

2006 SPRING GRANTEES

FACT Services
303 Sacramento Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
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ORGANIZATION / DESCRIPTION

GRANT AMOUNT

Alliance For Justice – California Office (AFJ)

\$40,000

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AFJ was formed in 1981 and is a leader in promoting nonprofit participation in public policy. Many nonprofits with a social justice mission shy away from lobbying on policy matters due of a lack of understanding of the exact nature of the restrictions. AFJ believes that these groups will become more active in the public policy arena when they are confident that they are acting within the confines of the law. In 2004, AFJ opened offices on the West Coast to provide nonprofit organizations and foundations in California with information on both the state and the federal laws and regulations governing advocacy and lobbying activities.

Community Voting Project – Center for Community Change

\$50,000

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The Community Voting Project (CVP) of the Center for Community Change (CCC) gives community-based groups the tools and skills to do voter engagement work with low-income voters. In 2004, the CVP provided technical assistance to community organizing groups across the country for ramping up their voter engagement work. A detailed evaluation of this project was completed and provides important lessons for the ongoing work of the CVP and for the field of voter engagement. In 2006, CVP will work with a smaller number of groups in a more comprehensive manner to help them fully integrate their voter and issue-based organizing work. 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.

DataCenter**\$50,200**

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The DataCenter is a national nonprofit public access research group that has provided social justice activists and organizations with research information and assistance since 1977. The DataCenter helps groups that do not have the ability to perform in-house research by teaching them research skills and including community members in a participatory research process. This ensures that the groups' campaigns are based on solid information and have the data necessary to persuade the public and public officials. Moreover, the DataCenter provides analytical skills to integrate research into campaign strategy from the outset and enables grassroots groups to own the research process. This helps organizations bridge the gap between wanting to create change and actually having the power to do so. Recently, the DataCenter helped FACT grantee Communities for a Better Environment with corporate research, analysis and expert testimony in a successful campaign for limits on refinery flaring in Richmond, CA.

East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)**\$40,000**

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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)**\$100,000**

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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. The group is a leader in the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping to demonstrate the impact of multiple toxic pollutants on communities. 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.

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. One recent campaign resulted in a living wage for workers at Georgetown University and Washington University.

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

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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.

Southern Echo**\$100,000***Contact: Leroy Johnson, Executive Director**P.O. Box 9306**Jackson, MS 39286**Telephone: (601) 982-6400 Fax: (601) 982-2636**E-mail: souecho@bellsouth.net 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. During 2005, informed community members prevented the governor's attempt to cut education funding by \$111 million.

Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education (SCOPE)**\$150,000***Contact: Anthony Thigpenn, Chairman**1715 West Florence Avenue**Los Angeles, CA 90047**Telephone: (323) 789-7920 Fax: (323) 789-7939**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 for disadvantaged communities, 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. SCOPE fulfills its mission through interlocking divisions that include: Action for Grassroots Empowerment and Neighborhood Development Alternatives (AGENDA) which organizes in south Los Angeles communities, the LA Metropolitan Alliance which includes community-based groups and organizes in inner city communities (such as South Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, and Pico Union/Koreatown) and working class suburban communities (such as West Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley), Community Institute for Policy Heuristics Education and Research (CIPHER) which provides research for SCOPE campaigns, and The Environmental and Economic Justice Project (EEJP) which offers technical assistance and trainings both within SCOPE and to allied organizations. The President's Initiatives focus on voter engagement and tax and fiscal policy reform. In 2005, SCOPE's model of organizing low-income communities increased civic participation in those neighborhoods and resulted in over 70,000 contacts with prospective voters.

SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP)

\$40,000

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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 will 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.

Strategic Press Information Network (SPIN) Project

\$50,000

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The SPIN Project is a national media training and organizing project created in 1997 to provide technical assistance so that community groups can increase their capacity to conduct effective media and public relations work. Through on-site, all-day, interactive trainings, customized strategic media planning sessions, and the “SPIN Academy,” which focuses on advanced media training, the Project unites the critical aspect of media strategy with grassroots organizing strategies. SPIN also produces resource materials, including “*SPIN Works! The Nuts and Bolts of Good PR*” and training videos, as well as customized organizational consultations on strategic communications plans.

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 (CPI), 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 to come up with plans that will positively affect the local community where a development is proposed. PWF has recently expanded to provide technical assistance to groups with similar goals all over the country.

Urban Habitat (UH)**\$50,000**

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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)**\$65,000**

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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 at San Jose International Airport and then expanding that win to include employees at the rental car companies located at the airport, increasing the local transit authority's commitment to increasing bus service in the area, and releasing 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.