

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Parsons, Brian (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 4:32 PM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan; (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cc: Schaefer, Margaret
Subject: RE: Meeting request re: Gulf Coast Civic Works and G.C. Coordinator's office

Jeffrey,

Thank you for your meeting request. I will unfortunately be out of the office on Friday, but the good news is that my colleague Margaret Schaefer will be in the office and available to meet with you. Margaret leads our outreach work with nongovernmental organizations, so she is the right person here. I'm copying her on this email so that you two can coordinate schedules. Best of luck with the meeting and I look forward to hearing about how things go on Friday.

Brian

Brian S. Parsons, MPA, MUEP
Senior Policy Advisor
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
p: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
f: 202-401-4708
(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 1:30 PM
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Subject: Meeting request re: Gulf Coast Civic Works and G.C. Coordinator's office

Dear Brian,

Thanks for your previous attention and help.

On Friday one of my New Orleans-based colleagues from ACORN who has helped lead our local coalition is coming to DC and we had hoped, if possible, to meet with you and/or relevant DHS policy staff on the current hurdles vulnerable communities still face in Gulf Coast recovery, especially in terms of equitable infrastructure and services, flood protection and economic opportunity, as well as the policy vehicle we've developed with over 140 organizations to address the lack of opportunities, the Gulf Coast Civic Works program?

As I mentioned before, it would be good to be able to start a conversation with your office as DHS and the new Administration begins to explore a new direction on Gulf Coast recovery. While we are pursuing the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act as a legislative solution, we believe it would be possible to authorize such a program administratively, possibly inside the Office of the Federal Gulf Coast Coordinator.

Would you or any of your relevant colleagues be available any time on Friday (3/13)? Sorry for the short notice but it would be great to be able to discuss this further.

Regards,

7/22/2009

██████████ (b) (6) ██████████

Information Officer,

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (b) (6) ██████████

Fax: (202) 463-6606

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 12:06 PM
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Meeting request re: Gulf Coast Civic Works and G.C. Coordinator's office

Dear Margaret,

Per Brian, what would be a good time on Friday (preferably in the morning) to meet with my colleague Stephen Bradberry of ACORN and I?

Thanks,

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (2) (b) (6)
Fax: (202) 463-6606

From: Parsons, Brian [mailto:(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 4:32 PM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan; (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cc: Schaefer, Margaret
Subject: RE: Meeting request re: Gulf Coast Civic Works and G.C. Coordinator's office

Jeffrey,

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Brian

Brian S. Parsons, MPA, MUEP
Senior Policy Advisor
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
p: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
f: 202-401-4708
(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 1:30 PM
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Subject: Meeting request re: Gulf Coast Civic Works and G.C. Coordinator's office

Dear Brian,

Thanks for your previous attention and help.

7/22/2009

On Friday one of my New Orleans-based colleagues from ACORN who has helped lead our local coalition is coming to DC and we had hoped, if possible, to meet with you and/or relevant DHS policy staff on the current hurdles vulnerable communities still face in Gulf Coast recovery, especially in terms of equitable infrastructure and services, flood protection and economic opportunity, as well as the policy vehicle we've developed with over 140 organizations to address the lack of opportunities, the Gulf Coast Civic Works program?

As I mentioned before, it would be good to be able to start a conversation with your office as DHS and the new Administration begins to explore a new direction on Gulf Coast recovery. While we are pursuing the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act as a legislative solution, we believe it would be possible to authorize such a program administratively, possibly inside the Office of the Federal Gulf Coast Coordinator.

Would you or any of your relevant colleagues be available any time on Friday (3/13)? Sorry for the short notice but it would be great to be able to discuss this further.

Regards,

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (b) (6)
Fax: (202) 463-6606

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 12:59 PM
To: (b) (6); (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Confirming for Presentation on April 21st 1:30p

Jeffrey,

That sounds great to me. I am out of the office until late tomorrow afternoon - let me inform Claudia of these plans and I will give you a call next week just to make sure all is a go per your note. Thanks so much for agreeing to speak at our meeting!

Talk soon....

Maggie

From: Jeffrey Buchanan
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu Apr 02 12:10:45 2009
Subject: Confirming for Presentation on April 21st 1:30p

Dear Margaret,

Thank you so much for the invitation to discuss the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign with participants of DHS's NGO working group.

We will be delighted to present to this group on the date we had discussed, April 21st at 1:30p.

Stephen Bradberry, who sat in on our meeting, will also be joining me in presenting on the campaign for the event.

As far as timing and format for the presentation, what would you suggest based on past experience with this group? I was thinking something along the lines of beginning with a powerpoint presentation and overview of the interrelated current challenges in long-term recovery, focusing on vulnerable communities, an overview of the policy, and current advocacy strategies and then open up to questions, and discussion of how to participate?

Well thanks again for reaching out and we look forward to taking part in this meeting and discussing the policy goals and strategies for this campaign and opportunities for other organizations to partner with the campaign.

Regards,

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (b) (6) [REDACTED]
Fax: (202) 463-6606

7/22/2009

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 10:41 AM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan
Subject: RE: April 21st meeting

I'll send you a list of the organizations that typically send reps to these meetings - I'll try to get to that today! Thanks for your quick response.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 10:36 AM
To: Schaefer, Margaret
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: April 21st meeting

Thanks Margaret. I think this will work well and the title is right on. I'll bring my laptop with the ppt presentation.

Do you have anything like a list of past participating organizations from these meetings? Would be good to know to some degree who our audience will be to target the presentation a bit more.

Thanks for your work on this!

Regards,
Jeffrey

From: Schaefer, Margaret (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 9:49 AM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan
Subject: RE: April 21st meeting

Good morning, Jeff.

This is a follow-up note to my phone message. I am putting the final touches on the agenda for the NGO meeting set for the 21st. FYI - Details regarding the meeting location & time are: Tuesday, April 21st, 2009 from 1:30 – 3:30 at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) building located at 801 18th St. NW, Washington, DC in the second floor conference room. As far as the agenda, I have you providing a presentation entitled: Current Challenges in Long Term Recovery: The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign from 1:40 – 2:30, allowing for a half hour presentation followed up by 20 minutes for Q & A /discussion – will this work? We can extend the presentation time if needed. As noted in my phone message, the meeting room is equipped with a screen for the PPT – could you bring your lap top? If not, let me know and I will contact PVA to make arrangements for use of one of their laptops.

I am hoping to get the "official" invitation and agenda out this afternoon, so if you could give me a quick call or send a brief note letting me know if I am on track with the timing & title for your presentation, that would be great. And as I've noted, if more time is needed, we've got flexibility so just say the word.

Thanks so much!

Maggie

Margaret Schaefer, M.A.

Policy Advisor

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Office: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

Mobile: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

(b)(2)(low), (b)(6) mailto:(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

Our next quarterly meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st, 2009 from 1:30 – 3:30 at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) building located at 801 18th St. NW, Washington, DC in the second floor conference room. An agenda is attached. Of note is our guest speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Buchanan from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Mr. Buchanan will be presenting on The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign, after which there will be an opportunity for dialogue. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign brings together over 150 geographically and ethnically diverse Gulf Coast and national community, environmental, faith, human rights and student organizations to advocate for the creation of more sustainable and disaster resilient neighborhoods.

