



Project of the Proteus Fund
www.proteusfund.org/mdf

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2008

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MEDIA DEMOCRACY FUND 2007-NOVEMBER 2008 GRANT AWARDS

Twenty-four groups receive a total of \$1,108,340 to support their work creating a just and open media environment.

Washington, DC – The Media Democracy Fund is pleased to announce grant awards over the previous 11 months. MDF is committed to funding where groups are positioned to make a difference with a modest or catalytic investment. Based on field analysis and building on successes from the Fund's inaugural round of grantmaking, areas identified for support include: expanding and diversifying the base of constituencies engaged in creating a media environment that serves their communities; responding to the urgent need to keep the Internet open and create low cost access to broadband Internet services in underserved areas; and investing in the promise of new technologies, new media and the blogosphere to promote and be informed by the public interest. Key constituencies involved in the grants include Native Americans, Latinos, civil rights groups, immigrants, rural populations and youth.

The Media Democracy Fund was launched in 2006 to support advocacy groups working to create a just media environment and democratic media policy. Founded on the belief that freedom of expression and access to information are basic human rights, the Fund was initiated with donations from the following: Albert A. List Foundation, Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Open Society Institute, Quixote Foundation, Arca Foundation, Otto Haas Charitable Trust, HKH Foundation, Park Foundation and individual donor, Peter Kent. In 2007 and 2008, these initiating funders were joined by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Benton Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, Buddy Taub Foundation, Town Creek Foundation and Wallace Global Fund.

Grants made from the fund are made on a competitive basis and the next round of grants will be awarded in December, 2008. Further information may be found at: www.proteusfund.org/mdf.

Media Democracy Fund

A Project of the Proteus Fund

Media Democracy Fund (MDF) is a grantmaking collaborative in support of a just media environment and democratic media policy.



L&M Associates, Jupiter FL

Media Democracy Fund Grants: 2007 - November 2008

Grantees Supported

1 American Family Voices

2 Center for Rural Strategies

- Additional Staff Offices (4)
- Advisory Committee Members (9)

3 Chittenden Community TV

4 Free Press Action Fund

5 Future of Music Coalition

- 2007 *Rock the Net* Concerts in **35 States** (189 Venues)

6 Institute for Local Self Reliance

- Broadband Sites (5)

7 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

- DTV public education & outreach Targeted **States (29)**
- Coalitions for media policy engagement Targeted **States (3)**

8 Main Street Project

- Community Sites (15)
- Federation of Southern Cooperatives **Offices (5)**
- Rural Coalition **Office**

9 Media Access Project

10 Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-net)

- Leadership Team (8)

11 Media and Democracy Coalition

12 Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN)

13 National Hispanic Media Coalition

- Chapters (13, with Puerto Rico)

14 Native Public Media & National Federation of Community Broadcasters

- Native Radio Stations **States (12)**

15 New America Foundation

16 New Voices in Independent Journalism / Tides Center

- Campus Journalism Project (5)
- Katrina Fellows (2)

17 Pennsylvania State University College of Communications

- Faculty Authors (11)

