

FACT 2009 GRANTEES

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ORGANIZATION / DESCRIPTION

GRANT AMOUNT

9to5 Working Women Education Fund (9to5)

\$40,000

Contact: Linda Meric, National Director

\$30,000 (multi-year OD)

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9to5 is a national multi-racial grassroots organization that combines organizing, public education, research, training, and policy advocacy in an effort to end economic and other types of discrimination against women in the workforce. Active since 1973, 9to5 focuses on four main areas: work/family issues and good jobs; nonstandard work; welfare, wages and income supports; and anti-discrimination. 9to5 has staffed offices in Milwaukee, Atlanta, Colorado and California, and activist networks in 200 cities in all 50 states. 9to5 is a recipient of FACT's multi-year organizational development grant.

Alliance for Appalachia (AFA)

\$40,000

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The Alliance for Appalachia (AFA) is a coalition of 13 non-profits in Central Appalachia that seeks to end mountain top removal coal mining and promote a just and sustainable economy in Appalachia. AFA advocates national policies to protect the Appalachian environment and economy. The Alliance facilitates conversations and coordinates activities among coalition members who work in several states in the region.

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

\$50,000

Contact: Roger Kim, Executive Director

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E-mail: Roger@apen4ej.org Web address: www.apen4ej.org

Created in 1993, APEN educates and organizes low-income Asian Pacific Islanders in the East Bay cities of Oakland and Richmond to participate as voters and in civic life on issues related to accountable development, housing and the environment. APEN successfully negotiated a Community Benefits Agreement at a proposed Oakland housing development that will provide housing for 465 families earning less than \$50,00 per year. Thousands more will benefit from the \$1.65 million that will be invested in Oakland's job training programs. APEN also worked to transfer jurisdiction of the site to the state to ensure a much more stringent environmental clean-up. Tens of thousands will enjoy the 30 acres of open space that will be created.

The Blue Green Alliance Foundation (BGA)

\$25,000

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Email: dfoster@bluegreenalliance.org Web Address: www.greenlabor.org

The Blue Green Alliance is a national, strategic partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the number and quality of jobs in the green economy. Launched in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club, this unique labor-environmental collaboration has grown to include the nation's two largest environmental organizations and six of North America's biggest unions—with a combined membership of 8 million union members and environmental supporters.

Campaign for Community Values – Center for Community Change (CCC) \$50,000

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The Campaign for Community Values (CCV) is a project of the Center for Community Change. It is made up of over 300 grassroots community organizations working to restore the balance between individualism and the common good. The CCV provides technical support, capacity building, leadership development and a national movement of people and organizations that stands up for everyone and leaves no one behind. CCC was founded in 1968 and is the most prominent anti-poverty organization in the nation that devotes itself to enhancing the power of low-income Americans. It is known for its historic role in building the national and grassroots coalitions that led to the creation of the food stamps program, the Community Reinvestment Act and the large-scale preservation of low-income housing around the country.

Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC)

\$40,000

(formerly Just Cause Oakland)

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Just Cause mobilizes and educates its grassroots members to participate in policy advocacy, civic engagement and leadership development programs designed to create a just and diverse region. In 2009, Just Cause merged with St. Peters Housing merged to form Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC). The merged organization continues to focus on housing, anti-gentrification and community development in Oakland and San Francisco, with a particular focus on those cities' low-income Latino and African American neighborhoods.

Center for Civic Policy (CCP)

\$50,000

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The Center for Civic Policy in New Mexico provides technical support to partner organizations among which are community organizing and advocacy groups. CCP's technical assistance includes communications strategy and implementation, support for public policy advocacy, leadership and non-partisan candidate development and non-partisan voter engagement techniques.

Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI)

\$50,000

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The focus of CPI's work is to raise the standard of living for San Diego's working poor. Its primary strategies include economic research and analysis, and policy development. It engages in coalition building and advocacy as well as limited grassroots organizing. Its research topics include economic equity, the growth of the working poor, and the development of a state and municipal level infrastructure by the right wing. CPI was at the forefront of the successful living wage campaign in San Diego and helped negotiate a community benefits agreement with the stadium developer. It is building a progressive alliance among community organizations, labor unions, faith-based organizations and student groups in the region.