Please RSVP to (b) (6) at (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) mailto:(b)(2)(low), (b)(6) or at (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) by COB of April 17, 2009 and kindly indicate at that time if any accommodations are needed. We are looking forward to an interesting and productive meeting.

Regards,

[cid:image001.jpg@01C9BC2E.5C17F040]

(b) (6)

Executive Assistant

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Disability and Special Needs Policy Division

Office (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

Fax: (202) 357-8298

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 9:10 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: 'Jeffrey Buchanan'
Subject: FW: NGO Partners Meeting - April 21, 2009
Importance: High
Attachments: NGO Agenda 4-21-09.doc

Good morning, Stephen.

I am forwarding to you the invitation to our next NGO Partners meeting – details are noted below and an agenda is attached. We are looking forward to hearing about the advocacy work in which you are engaged. I appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to return to Washington and speak at this meeting – thank you.

May you have safe travel and I look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

Maggie

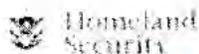
From: (b) (6) <CTR> [mailto:(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 12:01 PM
Subject: NGO Partners Meeting - April 21, 2009

Dear NGO Partners,

Our next quarterly meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, April 21st, 2009 from 1:30 – 3:30 at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) building located at 801 18th St. NW, Washington, DC in the second floor conference room.** An agenda is attached. Of note is our guest speaker, Mr. Jeffrey Buchanan from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Mr. Buchanan will be presenting on *The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign*, after which there will be an opportunity for dialogue. *The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign* brings together over 150 geographically and ethnically diverse Gulf Coast and national community, environmental, faith, human rights and student organizations to advocate for the creation of more sustainable and disaster resilient neighborhoods.

Please RSVP to (b) (6) at (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) or at (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) by COB of April 17, 2009 and kindly indicate at that time if any accommodations are needed. We are looking forward to an interesting and productive meeting.

Regards,



(b) (6)

Executive Assistant
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Disability and Special Needs Policy Division
 Office: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

7/22/2009

Non Responsive

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 10:06 AM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan; (b) (6)
Cc: Gordon, Claudia
Subject: NGO email contacts
Importance: High
Attachments: NGO Partners

Jeffrey & Stephen:

Thank you so much for your informative presentation at the NGO Partners meeting. Per our discussion at the meeting, below you will find a list of those who were in attendance along with their email contacts:

Brian Parsons	(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cheryl Heppner	(b) (6)
Claudia Gordon	(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Curt Decker	(b) (6)
Debbie Fulmer	(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Elizabeth Spiers	(b) (6)
Erika Hagensen	(b) (6)
Jackie Snelling	(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Lee Page	(b) (6)
margaret schaefer	(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Michele Roseman	(b) (6)
Marcie Roth	(b) (6)
Ann Palmer	(b) (6)

Thanks again and please keep in touch with updates as your work progresses.

Regards,

Maggie

Margaret Schaefer, M.A.
Policy Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Office: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:15 AM
To: (b) (6); (b) (6); Brian Parsons; (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6);
 Claudia Gordon; (b) (6); Deana Amendolia; Debbie Fulmer; (b) (6); (b) (6);
 (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6);
 (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6);
 (b) (6); Marcie Roth; margaret schaefer; (b) (6); (b) (6);
 (b) (6); Jacky, Rachel; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) <CTR>
Subject: Thank you!
Importance: High

Dear NGO Partners,

Thank you for your participation in the April 21st meeting. We hope that you found the presentation on *The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign* to be of interest. As noted at the meeting, the contact information for those in attendance has been forwarded to Mr. Jeffrey Buchanan of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights so that he may directly share with you the materials referenced during his presentation.

For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting but wish to receive these materials, please contact Mr. Buchanan directly at (b) (6).

Regards,

Margaret

Margaret Schaefer, M.A.
 Policy Advisor
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
 Office: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
 Mobile: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
 (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:44 AM
To: Brian Parsons; (b)(6); Claudia Gordon; (b)(6); Debbie Fulmer; (b)(6);
 (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); margaret schaefer; (b)(6);
 (b)(6); Marcie Roth; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) Salvador Sarmiento
Subject: Thank you and more information on Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign
Attachments: GCCW Act draft.pdf; GCCWA of 2009 Summary_.pdf; Interfaith%20Letter[1].pdf;
 Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Pres_Elect_Obama_2[1].pdf

Greetings!

Thanks so much for taking the time to meet with us Tuesday and hear our presentation on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign. It was a pleasure to discuss these pressing challenges with the NGO working group and we are excited about the prospects of working with your offices moving forward to continue to push for just disaster recovery policy, including the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, to overcome the obstacles still facing marginalized communities. It was tremendously informative to begin a discussion with all of you and I hope we can continue it in the near future. Please feel free to reach out to me via the contact information below.

Attached is:

- Draft of Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009.
- Summary of the bill
- Copy of the Interfaith Statement we distributed at the presentation
- Copy of letter to President Obama during the stimulus debate urging authorization and funding of GCCW Program.

You can access the slides from Tuesday's presentation at:

<http://gccwc.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/gccwc-presentation.pdf>

You can visit our new joint campaign website at: <http://gccwc.wordpress.com>

If you do have any thoughts on suggested changes for including language to promote more sensitivity to the challenges and needs of your constituents in the legislation please contact us as soon as possible.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren plans to introduce the U.S. House Bill on April 30th currently so there is a small window. If you can get me comments (b)(6) as soon as possible that would be great. My apologies for this short response time.

We will try to do all that we can to include these suggestions and continue to work to make the policy more sensitive, including in the Senate companion before its introduction. In our meetings with the Administration and members of Congress since we met, we have stressed the need to include the challenges faced by the disability community in this and other recovery legislation.

We just had a rather productive meeting with the new Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Recovery and folks at the W.H. Domestic Policy Council so we are excited about the prospects of this campaign.

I want to pass along my colleague Stephen Bradberry's contact information as well.

7/22/2009

Stephen Bradberry
National Campaign Coordinator, ACORN

(b) (5)

I would encourage you to reach out to Stephen if your local members or organizations are interested in participating with our partners with the Gulf Coast wide multi-issue advocacy campaign, the **Equity and Inclusion Campaign**, which in addition to Gulf Coast Civic Works, looks into the range of local, state and federal recovery and relief issues facing Gulf Coast communities now and in the event of future disasters. I know they would be particularly interested in engaging with your organization.

Thanks again and we look forward to continuing this effort!

Regards,
Jeffrey

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) (b) (5) (b) (5)
Fax: (202) 463-6606

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 10:29 AM
To: Brian Parsons; (b)(6); Claudia Gordon; (b)(6); Debbie Fulmer; (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); margaret schaefer (b)(6); Marcie Roth; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) Salvador Sarmiento
Subject: Including disabilities in the introduction of Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Greetings all,

On further review of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, we found that we do include language promoting the inclusion of disabled communities under the legislation's definition of vulnerable populations. For example, on page 26, the bill requires "hiring, planning and implementation [to] adequately involve and look to protect the rights and interests of vulnerable populations, including women, low-income people, people of color, immigrants, the disabled, and the elderly." Of course we could still use your help on improving the legislation to include best practices for ensuring the intention of these protections can be adequately carried out, especially as the Senate companion comes together. We would love to hear any further thoughts your organizations may have. Still we hope this bill could go a long way in helping marginalized communities to work together and overcome remaining challenges. I would really encourage you all to reach out to Stephen (b)(6) or me (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) if you have any further thoughts. Again we'd be honored to work with your organizations on this critical legislation.