18 Peoples Production House

19 Progressive States Network

- Technology Investment Program Targeted **States (6)**

20 Prometheus Radio Project

21 Public Knowledge

22 Reclaim the Media

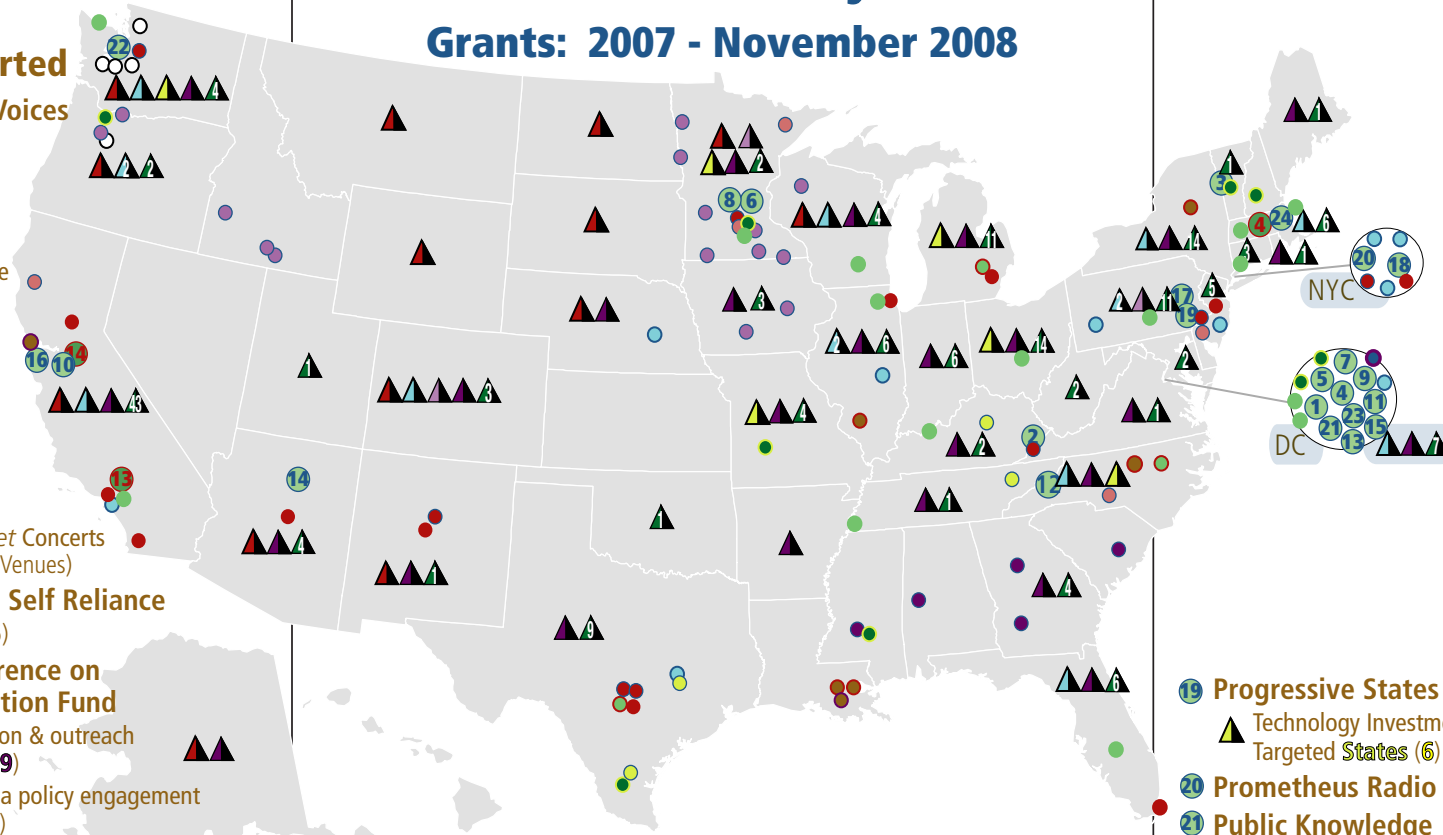
- Mobilization Sites (6)

23 United Church of Christ Office of Communications

- Faith Media Justice Outreach Events (14)
- Media Empowerment Sites (3)

24 US Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) Education Fund

- 14 Offices Targeting **States (11)**



Media Democracy Fund Grants: 2007 - November 2008

MDF Program

Awarded 2007 - 2008

Based on field analysis and building on successes from the Fund's inaugural round of grantmaking, areas identified for support include: expanding and diversifying the base of constituencies engaged in creating a media environment that serves their communities; responding to the urgent need to keep the Internet open and create low cost access to broadband Internet services in underserved areas; and investing in the promise of new technologies, new media and the blogosphere to promote and be informed by the public interest.

Total: \$1,108,340

General Support and Project Grants

\$762,000

The **Rapid Response Fund** has been established to respond to unanticipated threats or opportunities that may arise outside of MDF's regular grant cycles.

