and Social Rights Initiative***

*New York, New York*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

\$25,000 capacity building grant

***National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty***

*Washington, DC*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

***National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights***

*Oakland, California*

\$25,000 planning grant over one year

**REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NETWORKS**

***Midwest Coalition for Human Rights***

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

\$145,000 program grant over three years

\$30,000 capacity building grant

***Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights***

*Greenville, Mississippi*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

\$25,000 capacity building grant

***Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign***

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

\$100,000 program grant over two years

***US Human Rights Network***

*Atlanta, Georgia*

\$150,000 program grant over two years

\$50,000 capacity building grant