On another important note, on the U.S. House side the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act will be introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren and a growing bi-partisan group of co-sponsors on this Tuesday (5/5/2009). I wanted to share some core documents regarding the bill with each of you and some information on next steps below, including asking your organization to consider signing on to the press release endorsing the legislation and considering further partnering in this campaign.

- **Latest draft of the bill:** <http://gcwc.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/gcwc-act-draft.pdf>
- **Memo on changes to the bill since the 110th Congress:**
<http://gcwc.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/revisions-to-gcwa.pdf>
- **Overview of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act:**
<http://gcwc.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/gulfcoastcivicworksactsum.doc>
- **Draft of Urgent Action Email re: GCCWA:**
http://gcwc.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/draft_gcwa_urgent_action.doc
- **Excel Sheet of Top U.S. House Targets and Contacts:**
http://www.rfkcenter.org/files/Top100Targets_0.xls

Before the bill is introduced we need YOUR HELP:

1) SIGN ON TO THE PRESS RELEASE: At the request of Congressional sponsors of the bill, we are putting out a press release announcing the legislation's introduction and wanted to include a list of all the supporters of the bill. I know many of you have already signed on to previous documents but **PLEASE EMAIL ME (b)(6) BY COB MONDAY 5/4/2009 TO BE ADDED TO THE PRESS RELEASE AS A SUPPORTING ORG OF THE GULF COAST CIVIC WORKS ACT!** After emailing that you can sign on, please take a few moments to forward this email

inviting colleagues at other possibly interested organizations to sign on as well. You can view the draft release below (it might be tweaked slightly, and a few quotes will be added) or at <http://gccwc.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/gccwainroductionpressreleasedraft043009.doc>. I'll email everyone the final release on Tuesday morning with all the groups listed. We would appreciate if your organization could distribute the press release or a tweaked version of it to include quotes from your principles. We will also send the release to every Congressional office urging their support.

2) SEND AN URGENT ACTION: After the bill is released we would appreciate if your organization would be able to send an urgent action to your membership email lists, urging them to ask their Member of Congress to co-sponsor the bill. You can find sample language with links to an action to send to Members of Congress here: http://gccwc.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/draft_gccwa_urgent_action.doc We have a page set up for folks to directly contact their Members of Congress here: http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5107/t/5835/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1375 If you want to use you own web system or language that is great. If you do send an urgent action, please contact (b) (6) with the results of the action. We want to try to track actions office by office, to keep tabs on our levels of support in targeted districts.

3) OFFER FOR DC-BASED STAFF TO ATTEND CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS IN DC: On the last conference call, DC-based staff from a handful of organizations agreed to form a working group to participate in meetings with D.C. based Congressional staff of key offices moving forward. If you were not on the last conference call and would be able to be a part of these meetings moving forward please contact (b) (6)

4) CO-SPONSOR GULF COAST CIVIC WORKS ADVOCACY DAYS IN DC: We will be distributing detailed information shortly on opportunities to support the bill and the campaign during the beginning of Hurricane Season with our Gulf Coast Civic Works Advocacy Days bringing 400 advocates including Gulf Coast residents and their national supporters to Washington, DC for training and meetings with members of Congress and the new Administration. The event will be hosted at George Mason University including Saturday (5/30) registration, Sunday (5/31) interfaith service and advocacy training and D.C. meetings and a rally on June 1st. The costs for registration are only \$110 and *include room, board, training and DC-area travel*. **We are looking for organizations who are willing to sponsor/invite their members and/or former volunteers to participate in the program.** At only \$110, the registration is quite a bargain for an advocacy and training session. For more information please contact (b) (6) or (b) (6)

5) PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER AND ACTION: Please keep an eye out for more information on this developing event.

6) WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE: The address for our new Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign website is <http://gccwc.wordpress.com/>. Be sure to check for updates!

Thanks for all of your help! We will be in contact more in the next few days with further details. We had some encouraging meetings with members of the Obama Administration lately which we hope to build on. Thank you so much for your continued support and please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments or concerns.

Regards,

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
 Washington, DC 20036
 Tel: (b) (6)
 Fax: (202) 463-6606

EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 5th, 2009

Contact: Jeffrey Buchanan, (b) (6)

OTHER CONTACTS

Campaign Applauds Job-Creating Gulf Coast Recovery Legislation

Newly Introduced Gulf Coast Civic Works Act Promotes Infrastructure, Training and Comprehensive Flood Protection

WASHINGTON, DC – May 5th – The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign, a national partnership of community, faith-based, environmental, student and human rights organizations, applauds the introduction today of bipartisan legislation to rebuild more equitable and resilient communities across the areas still recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009 would create 100,000 “green” living wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents and displaced people to rebuild critical infrastructure, restore natural flood protection and increase energy efficiency. This critical legislation allows the federal government to partner directly with local leaders and non-profits to address remaining recovery challenges while building resilience to climate change, mitigating the effects of future deadly storms and confronting poverty. It also addresses the harsh challenges faced by internally displaced people, women, the disabled, low-income people, people of color, immigrants, and the elderly in the region’s recovery.

The Act was introduced in the U.S. House by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Joseph Cao (LA), Charlie Melancon (LA), Gene Taylor (MS) INSERT OTHERS. See a bill summary. See full text as submitted.

Almost four years after Hurricane Katrina, our nation’s largest natural disaster, America’s Gulf Coast remains a domestic human rights crisis. As we approach the 2009 Hurricane Season on June 1st, levees remains vulnerable, tens of thousands of people have not been able to return home, schools, hospitals and transportation infrastructure remains damaged, and residents continue to struggle for access to affordable housing and living wage jobs.

INSERT QUOTES

With the beginning of the 2009 Hurricane Season fast approaching, on May 30th-June 1st the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign will be bringing 400 advocates to Washington D.C. for training and meetings with members of Congress and the new Administration advocating for this critical legislation. Also May 28th-June 3rd faith-based supporters of the Campaign will be engaging in prayers services, discussions and film screenings remembering those 2,000 who died in recent storms and those communities who remain vulnerable as part of the National Week of Prayer and Action for Human Rights and Hurricane Recovery. For more information on how to participate in these events please visit: <http://gccwc.wordpress.com>.

Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign partner organizations include:

ACORN
BISCO – Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
Oxfam America
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
INSERT OTHER ORGS...

###

Schaefer, Margaret

From: Schaefer, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 8:40 AM
To: Gordon, Claudia; Parsons, Brian
Subject: FW: Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

FYI and some thoughts....

Glad to hear that this is moving forward and has *some* language within regarding individuals with disabilities, however, it is disappointing to hear that there has been no response from our NGO stakeholders to further strengthen the language – I know everyone is busy but if I were in the NGO world, this would seem like a ripe opportunity to me. Also embedded in this chain is a note from Jannah Scott, the new Faith Based person for DHS; I have been waiting for a window of time to call her and set up a meeting – this issue seems to have caused her to want this meeting sooner than later. The things I'd like to do re: follow-up here: I think a call from Jeffery to NDRN (b) (6) to talk about this opportunity might be enough to get his organization involved. They are flush with attorneys who work daily on issues affecting people with special needs and I think it would be fairly easy for them to assist with strengthening language for the Senate bill, which seems to be a need expressed by Jeffrey. I realize that this needs to be handled delicately – I will have a phone conversation with Jeffrey to see what he's done so far to get feedback. The second thing I will do is follow-up with Jannah – try and get a meeting between our offices. She seems to want this before her meeting with the RFK folks, so I will look at our calendars and see what is available to suggest to her, perhaps the first week of June.