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) \$55,000

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CAUSE is a community planning and public policy research center serving the central coastal region of California. Its mission is to promote economic and social justice for working families through policy advocacy, research, organizing, leadership development and community building. CAUSE was founded in 2001 and has five key program areas: living wage and accountable economic development, health coverage expansion, women's economic justice, redistricting and fair representation, and community building. CAUSE emphasizes coalition building as a sustainable approach to changing public policy. Recent accomplishments include the passage of five local living wage ordinances in the region and the opening of Centro Mujer, a women's organizing center.

Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW)

\$30,000

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Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW) seeks to end the destruction of communities by mountain top removal mining, to improve the quality of life for local residents and to rebuild sustainable communities. It empowers residents to participate in the democratic processes that govern their lives. It seeks to hold public officials accountable for fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure a safe and healthy environment and to advocate policies to ensure responsible and sustainable economic development.

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

\$75,000

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\$30,000 (multi-year OD)

CBE works for environmental health and justice for residents of heavily polluted urban communities. The group provides community members with organizing skills, leadership training, and legal, scientific, and technical assistance so that they can successfully confront threats to their health from toxic pollution. CBE sees environmental health as a civil rights and social justice issue because polluting facilities are disproportionately located in or near minority and low-income communities. CBE was created in 1978 and has offices in both Southern and Northern California.

East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)

\$65,000

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EBASE brings together community, labor and faith-based groups to work for greater economic and social justice for low-wage workers in the San Francisco area's East Bay region. It emerged from the labor/community collaboration that won the Oakland living wage ordinance in 1998. EBASE combines organizing, research, policy analysis and advocacy, and coalition-building in its efforts to end low-wage poverty and secure economic equity for those living and working in East Bay communities. EBASE also is the driving force behind the East Bay Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, which is building partnerships between labor and religious groups, and promoting leadership development among low-wage workers through its Worker Education and Leadership Development program. Among the group's successes have been winning living wage ordinances in the cities of Hayward, Oakland and Berkeley, and at the Port of Oakland. EBASE was also instrumental in creating a program to monitor the implementation of the city of Oakland's living wage ordinance.

Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) \$135,000

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EHC is a base building group founded in 1980 that organizes in communities in San Diego, CA and Tijuana, Mexico. EHC works with a range of constituencies, including low-income people of color and middle class white communities, all trying to protect themselves from exposure to toxic substances in their neighborhoods. EHC members learn leadership skills and gain political education that enable them to become actively engaged citizens working on the public policies that impact their lives. EHC is an advocate of the Precautionary Principle and is involved in toxics reduction efforts at the national level. Locally, EHC is working with other groups on a comprehensive regional economic development strategy.

Florida ACORN (now known as Organize Now) \$40,000

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Florida ACORN is a membership-based organization with chapters across the state that builds power for low-income people of color through organizing and advocacy. It works on issues ranging from discrimination, education, housing, and immigrant rights to jobs, predatory lending, and safe streets. ACORN's activism model is based on local membership and leadership from neighborhood chapters.

Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) \$30,000

Contact: Maria Rodriguez, Director
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Originally started in 1998 by advocates of the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center in Miami, FLIC was incorporated in 2004 into a grassroots, membership-based coalition with a commitment to developing state-wide capacity. It has since become an active, agile and respected progressive force bringing together over

60 immigrant-led organizations and their allies in Florida. In 2006 FLIC successfully convinced Florida legislators, including the two Senators, to support a comprehensive approach to immigration reform and injected Florida into the national immigration rights movement.

Funders Network on Trade and Globalization (FNTG)

\$20,000

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Established in 2000, FNTG is a network of funders that incorporates a global analysis into their grantmaking strategies. The primary purpose of the network is to facilitate an understanding among funders of the impacts of trade and macroeconomic policy on the issues the foundations seek to address. To this end, FNTG hosts educational briefings, conference calls and dialogs, and arranges funder delegations to related events such as WTO and FTAA ministerial meetings and World Social Fora. Through information provided by FNTG and dialog among its members, grantmakers are able to consider strategic funding opportunities that influence the public policies on international trade and globalization that ultimately affect their other issues and priorities. In 2007, FNTG led a delegation of funders to the World Social Forum in Kenya and the first US Social Forum in Atlanta.

