

**SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL, New York, NY**

**Constituency:** Low-income communities of color and community based organizations  
**Current Budget:** \$5,876,000  
**Grant History:** 2006: \$40,000; 2005: \$45,000; 2004:\$65,000; 2003:\$40,000; 2002: \$35,000  
**Requested/Recommended Amount:** \$50,000/**\$35,000**

<p><b><u>Goals from last year</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue developing broad bases of support, strong grassroots leadership, and strong grassroots organizations</li> <li>2. Support and advance youth leadership in the struggle for immigrant rights</li> <li>3. Increase the number of registered voters in targeted states and communities.</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Progress on Goals</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supported local affiliates in building new chapters and reaching new constituents on healthcare and affordable housing reform.</li> <li>2. Conducted trainings in 2 sites for youth, <i>but was not able to integrate youth into the decision-making structure of the coalition.</i></li> <li>3. Provided support to register 45,000 new voters in 3 states, during off cycle election periods.</li> </ol>
<p align="center"><b><u>Goals for the Coming Year</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups in 12 states work together to advance national health care proposals; at least 3 states expand health care access through local legislative measures.</li> <li>• Register 250,000 new voters; mobilize 300,000 new and infrequent low-income voters to the polls.</li> <li>• Strengthen coalition on affordable housing and launch national campaign for access to public housing.</li> </ul>	

**Critical Questions**

- Given the many points of intersection and overlap history between Social Justice for All. and HSF’s mission and goals, should we shift from making project-specific grants to now giving general support?

**Staff Analysis**

Social Justice for All (SJA) strives to build the power and capacity of low-income people, particularly people of color, to change the institutions and policies that affect their lives. SJA supports community-based organizing efforts by providing comprehensive technical assistance and facilitating coalitions for organizations to work together to achieve major policy change. SJA has been a critical force in supporting coalitions that were essential in creating and improving many social safety net programs and protections for low income families and workers, increasing voter engagement and advancing the cause of social justice in the US. SJA has four major goals that are aligned with HSF’s goals including building the field of grassroots organizing, advancing economic justice issues, and increasing the civic engagement of low-income people and people of color.

HSF has a long history with SJA, and the organization has repeatedly played an important role in the growth and development of our grantmaking programs. We began our Economic Justice Program Area with a grant to SJA for its work with its community partners to advocate for greater economic justice and progressive welfare reform policy framework. Exposure to SJA’s work gave HSF a deeper understanding of the nuances around economic justice at a time when we were just being introduced to the field. A couple of years later, SJA again offered helpful guidance during our 2004 review of trends in the economic justice field, by directing our attention to non-partisan voter engagement and the creation of HSF’s LIVE Initiative. Later, as HSF was exploring a new multi-generational focus for our

Youth Organizing Program Area, SJA again provided us an opportunity to examine how a national intermediary like SJA could establish a new inter-generational structure in some of its organizing work (i.e., comprehensive immigration reform). Nevertheless, we have always supported discrete projects of SJA, which has made it sometimes hard to find the exact programmatic match, even as our goals coincide.

### ***General vs. Project Support***

SJA's integration of an inter-generational structure into its immigration work moved forward with fits and starts, and after two years and a stalled national immigration agenda, SJA was unclear about the direction of their inter-generational work. At the same time they launched an initiative that sought to build a "new generation" of community organizers through its Generation Change project. The intention of building a new generation of organizers overlapped with the vision of HSF's youth organizing focus; however, Generation Change focused on young adults instead of youth. While there were programmatic or progress details that made it harder to find a good fit with the intergenerational work, there was however a whole host of other work that SJA did that did fit well our overall goals. SJA's broader work on comprehensive immigration reform, its on-going work to strengthen grassroots civic engagement, its new work on developing frameworks and messaging towards increasing public will for progressive change are all additional examples of institutional overlap with HSF.

Given this, staff is in favor of moving from supporting discrete projects of SJA to supporting their work overall through a general support grant. Providing general support grants are an accepted best practice in philanthropy and one that HSF aspires toward. Because we have specific program areas, sometimes we have to make a project specific grant because a good portion of the group's other work may not fit our guidelines. Overall though, we strive to make general support grants when we can. In order to make a general support grant to SJA, we have to make two decisions. First, it would make the most sense to move this grant into the Economic Justice Program Area (as opposed to being split between the youth and economic justice program areas as it is now). There is a more natural fit between SJA's work and Program Area Two given the uncertainty of its inter-generational work. Second, the Board would need to decide that it makes sense to give SJA a general support grant given that its budget for 2008-09 is just under \$13 million dollars and our relatively small grant could be seen as a drop in a fairly big bucket. For this fiscal year, SJA's committed general support grants are evenly distributed between grant above and below \$100,000, so a HSF grant of \$40,000 is not unheard of. Nevertheless, this is a good issue for the Board to discuss.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

The substantial level of mission and goal overlap between HSF and SJA leads staff to recommend a general support grant for the organization. While we strive to provide general support to many of our grant partners, this recommendation is also based on our assessment that SJA is a strategic partner for HSF and has the capacity to move issues on a national level that few individual groups in our docket can. Additionally, several of our current partners (i.e., CVH, GRO, NWFCO, TIRCC, CASA, Voces de la Frontera, etc) are SJA partners and receive specific support for their work from the organization. While we should discuss the larger issue of the relative size of an HSF grant to an organization's budget, we would recommend making an exception in this case. **Staff recommends a \$35,000 general support grant for Social Justice for All.**