Opinions welcome on these thoughts....thanks.

Maggie

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 5:31 PM
To: (b)(2)(fow), (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Dear Margaret,

Hope all is well. Well as you saw in the press release we forwarded, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act was introduced as HR 2269, now with 14 co-sponsors.

While we tried to reach out as a group to participants in the NGO meeting we presented at, we didn't receive much of a response surprisingly even though folks certainly seemed engaged at the time. It would be helpful to pick your brain on what might be best way to involve folks. The time frame I'm sure was not helpful on their part.

The final bill language did include the mandate for policies and funding within to be inclusive and sensitive to the challenges faced by disabled residents, but it would be nice to have more teeth in the language for the Senate bill (or as an amendment in the House bill) to better address concerns that organizations have had with previous recovery programs or specific issues likely to come up where we can get out ahead of the curve and insert some best practices.

I also wanted to let you know your colleague Jannah Scott, faith-based advisor to Sec. Napolitano, might reach out to you for background on our conversations to date. Some of our faith-based supporters are facilitating a meeting next week with Jannah, so we're hopefully it can be another positive step towards getting more buy-in from the administration on the policy, either as legislation or administrative action.

Thank you so much for your help.

7/22/2009

Regards,

Jeffrey Buchanan
Information Officer,
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
 1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
 Washington, DC 20036
 Tel: (b) (6) [REDACTED]
 Fax: (202) 463-6606

From: Scott, Jannah [mailto:(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Jeffrey Buchanan
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Dear Marge and Jeff,

Sorry it took so long to respond. I had a major event, then left town. I am back May 22. Any of those times except May 26 work for me.

Jeff, who in OCRCL are you working with? I would like to touch base with him or her prior to our meeting.

Graciously,

Jannah Scott

(b)(2)(low), (b)(6) Cell

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Device.

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6) <(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)>
Cc: Marge Clark <(b)(2)(low), (b)(6)>
Sent: Fri May 15 15:35:14 2009
Subject: RE: Gulf Coast Civic Works Act
 Thanks Marge for the introduction!

Dear Jannah,

Attached is the bill as introduced (there were a few slight changes between the version Marge sent and what was introduced). Also below is a press release on the bill's introduction with information on the 13 bipartisan co-sponsors of the bill to date and the 140 partner organizations in the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign.

I've also attached, as background, a letter sent last September from over 110 national faith leaders last year sent to then Sen. Obama urging the next (now current) administration to support this policy.

We've been working with Janet Woodka, the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Recovery at DHS, and folks at DHS Office of Civil Rights and Liberties to gather input on the legislation and on potential for administrative action within these policy goals, so it would certainly be tremendous to meet with you to discuss the remaining challenges in recovery and the possibly opportunities, especially for utilizing the strength and knowledge of faith and community-based efforts, presented by this policy.

Marge's availabilities work for me except I will be out of town on March 26th. We look forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss the legislation.

7/22/2009

Best,

Jeffrey Buchanan
 Information Officer,
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
 1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200
 Washington, DC, 20036
 Tel: [REDACTED]
 Fax: (202) 463-6606

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeffrey Buchanan, RFK Center, (b) (6);
 Jainey Bavishi, Equity and Inclusion Campaign, (b) (6);
 Diane Yentel, Oxfam America, (b) (6);
 Dr. Scott Myers Lipton, GCCWP (b) (6);

Campaign Applauds Green Job-Creating Gulf Coast Recovery Legislation

The Newly Introduced Bipartisan Gulf Coast Civic Works Act (HR 2269) Promotes Infrastructure, Training, Comprehensive Flood Protection and Energy Efficiency.

WASHINGTON, DC – May 7th – The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign, a diverse national partnership of community, environmental, faith-based, human rights and student organizations, applauds the introduction this afternoon of bipartisan legislation to rebuild more equitable and resilient communities across the areas still recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009 (H.R. 2269) would create 100,000 “green” living wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents and displaced people to rebuild critical infrastructure, restore natural flood protection and increase energy efficiency. This important legislation allows the federal government to partner directly with local leaders and non-profits to address remaining recovery challenges while building resilience to climate change, mitigating the effects of future deadly storms and confronting poverty. It also addresses the challenges faced by internally displaced, elderly, disabled, women, low income, immigrant and minority communities.

HR 2269 was introduced in the U.S. House yesterday afternoon by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Rodney Alexander (LA), Joseph Cao (LA), Charlie Melancon (LA), Gene Taylor (MS), Bennie Thompson (MS), John Conyers (MI), Bob Filner (CA), Barbara Lee (CA), John Lewis (GA), Peter Stark (CA), and Charlie Rangel (NY).

Learn more about the bill at <http://gcwec.wordpress.com>.

Almost four years after Hurricane Katrina, our nation’s largest natural disaster, America’s Gulf Coast remains a domestic human rights crisis. As we approach the 2009 Hurricane Season beginning June 1st, levees remain vulnerable, tens of thousands of people have not been able to return home, hospitals, schools, and transportation infrastructure remains damaged, and residents continue to struggle for access to affordable housing and living wage jobs.

“Nonprofit and community groups have been the heroic leaders of the citizen-led Gulf Coast recovery. The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act will efficiently allocate funds for job creation and infrastructure development, two significant recovery needs, by avoiding layers of governmental red tape and dispersing funds directly to the entities, regardless of sector, which are ready to do the work,” said

Jainey Bavishi, director of the Equity and Inclusion Campaign, a coalition of organizations working on recovery across Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

“ACORN finds the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act to be a reasonable and viable pilot project not just for rebuilding the Gulf Coast from the 2005 hurricane season but for providing a community driven recovery plan for any and every part of America where natural or other disasters occur,” said Bertha Lewis, Chief Organizer/CEO of ACORN. “Locals should be at the forefront of recovery and rebuilding of communities following hurricanes, floods, fires, or even bridge collapses. Our infrastructure is in need of repair nationwide and ACORN believes HR 2269 provides a valuable blueprint for how that can happen.”

“This legislation takes an important step towards assuring that communities that are most vulnerable to the direct effects of climate change be able to prepare for and adapt to those impacts by building resilience and reducing risk,” said Rhonda Jackson, Gulf Coast Program Manager, Oxfam America. “The bill would create jobs to assist in restoring the Gulf Coast's first line of defense against hurricanes and floods by rebuilding the coastline and will employ local citizens in this important work.”

“The introduction--and hopefully quick passage--of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, is important not just for the Gulf Coast but the entire nation,” said Dr. Scott Myers Lipton, co-founder of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, a student organization with members on over 30 campuses across the nation. “This legislation, with its focus on enlisting communities in their own restoration and expanding opportunity provides the Obama Administration and Congress with an effective new model for disaster recovery and infrastructure development.”

“Passing HR 2269 would be a bold stand for the fundamental rights of displaced and low-income Gulf Coast residents,” said Monika Kalra Varma, Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights. “The right to participate in recovery, to return home with dignity and safety, and to decent work opportunities – these are the basic human rights that we have denied survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita for too long.”