Green For All (GFA)

\$25,000

Contact: *Phaedra Ellis Lamkins, Executive Director*

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Green for All (GFA) works in collaboration with the business, government, labor, and grassroots communities to create green and sustainable jobs programs for marginalized and low-income people by bringing together city agencies, non-profits, foundations and private builders. Good, green jobs alleviate poverty, strengthen the middle class and restore the environment in target geographies across the U.S.

Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ)

\$65,000

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IWJ was founded in 1996 to educate and organize the religious community about issues and campaigns to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for workers - especially those in low-wage jobs. Since its founding, the organization has become the leading national organization engaging the religious community on issues of workplace justice. It has helped thousands of workers secure contracts that raise wages and improve benefits and working conditions, and has helped retrieve several million dollars in back wages for workers through its workers' centers. Among the efforts supported by IWJ-affiliated labor-interfaith groups are living wage campaigns, the Poultry Justice Campaign, and Labor in the Pulpits, which brings labor representatives to churches on Labor Day weekend to speak on employment issues.

Jobs with Justice (JwJ)**\$50,000**

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JwJ is a national campaign for economic justice, consisting of more than 40 local coalitions made up of labor, community, faith-based and student organizations. Formed in 1987, JwJ coordinates technical assistance for its local coalitions in cities throughout the U.S, helping them to develop their capacity and infrastructure. JwJ assists local coalitions to develop and carry out campaigns focusing on workplace justice issues such as living wages, and social justice issues, such as immigrant rights. In addition, JwJ works closely with community, labor, policy and other groups on efforts to promote alternatives to corporate-led globalization. In 2008, JwJ worked on 151 workplace campaigns affecting 272,700 workers.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)**\$100,000**

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KFTC is a chapter-based, multi-racial, low- and moderate-income citizens' organization committed to long-term social, political, environmental, and economic justice. Founded in 1981 by a group of 40 east Kentucky residents, it now has over 6,000 members from all over the state. Through direct-action community organizing, it targets corporate and governmental institutions that perpetuate unjust social systems and the degradation of health and the environment in Kentucky. KFTC's victories include gaining a two-year extension of welfare benefits for recipients pursuing additional education prior to transitioning into the workforce, and halting the devastating mining practice of mountain top removal on the state's highest mountain. It also recently helped increase the state income tax threshold which reduced the tax liability of over 500,000 low-income individuals.

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)**\$100,000**

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LAANE was founded in 1993 to help end working poverty and improve the quality of life for working people in the Los Angeles area. It began by organizing a broad-based coalition to work for a living wage law in Los Angeles. It pioneered a strategy to negotiate legally binding community benefits agreements (CBAs) in which a developer commits to a set of benefits desired by the community (including affordable housing, local hiring and environmental mitigation) in exchange for public subsidies and community support. LAANE also provides technical assistance regarding accountable development to residents and community groups across the country. Since implementing the strategy, 11 CBAs have been approved and the City of Los Angeles now negotiates community benefits standards with developers as a matter of course.

Miami Workers Center (MWC)**\$40,000***Contact: Gihan Perera, Executive Director*

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Miami, FL 33127

*Telephone: (305) 759-8717 Fax: (305) 759-8718**E-mail: info@theworkerscenter.org Web address: www.miamiworkerscenter.org*

MWC was founded in 1999 to empower low-income workers and communities of color to advocate for better public policies on their own behalf. MWC's goal is to serve as an umbrella organization to provide organizing skills, political education, technical assistance and campaign strategy development to its constituent groups. These groups, made up of local residents from all racial backgrounds, will have a shared analysis and theory of change as a result of MWC's leadership development and political education programs, and will take action locally in their neighborhoods. MWC's work with multi-racial constituencies is particularly important because racial and ethnic tensions are a powerful and divisive force in Florida.

Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)**\$30,000***Contact: Andrea Lee, Co-Director Development*

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*Telephone: (415) 621-8140 x302**E-mail: Andrea@mujeresunidas.net Web address: www.mujeresunidas.net*

MUA has a dual mission of personal transformation and building community power among Latina immigrants. Through group support and political education, MUA members are able to make links between their own personal issues and the broader social, economic and political systems. Through trainings on job skills and workers rights, MUA creates the conditions that enable its members to leave behind domestic violence and find work situations that will support them and their children. MUA's leadership and economic development trainings have graduated over 450 women. Established in 1989 as a project of another organization, MUA obtained its 501(c)(3) status in 2006. MUA recently launched a statewide household workers coalition working to pass legislation in the state of California to ensure overtime pay and protections for in-home childcare workers. The legislation passed the state Assembly and Senate but was vetoed by the governor.

New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC)**\$55,000***Contact: Doug Meikeljohn, Executive Director*

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Santa Fe, NM 87505

*Telephone: (505) 989-9022**E-mail: dmeikeljohn@nmelc.org Web address: www.nmenvirolaw.org*

NMELC is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to working with grassroots organizations that represent low-income communities on environmental justice issues in the state. It was formed in 1987 and works with organizations and grassroots groups that are fighting environmental injustice. NMELC also fights governmental decisions that allow pollution, destruction of environmental and cultural resources and negatively impact human health. Recent victories have resulted in stringent water and air pollution requirements at a chemical plant, the cancellation of open burning permits at the Los Alamos national laboratory, a ban on uranium mining and processing in Navajo Indian country, and the return of sacred lands to the Picuris Pueblo.

Oakland Rising (OR)**\$50,000***Contact: Esperanza Tervalon-Daumont, Executive Director*

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Oakland, CA 94607

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Oakland Rising is a coalition of six community-based organizations in the City of Oakland that is building power by aligning the programmatic work of their organizations, coordinating their voter work and developing shared infrastructure like trainings. In their first coordinated voter engagement endeavor, OR groups waged a four week “No on Proposition 98” campaign in over 60 precincts, making over 14,700 voter contacts and identifying close to 6700 “No” votes. Proposition 98 would have rendered all rent control tenant protection ordinances illegal in the State of California. Alameda County as a whole registered a 71% “No” vote, compared to precincts where Oakland Rising worked which delivered a 75% “No” vote.

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC)

\$40,000

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Huntington, WV 25773-6753

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The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) works to ensure environmental justice in the coalfield communities of Appalachia. Active since 1987, OVEC has recently focused media widespread attention on mountaintop removal mining. OVEC has partnered with 13 groups in a regional alliance to devise a broad collaborative strategy to end mountain top removal mining. The strategy includes base building, raising public awareness through the media, state and national campaigns, and promoting economic alternatives for a just transition away from a coal-based economy.

Partnership for Working Families (PWF)

\$50,000

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The PWF is an organization formed in 2002 by the alliance of the Center on Policy Initiatives, the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and Working Partnerships, USA. These four organizations – anchored in the major population centers of California – joined together to build an economic justice movement that calls on developers who receive taxpayer dollars in the form of public subsidies to provide measurable community benefits as defined by local residents in exchange for the subsidy. The group works with community-based organizations, labor unions, city councils, and the developers across the country to come up with plans that will positively affect the local community where a development is proposed.

Progressive Technology Project (PTP)

\$50,000

Contact: Arif Mamdani, Executive Director

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PTP is a collaboration of grassroots organizers, technology specialists, and funders seeking to build stronger grassroots organizations by helping them explore and implement the most effective information technologies, and then share their experiences so that the entire field benefits from the results. PTP also makes grants and provides capacity-building technical assistance to community-based groups. Since its creation in 1998, PTP has made over \$1,000,000 in technology-related grants to community organizing groups and developed a multi-tiered technology training program for organizers.

Research Institute for Social & Economic Policy (RISEP)**\$30,000***Contact: Emily Eisenhauer, Research Associate**c/o Center for Labor Research & Studies**Florida International University**Miami, FL 33199**Telephone: (305) 348-1515**Fax: (305) 348-2241**E-mail: Emily.Eisenhauer@fiu.edu Web Address: www.risep-fiu.org*

RISEP conducts empirical research that examines issues important to Florida's low- and moderate-income workers and their families. RISEP's data helps substantiate calls for policy and legislative change. RISEP formally started in 2004 and is the Florida affiliate of the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN). It is located within Florida International University's Center for Labor Research and Studies. RISEP has successfully completed and released a series of reports analyzing how Miami-Dade County can maximize community benefits in the upcoming renovation of the Orange Bowl and the expansion of the Jackson South Hospital. Recommendations include hiring local contractors to do the work, providing health insurance to all workers on the project, using minority and small contractors as much as possible, and using a "best value" rather than a "lowest bid" method of procurement on the project. These reports were commissioned by South Florida Jobs with Justice, another FACT grantee.

Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM)**\$40,000***(formerly Save our Cumberland Mountains)**Contact: Amelia Parker, Executive Director**P.O. Box 479**Lake City, Tennessee 37769**Telephone: (865) 426-9455 Fax: (865) 426-9289**E-mail: Amelia@socm.org Web Address: www.socm.org*

SOCM is a member-driven, multi-issue community organization based primarily in rural Tennessee communities and small towns that was started in 1972. SOCM's overall mission is to work for economic, environmental, and social justice by developing multi-racial, grassroots, democratic community organizations to tackle critical issues at the local and state policy levels. It provides leadership in coalitions at the state, regional, and national levels to advance the movement for justice in the South and in the nation. Recent victories have won new water quality policies to stop mining in the most toxic coal seam in the state, limited expansion of mining on a mountaintop removal site and have advanced the issue of restoring voting rights to ex-felons. It is democratically run by its 2,500 members and emphasizes the growth and leadership development of those members as much as winning issues.

Southern Echo**\$100,000***Contact: Leroy Johnson, Executive Director**P.O. Box 9306**Jackson, MS 39286**Telephone: (601) 278-2140 Fax: (601) 982-2636**E-mail: souecho@southernecho.org Web Address: www.southernecho.org*

Southern Echo is a statewide, grassroots, leadership development, education, and training organization working to develop new grassroots leaders and organizers in African American communities in Mississippi and the surrounding region. It was created in 1990. Through a comprehensive training and technical assistance program Echo builds the capacity of African Americans to hold decision-makers accountable. Among the group's accomplishments is winning the passage of the Mississippi Adequate Education Funding Program, which provides \$650 million over five years to improve education facilities and equalize education spending per pupil statewide. Echo has conducted dozens of workshops to educate parents, students, educators and public officials about how education funding in Mississippi is designed. This has led to a

more informed public that can hold the state officials accountable for their actions. In 2007, as a result of public action, the education funding program was fully funded for the first time since its adoption in 1997.

South Florida Jobs with Justice (SFL JwJ)

\$40,000

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SFL JwJ provides community organizing support to working poor people of color and immigrants. It is a coalition of labor, community, small business and student activists working towards a sustainable economy in the South Florida region which emerged in 2002. It engages in local policy fights, commissions relevant research, organizes community members for direct action, provides popular education and fosters grassroots democracy. It is one of the few groups working to build solidarity between African Americans and immigrants in the region and is helping to convene and anchor a community benefits coalition which is fighting for residential control on local hiring on subsidized construction projects.

Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education (SCOPE)

\$100,000

Contact: Marilyn Johnson, Executive Director

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Web Address: www.scopela.org

SCOPE seeks to reduce and eliminate structural barriers to social and economic opportunities for poor and disadvantaged communities. Since its founding in 1992, SCOPE has built models of civic participation, worked to develop strategic alliances between diverse communities, equipped poor communities with strategic research and analysis to understand the issues, and provided training to build collaboration at the local, regional, state, national and international levels. In 2008, over 500 residents worked with city officials in Los Angeles to explore the potential of “greening” the City’s existing buildings and helped shift the framework for the City’s retro-fit plans from a strictly cost-based view to one that considers environmental and workforce issues.

SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP)

\$50,000

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SWOP is a multi-racial, multi-issue, statewide, grassroots organization established in 1981. SWOP seeks to empower the disenfranchised in New Mexico to realize racial and gender equality and social and economic justice. SWOP focuses on increasing citizen participation and building leadership skills in low-income communities (composed predominantly of people of color), so residents can participate in decision-making on issues affecting their lives, including environmental, community, and worker protection. As a member of a local coalition during the 2005 election cycle, SWOP helped to ensure the passage of a clean elections bill for the state of New Mexico. This ordinance provides public financing for candidates and make it possible for low-income people of color to run in municipal elections in Albuquerque. Similar laws have passed in Arizona, Massachusetts and Maine. As a member of a coalition, SWOP recently helped ensure the passage of a municipal living wage ordinance in Albuquerque. With their allies, they continue to work toward increasing the minimum wage in the state as a whole.