\$296,340 Look for this symbol



MDF lobbying grants are made at the discretion of Proteus Fund within applicable lobbying limits for 501(c)(3) organizations. Private foundation participants in MDF are not consulted on the allocation of lobbying grants.

\$77,000 Look for this symbol










Grantee

Amount

Grant Purpose



	Grantee	Amount	Grant Purpose	
1	American Family Voices, Washington, DC	\$12,000	Media Policy Blogging	
2	Center for Rural Strategies, Whitesburg, KY	\$25,000	White Spaces and Rural Broadband Campaign	
3	Chittenden Community Television <i>d/b/a CCTV Center for Media and Democracy</i> Burlington, VT	\$37,000	Democratic Communications Centers: Securing Free Speech, Public Access and Open Networks in Vermont and Beyond	
4	Free Press Action Fund, Washington, DC & Northampton, MA	\$38,000	Salary support for lobbying staff	
5	Future of Music Coalition, Washington, DC	\$25,000	Rock the Net Campaign	
6	Institute for Local Self Reliance <i>New Rules Project</i> , Minneapolis, MN	\$30,000	Telecommunications as Commons Initiative	
7	Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, Washington, DC	\$30,000	Media / Telecommunications Project	
		\$27,000	Low Power Radio Lobbying Campaign	

Media Democracy Fund Grants: 2007 - November 2008 *(Continued)*

	Grantee	Amount	Grant Purpose
8	Main Street Project, Minneapolis, MN	\$25,000	Rural Media Justice Sector Initiative
9	Media Access Project, Washington, DC <u>Fiscal Sponsor:</u> Movement Strategy Center Oakland, CA	\$20,000	Wireless Digital Future Project 
		\$10,000	Application Discrimination Project 
10	Media Action Grassroots Network (MAG-net) <u>Lead Organization:</u> Center for Media Justice, Oakland, CA <u>Fiscal Sponsor:</u> Movement Strategy Center, Oakland, CA	\$225,000 \$50,000 \$175,000	Media Justice Sector Initiative in 2007 in 2008
11	Media and Democracy Coalition Washington, DC <u>Fiscal Sponsor:</u> Common Cause Education Fund, Washington DC	\$73,140	White Paper on Internet Policy Priorities 
12	Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN), Asheville, NC	\$18,200	Rural Broadband Project 
13	National Hispanic Media Coalition Pasadena, CA & Washington, DC	\$30,000	Media Policy Program
14	Native Public Media, Flagstaff AZ <u>Fiscal Sponsor:</u> National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Oakland CA	\$50,000	Advancing Native American Participation in Media Policy
		\$50,000	Non-Commercial Educational Radio License 
15	New America Foundation, Washington, DC	\$20,000	Convening of "Wireless Visionaries"
16	New Voices in Independent Journalism San Francisco, CA <u>Fiscal Sponsor:</u> Tides Center, San Francisco, CA	\$20,000	George Washington Williams Fellowship and Campus Journalism Project
17	Pennsylvania State University <i>College of Communications</i> , Philadelphia, PA	\$75,000	Future of American Communications Working Group
		\$32,000	Launch and Distribution of the Book "...And Communications for All" 
18	Peoples Production House, New York, NY	\$25,000	Digital Expansion Initiative
		\$12,000	White Spaces for Broadband Deployment in Urban Settings 

Media Democracy Fund Grants: 2007 - November 2008 *(Continued)*

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	Grantee	Amount	Grant Purpose	
19	Progressive States Network, New York, NY	\$50,000	Technology Investment and Democratic Culture Program	
20	Prometheus Radio Project, Philadelphia, PA	\$50,000	Non-Commercial Educational Radio License Project	
21	Public Knowledge, Washington, DC	\$50,000	Open Broadband Project	
22	Reclaim the Media, Seattle, WA <i>Fiscal Sponsor: Center for Social Justice</i> Seattle, WA	\$4,000	Mobilization for the FCC hearings in Seattle	
23	United Church of Christ <i>Office of Communications</i> , Washington, DC	\$20,000	Interfaith Task Force Initiative	
24	US Public Interest Research Group Education Fund, Boston, MA	\$25,000	Building Bridges to Reform Our Media	