Marking the beginning of the 2009 Hurricane Season, on May 30th - June 1st the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign will be bringing 400 advocates to Washington D.C. for training and meetings with members of Congress and the new Administration advocating for this critical legislation. For more information on how to participate in these events and support the legislation please visit: <http://gcwc.wordpress.com>.

Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign partner organizations include:

232-HELP/Louisiana 211

ACORN

ACT All Congregations Together

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights

AFL-CIO Investment Trust Program

African American Environmentalist Association

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.

Alabama Arise

Alliance for Affordable Energy

Appleseed

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Bay Area Women Coalition, Inc.

Bayou Grace Community Services

Biloxi NAACP

BISCO Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Brethren Disaster Ministries
CDC 58:12, inc.
Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal
Churches Supporting Churches
Clergy Strategic Alliances, LLC
ColorofChange.org
Commission on Stewardship of the Environment, Louisiana Interchurch Conference
Common Ground Health Clinic
Common Ground Relief, Inc.
Community Church Unitarian Universalist
COPE Congregations Organizing People for Equality
Dando la Mano / Extending a Hand
Desire Street Ministries NOLA
Disciples Justice Action Network (Disciples of Christ)
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Equity and Inclusion Campaign
For the Bayou
Finding Our Folk
First Pilgrims Baptist JEDC-HDM
First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans, Social Justice Team
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
FUEL Faith United for Empowerment and Leadership
Gamaliel Foundation
Gert Town Revival Initiative, Inc.
Global Green USA
Global Mission Partnerships, Church of the Brethren
Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
Gulf Restoration Network
Hip Hop Caucus
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
Hope Center, Inc.
Hope Community Development Agency
Hope Haven of Hancock County Inc.
Institute for Human Rights and Responsibilities Inc.
Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies
Interfaith Alliance
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
JustFaith Ministries
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Louisiana Appleseed
Louisiana Community Reinvestment Coalition
Louisiana Conference of The UMC Disaster Responses, Inc
Louisiana Housing Alliance
Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper
Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development
Maria Inamagua Campaign for Justice
May Day New Orleans
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.

Mennonite Central Committee-New Orleans
MICAH Project
Minnesota Tenants Union
Minnesota-New Orleans Solidarity Committee
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Coast Interfaith Disaster Task Force
Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative
Moore Community House
MPOWER, Mississippi Poultry Workers for Equality and Respect
MQVN Community Development Corporation
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
National Employment Law Project
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
National Jobs for All Coalition
National Lawyers Guild - Minnesota Chapter
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH)
NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New Orleans East Cooperative Parish
New Orleans Institute
New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative
New Voices, Academy for Educational Development
North Gulfport Community Land Trust
Northside Neighbors for Justice
Oak Park Civic Association
Ouachita Riverkeeper
Oxfam America
Pax Christi USA
PICO Louisiana
PolicyLink
Praxis Project
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Prince Garrett Ministries
Providence Community Housing
Puentes New Orleans, Inc.
Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation
Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference
Sierra Club, Delta Chapter
Soria City Civic Organization
South Bay Community Alliance
Special Commission on the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, National Council of Churches
Squandered Heritage
St. Bernard Project
STEPS Coalition
Student Hurricane Network

Survivors Village New Orleans
Tennessee Alliance for Progress
Terrebonne Readiness & Assistance Coalition – TRAC
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, (t.e.j.a.s.)
The Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana Office of Disaster Response
The Latino Leadership Circle
The Presbytery of South Louisiana Recovery
The Quest for Social Justice
The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Turkey Creek Community Initiatives
Union of Black Episcopalians
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Hearts Community Action Agency, Inc.
UNITY of Greater New Orleans with Common Ground Institute
Universalist Unitarian Service Committee
Women Donors Network
Women In Construction, Moore Community House
Workers Emergency Relief Campaign
Youth Inspirational Connection, Inc.
Youthanasia Foundation
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

Source: Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign <http://gccwc.wordpress.com>

From: Marge Clark (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 3:04 PM
To: (b)(2)(low), (b)(6)
Cc: Jeffrey Buchanan
Subject: Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Hello, Jannah,

I can hardly believe it is an entire month since we met at the Faith Community gathering at the Methodist Building. I told you at that time I would send the completed "Gulf Coast Civic Works Act" when it was introduced. It was finally introduced a bit over a week ago. I am attaching that and a link to the organization which is working hard with Representative Lofgren's office to get the bill moving. I have been working to get co-sponsors, since it was introduced, and worked to get last session's co-sponsors to be original ones this session. It is sometimes hard work.

I would like to have an opportunity to meet with you about the bill, when you have had a chance to read through it. It is not particularly long, as bills go. And, I hope to have Jeffrey Buchanan from the Robt. F. Kennedy Foundation meet with us. Jeffrey is one of the coordinators of action on this bill.

I would have pretty good availability during the week of May 25th, if there are times that week which are good for you.

Tues. except 11:00 - 12:30

Wed. except 10:30 - 2:30

Friday after 10:30

The following week,

Tues. June 2, any time

Wed. after 11:30

7/22/2009

Thurs any time
Friday after 11:00

There is more information about the bill, and about the organization working on it at:
<http://gccewc.wordpress.com/about/>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Marge Clark, BVM
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
25 E Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001-1630

(b) (6)

FAX: 202-347-9864

(b) (6)

To sign up for NETWORK email alerts:
<http://capwiz.com/networklobby/mlm/signup/>

Fulmer, Debbie

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 10:29 AM
To: Brian Parsons (b) (6); Claudia Gordon (b) (6); Debbie Fulmer (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); margaret schaefer (b) (6); Marcie Roth (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6); Salvador Sarmiento
Subject: Including disabilities in the introduction of Gulf Coast Civic Works Act

Greetings all,

On further review of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, we found that we do include language promoting the inclusion of disabled communities under the legislation's definition of vulnerable populations. For example, on page 26, the bill requires "hiring, planning and implementation [to] adequately involve and look to protect the rights and interests of vulnerable populations, including women, low-income people, people of color, immigrants, the disabled, and the elderly." Of course we could still use your help on improving the legislation to include best practices for ensuring the intention of these protections can be adequately carried out, especially as the Senate companion comes together. We would love to hear any further thoughts your organizations may have. Still we hope this bill could go a long way in helping marginalized communities to work together and overcome remaining challenges. I would really encourage you all to reach out to Stephen (b) (6) have any further thoughts. Again we'd be honored to work with your organizations on this critical legislation.

On another important note, on the U.S. House side the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act will be introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren and a growing bi-partisan group of co-sponsors on this Tuesday (5/5/2009). I wanted to share some core documents regarding the bill with each of you and some information on next steps below, including asking your organization to consider signing on to the press release endorsing the legislation and considering further partnering in this campaign.