Tax & Fiscal Policy Workgroup (TFP)

\$50,000

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The tax and fiscal hub of the California Alliance is composed of grassroots organizations determined to improve the economic well-being and political capabilities of low income constituencies through a pragmatic tax reform agenda. The primary organizations of the working group include California ACORN, AGENDA, Urban Habitat and Working Partnerships USA. The coalition was formed in 2004. The workgroup has recently published an historical analysis of tax and fiscal policy in California which analyzes the evolution of the state's current tax and fiscal policies. The group has also completed a statewide mapping of the dominant worldview and values of both base and swing communities as the first step in developing a long-range plan to develop strategic initiatives for tax and fiscal policy reform.

Tenneseans for Fair Taxation (TFT)

\$30,000

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TFT is a statewide coalition of member organizations and individuals working toward a fair and modern tax system in Tennessee that invests in the communities and in key public services in the state. Originally founded in 1984 as a loose coalition of groups working for passage of state tax reform, TFT has matured and taken on a broader set of tax and business budget issues that affect its membership and coalition partners. One of TFT's most significant accomplishments is the establishment for the first time in state history, of a separate, lower tax rate on food compared with nonfood items. Other accomplishments include the defeat of the so-called Taxpayer Bill of Rights and resisting efforts to ban state income tax in the State Constitution.

Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)

\$30,000

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TIRRC empowers immigrants and refugees in Tennessee to develop a unified voice, defend their rights and create an atmosphere where they are viewed as positive contributors to the region. Established in 2001 it was a union of grassroots groups working to pass a law to allow applicants to receive a driver's license without presenting a social security number. TIRRC has become one of the most diverse immigrant rights coalitions in the country with member groups representing Congolese, Egyptian, Haitian, Iranian, Iraqi, Kurdish, Laotian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, Pakistani and Vietnamese communities as well as a large number of Latino groups. In 2008, TIRRC not only successfully defeated all 65 anti-immigrant bills that reached the state legislature, but it also passed a proactive Racial Profiling Prevention Act that defines racial profiling in state law for the first time and requires local law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies to prevent racial profiling by 2010.

Urban Habitat (UH)**\$50,000***Contact: Juliet Ellis, Executive Director**436 14th Street, Suite 1205**Oakland, CA 94612**Telephone: (510) 839-9512 Fax: (510) 839-9610**E-mail: info@urbanhabitat.org Web address: www.urbanhabitat.org*

UH was created in 1989 as an intermediary organization working in partnership with low-income communities and communities of color to advance regional equity in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The Bay Area with its many municipalities and nine counties is economically bound together. UH founded the Social Equity Caucus (SEC) in 1997. Today the SEC has 75 members throughout the region who represent community development, labor, faith, youth, social justice, and environmental concerns all working together to improve communities. The membership includes organizations with differing strategies – grassroots groups, policy advocates, service organizations, academics, legal services and philanthropists.

Working Partnerships USA (WPUSA)**\$50,000***Contact: Cindy Chavez, Executive Director**2102 Almaden Road, Suite 107**San Jose, CA 95125**Telephone: (408) 269-7872 Fax: (408) 269-0183**E-mail: wpusa@atwork.org Web address: www.wpusa.org*

WPUSA was founded in 1995 to counter the growing economic disparity in California's Silicon Valley. Working Partnerships coordinates a broad-based coalition of community, labor, faith, housing, and environmental organizations and activists working to institute systemic economic reforms by developing and passing progressive public policies, organizing popular education trainings, and developing new models of employee organizations to raise wages and increase job security. The group's recent accomplishments include winning living wages for workers at San Jose International Airport and then expanding that victory to include employees at the rental car companies located at the airport. It also increased the local transit authority's commitment to improving bus service in the area, and released a study of the decline in job-based health coverage for U.S. workers. WPUSA's Childrens Healthcare Initiative, which provides for health coverage for all of the region's children has been replicated in several other municipalities and the model is being considered at the state level as well.