- **Latest draft of the bill:** <http://geewe.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/geew-act-draft.pdf>
- **Memo on changes to the bill since the 110th Congress:** <http://geewe.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/revision-to-geewa.pdf>
- **Overview of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act:** <http://geewe.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/gulfcoastciveworksactsum.doc>
- **Draft of Urgent Action Email re: GCCWA:** http://geewe.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/draft_geewa_urgent_action.doc
- **Excel Sheet of Top U.S. House Targets and Contacts:** http://www.rtkcenter.org/files/Top100Targets_0.xls

Before the bill is introduced we need YOUR HELP:

1) SIGN ON TO THE PRESS RELEASE: At the request of Congressional sponsors of the bill, we are putting out a press release announcing the legislation's introduction and wanted to include a list of all the supporters of the bill. I know many of you have already signed on to previous documents but **PLEASE EMAIL ME (b) (6)** **BY COB MONDAY 5/4/2009 TO BE ADDED TO THE PRESS RELEASE AS A SUPPORTING ORG OF THE GULF COAST CIVIC WORKS ACT!** After emailing that you can sign on, please take a few moments to forward this email inviting colleagues at other possibly interested organizations to sign on as well. You can view the draft release below (it might be tweaked slightly, and a few quotes will be added) or at <http://geewe.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/geewaintrducingapressreleaseedit043009.doc>. I'll email everyone the final release on Tuesday morning with all the groups listed. We would appreciate if your organization could distribute the press release or a tweaked version of it to include quotes from your principles. We will also send the release to every Congressional office urging their support.

2) SEND AN URGENT ACTION: After the bill is released we would appreciate if your organization would be able to

7/22/2009

send an urgent action to your membership email lists, urging them to ask their Member of Congress to co-sponsor the bill. ~~You can find sample language with links to an action to send to Members of Congress here.~~

http://www.geewe.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/draft_send_to_member_action.doc We have a page set up for folks to directly contact their Members of Congress here: <http://org2.democracyinaction.org/c/8197/15835/campaign.jsp?campaign=KEY-1375>

If you want to use your own web system or language that is great. If you do send an urgent action please contact [REDACTED] with the results of the action. We want to try to track actions office by office, to keep tabs on our levels of support in targeted districts.

3) OFFER FOR DC-BASED STAFF TO ATTEND CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS IN DC: On the last conference call, DC-based staff from a handful of organizations agreed to form a working group to participate in meetings with D.C. based Congressional staff of key offices moving forward. If you were not on the last conference call and would be able to be a part of these meetings moving forward please contact [REDACTED] (b) (6)

4) CO-SPONSOR GULF COAST CIVIC WORKS ADVOCACY DAYS IN DC: We will be distributing detailed information shortly on opportunities to support the bill and the campaign during the beginning of Hurricane Season with our Gulf Coast Civic Works Advocacy Days bringing 400 advocates including Gulf Coast residents and their national supporters to Washington, DC for training and meetings with members of Congress and the new Administration. The event will be hosted at George Mason University including Saturday (5/30) registration, Sunday (5/31) interfaith service and advocacy training and D.C. meetings and a rally on June 1st. The costs for registration are only \$110 and *include room, board, training and DC-area travel*. **We are looking for organizations who are willing to sponsor/invite their members and/or former volunteers to participate in the program.** At only \$110, the registration is quite a bargain for an advocacy and training session. For more information please contact [REDACTED] (b) (6) or [REDACTED]

5) PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER AND ACTION: Please keep an eye out for more information on this developing event.

6) WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE: The address for our new Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign website is <http://geewe.wordpress.com>. Be sure to check for updates!

Thanks for all of your help! We will be in contact more in the next few days with further details. We had some encouraging meetings with members of the Obama Administration lately which we hope to build on. Thank you so much for your continued support and please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments or concerns.

Regards,

Jeffrey Buchanan

Information Officer,

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 463-6606

EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 5th, 2009

Contact: Jeffrey Buchanan, buchanan@rfkmemorial.org 202-257-9048

OTHER CONTACTS

Campaign Applauds Job-Creating Gulf Coast Recovery Legislation

Newly Introduced Gulf Coast Civic Works Act Promotes Infrastructure, Training and Comprehensive Flood Protection

WASHINGTON, DC – May 5th – The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign, a national partnership of community, faith-based, environmental, student and human rights organizations, applauds the introduction today of bipartisan legislation to

7/22/2009

rebuild more equitable and resilient communities across the areas still recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in ~~Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.~~

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009 would create 100,000 “green” living wage jobs and training opportunities for Gulf Coast residents and displaced people to rebuild critical infrastructure, restore natural flood protection and increase energy efficiency. This critical legislation allows the federal government to partner directly with local leaders and non-profits to address remaining recovery challenges while building resilience to climate change, mitigating the effects of future deadly storms and confronting poverty. It also addresses the harsh challenges faced by internally displaced people, women, the disabled, low-income people, people of color, immigrants, and the elderly in the region’s recovery.

The Act was introduced in the U.S. House by Representatives Zoe Lofgren (CA), Joseph Cao (LA), Charlie Melancon (LA), Gene Taylor (MS) INSERT OTHERS. See a bill summary. See full text as submitted.

Almost four years after Hurricane Katrina, our nation’s largest natural disaster, America’s Gulf Coast remains a domestic human rights crisis. As we approach the 2009 Hurricane Season on June 1st, levees remains vulnerable, tens of thousands of people have not been able to return home, schools, hospitals and transportation infrastructure remains damaged, and residents continue to struggle for access to affordable housing and living wage jobs.

INSERT QUOTES

With the beginning of the 2009 Hurricane Season fast approaching, on May 30th-June 1st the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign will be bringing 400 advocates to Washington D.C. for training and meetings with members of Congress and the new Administration advocating for this critical legislation. Also May 28th-June 3rd faith-based supporters of the Campaign will be engaging in prayers services, discussions and film screenings remembering those 2,000 who died in recent storms and those communities who remain vulnerable as part of the National Week of Prayer and Action for Human Rights and Hurricane Recovery. For more information on how to participate in these events please visit: <http://gccwc.wordpress.com>.

Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign partner organizations include:

ACORN
 BISCO – Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
 Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
 Oxfam America
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
INSERT OTHER ORGS...

###

Fulmer, Debbie

From: Jeffrey Buchanan (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:44 AM
To: Brian Parsons; (b) (6); Claudia Gordon; (b) (6); Debbie Fulmer; (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6); margaret schaefer; (b) (6); Marcie Roth; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6); Salvador Sarmiento
Subject: Thank you and more information on Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign
Attachments: GCCW Act draft.pdf; GCCWA of 2009 Summary_.pdf; Interfaith%20Letter[1].pdf; Gulf_Coast_Civic_Works_to_Pres_Elect_Obama_2[1].pdf

Greetings!

Thanks so much for taking the time to meet with us Tuesday and hear our presentation on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign. It was a pleasure to discuss these pressing challenges with the NGO working group and we are excited about the prospects of working with your offices moving forward to continue to push for just disaster recovery policy, including the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act, to overcome the obstacles still facing marginalized communities. It was tremendously informative to begin a discussion with all of you and I hope we can continue it in the near future. Please feel free to reach out to me via the contact information below.

Attached is:

- Draft of Gulf Coast Civic Works Act of 2009.
- Summary of the bill
- Copy of the Interfaith Statement we distributed at the presentation
- Copy of letter to President Obama during the stimulus debate urging authorization and funding of GCCW Program.

You can access the slides from Tuesday's presentation at: <http://gccwe.wordpress.com/files/2009/04/gccwe-presentation.pdf>

You can visit our new joint campaign website at: <http://gccwe.wordpress.com>

If you do have any thoughts on suggested changes for including language to promote more sensitivity to the challenges and needs of your constituents in the legislation please contact us as soon as possible. Rep. Zoe Lofgren plans to introduce the U.S. House Bill on April 30th currently so there is a small window. If you can get me comments (b) (6) as soon as possible that would be great. My apologies for this short response time.

We will try to do all that we can to include these suggestions and continue to work to make the policy more sensitive, including in the Senate companion before its introduction. In our meetings with the Administration and members of Congress since we met, we have stressed the need to include the challenges faced by the disability community in this and other recovery legislation.

We just had a rather productive meeting with the new Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Recovery and folks at the W.H. Domestic Policy Council so we are excited about the prospects of this campaign.

I want to pass along my colleague Stephen Bradberry's contact information as well.

Stephen Bradberry
 National Campaign Coordinator, ACORN

(b) (6)

I would encourage you to reach out to Stephen if your local members or organizations are interested in participating with

7/22/2009

our partners with the Gulf Coast wide multi-issue advocacy campaign, the **Equity and Inclusion Campaign**, which in addition to ~~Gulf Coast Civic Works~~, looks into the range of local, state and federal recovery and relief issues facing Gulf Coast communities now and in the event of future disasters. I know they would be particularly interested in engaging with your organization.

Thanks again and we look forward to continuing this effort!

Regards,
Jeffrey

Jeffrey Buchanan

Information Officer

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

1367 Connecticut Ave., NW Suite 200

Washington, DC, 20036

Tel: (b) (6)

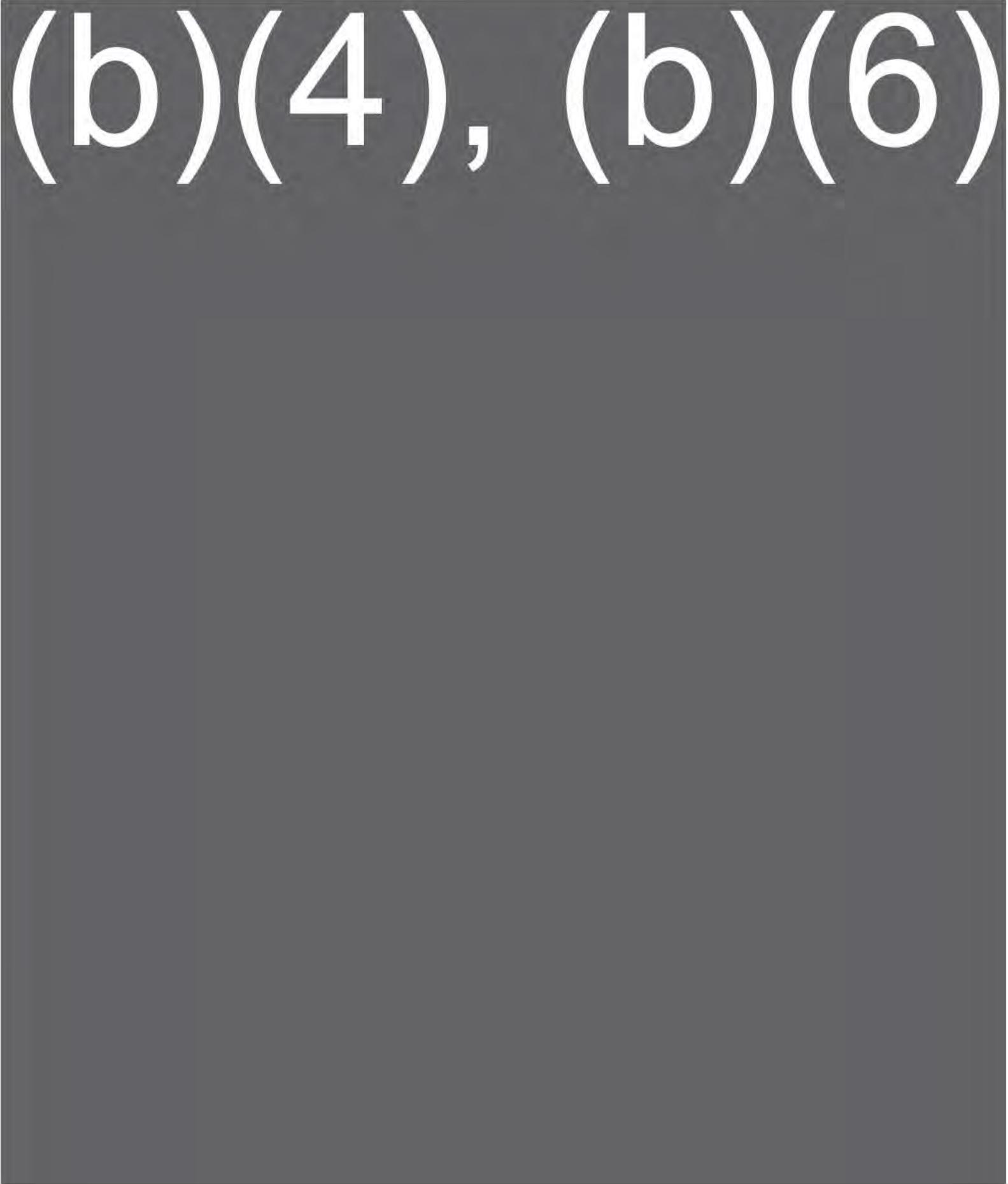
Fax: (202) 463-6606

AI has received and managed numerous federal funding since its founding in 2000. Most recently, AI was awarded and carried out successful the grants listed below.

- From 2006 and going through 2011, AI has administered 6 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services (ROSS) grants in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas, with a total awarded funding of \$1,100,000. With each ROSS Grant, AI performs outreach and education activities in public housing complexes, including financial literacy trainings, free tax preparation, survey collection and community outreach in Spanish and English. Through these grant-funded activities, public housing residents learn how to build good credit, avoid predatory lenders, and other financial literacy basics that assist residents in developing immediate and long-term money management skills.
- AI has been awarded three contracts for Food Stamps and Food Services, utilizing federal money through local agencies. These grants include a Basic Food Outreach grant in Washington State for 2008-2009, a California Association of Food Banks contract in California for 2008-2009, and a Food Stamps grant in Georgia for 2008-2009. Through these grants, totaling more than \$730,000, AI carries out outreach, benefits screening, and other food assistance programs that help keep residents out of poverty.
- AI is currently carrying out a \$450,000 fire safety grant funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year in Rhode Island, Connecticut, District of Columbia, New Mexico, and Delaware. Through this program, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods receive education and assistance with emergency preparation, fire safety, and other fire-related issues.

Earlier this year, AI applied for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant for the city of Durham, NC. The proposal called for a community coalition with businesses, educational institutions and citizens to resolve several pollution problems affecting the area. The status of this proposal is pending.

(b)(4), (b)(6)



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Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

May 12, 2009

Dear ACORN Institute,

As a city department committed to improving the lives of the elderly population, the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of El Paso ACORN's grant application to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). With a successful grant application, the ACORN Institute (AI) will be working with its community partners to reach out to immigrants eligible for naturalization, particularly the elderly.

We believe that the AI and its partners will be effective agents for carrying out the activities for this project. Assisting the legal permanent resident population in our local communities is a worthy goal and we are supportive of AI's efforts.

Sincerely,

Judy Weiss, CPRP
Assistant Director
City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department





Las Americas

1500 E Vandell Dr.
El Paso TX 79902
(915) 544-5126
(915) 544-4041 fax
www.las-americas.org

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Hon. Albert Armendariz, Sr.
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Michael Wyatt, Esq.
West Cosgrove
Ruben Garcia

May 14, 2009

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves as notice that Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center will support and assist ACORN in their Citizenship Preparation Program.

Las Americas is a 21-year-old immigration legal services center in El Paso, Texas with a long history of doing citizenship petitions and citizenship fairs. We serve predominantly crime victims, unaccompanied immigrant children, and asylees. We also represent individuals in family-related immigration cases including naturalization.

We will assist ACORN in the following:

1. Assistance in attorney supervision of their citizenship fairs;
2. Assistance in referring crime victims who we assist to their citizenship fairs especially former Violence Against Women Act self-petitioners who may now qualify for citizenship;
3. Provided individual consultations for any citizenship fair attendee (legal permanent resident) whose application may have some complications;
4. Facilitate the Volunteer training on the N-400;

We will do the above were appropriate to accommodate ACORN's work in Phoenix and El Paso.

Las Americas has assisted and collaborated with ACORN before in various capacities and we will continue to do so. If you need to contact me, feel free to reach me at (915) 544-5126 ext. 22 or (b)(6). Thank you.

Sincerely,


Raymundo Eli Rojas
Executive Director



Concordia Lutheran Church

Joyfully serving Maryvale for over 50 years

4901 W. Indian School Rd

Phoenix, AZ 85031

623-247-8171

Pastor Jeff Berg

(b)(6)

May 14, 2009

Dear ACORN Institute,

As an organization committed to improving the lives of the immigrant population in the U.S., Concordia Lutheran Church is excited about and committed to working with the ACORN Institute (AI) and its community partners, such as Phoenix ACORN, as we work together to reach out to immigrants eligible for naturalization, particularly victims of domestic violence and/or trafficking, refugees, and low-income residents. We will be happy to encourage our staff, members and volunteers to get involved in this project and will also work to help AI reach the above-mentioned priority populations so that they can take part in the citizenship services provided by AI and its community partners. Additionally, we will work to support this program by continuing to provide a location for the citizenship classes in our church facilities.

We believe that the AI and its partners will be effective agents for carrying out the activities for this project and assisting the legal immigrant population in our local communities.

Sincerely,



Pastor Jeff Berg

Phoenix • KTVW 33

6006 South 30th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85042
(602) 243-3333
(602) 276-8658 FAX



May 14, 2009

Dear ACORN Institute,

As an organization committed to improving the lives of the immigrant population in the U.S., Univision 33TV is excited about and committed to working with the ACORN Institute (AI) and its community partners, such as Phoenix ACORN, as we work together to reach out to immigrants eligible for naturalization, particularly victims of domestic violence and/or trafficking, refugees, and low-income residents.

We will be happy to encourage our staff, members and volunteers to get involved in this project and will also work to help AI reach the above-mentioned priority populations so that they can take part in the citizenship services provided by AI and its community partners. Additionally, we will work to support this program by contributing our expertise in the field of media communications, announcing upcoming citizenship events, creating interview opportunities for new citizens and volunteers, and maintaining a website - yaeshora.info -- with information for citizenship applicants.

We believe that the AI and its partners will be effective agents for carrying out the activities for this project and assisting the legal immigrant population in our local communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria S. Flores".

News Director
Univision AZ

(b)(6)

ATTACHMENTS FORM

Instructions: On this form, you will attach the various files that make up your grant application. Please consult with the appropriate Agency Guidelines for more information about each needed file. Please remember that any files you attach must be in the document format and named as specified in the Guidelines.

Important: Please attach your files in the proper sequence. See the appropriate Agency Guidelines for details.

1) Please attach Attachment 1	AI Federal Grants.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
2) Please attach Attachment 2	AI 501-c-3 letter.pdf	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
3) Please attach Attachment 3	AI Indirect Cost Rate Memo.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
4) Please attach Attachment 4	AI Fringe Benefits.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
5) Please attach Attachment 5	(b)(4), (b)(6) resume.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
6) Please attach Attachment 6	(b)(4), (b)(6) resume.pdf	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
7) Please attach Attachment 7	(b)(4), (b)(6) resume.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
8) Please attach Attachment 8	(b)(4), (b)(6) resume.doc	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
9) Please attach Attachment 9	Parks & Recreation Support Letter	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
10) Please attach Attachment 10	County Attorney Support Letter	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
11) Please attach Attachment 11	Las Americas Support Letter.pdf	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
12) Please attach Attachment 12	Concordia Lutheran Church Support Letter	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
13) Please attach Attachment 13	Mi Familia Vota Support Letter	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
14) Please attach Attachment 14	Univision Support Letter.pdf	Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment
15) Please attach Attachment 15		Add Attachment	Delete Attachment	View Attachment

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION	
ACORN Institute	
* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Prefix: Mr.	* First Name: Brennan Middle Name:
* Last Name: Griffin	Suffix:
* Title: Executive Director	
* SIGNATURE: Brennan Griffin	* DATE: 05/15/2009

Project Abstract

The Project Abstract must not exceed one page and must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained description of the project and should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. It should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a technically literate lay reader. This Abstract must not include any proprietary/confidential information.

* Please click the add attachment button to complete this entry.

[Add Attachment](#)[Delete Attachment](#)[View Attachment](#)[AI Project Abstract.doc](#)

[Close Form](#)

Project Narrative File(s)

* Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename:

[Add Mandatory Project Narrative File](#)

[Delete Mandatory Project Narrative File](#)

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To add more Project Narrative File attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

[Add Optional Project Narrative File](#)

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ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

* SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL Brennan Griffin	* TITLE Executive Director
* APPLICANT ORGANIZATION ACORN Institute	* DATE SUBMITTED 05/15/2009

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

* 1. Type of Submission:		* 2. Type of Application:	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
<input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>

* 3. Date Received: <input type="text" value="05/15/2009"/>	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	--

5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	* 5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	---

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>
---	---

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): (b)(4) <input type="text"/>	* c. Organizational DUNS: <input type="text" value="199432506"/>
--	---

d. Address:

* Street1:	<input type="text" value="2609 Canal Street, Fifth Floor"/>
Street2:	<input type="text"/>
* City:	<input type="text" value="New Orleans"/>
County:	<input type="text"/>
* State:	<input type="text" value="LA: Louisiana"/>
Province:	<input type="text"/>
* Country:	<input type="text" value="USA: UNITED STATES"/>
* Zip / Postal Code:	<input type="text" value="70119"/>

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: <input type="text"/>	Division Name: <input type="text"/>
--	--

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: <input type="text" value="Mr."/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Brennan"/>
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Griffin"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	

Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>
* Email: <input type="text" value="(b)(6)"/>	

[Close Form](#)

Budget Narrative File(s)

* Mandatory Budget Narrative Filename:

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To add more Budget Narrative attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

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Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Office of Procurement Operations - Grants Division

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

97.010

CFDA Title:

Citizenship Education and Training

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

DHS-09-CIS-010-001

* Title:

Citizenship Grant Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

DHS-09-CIS-010-001

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Cities of El Paso, TX and Phoenix, AZ

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Citizenship Preparation Program

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="99,994.36"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="99,994.36"/>

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.)

Yes No

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

*** Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.

[Empty text input area for Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation]

Additional Congressional Districts for Phoenix, AZ

- AZ-02
- AZ-03
- AZ-04
- AZ-05
- AZ-06

The ACORN Institute's Citizenship Preparation Program
Phoenix, Arizona and El Paso, Texas

Project Narrative

a. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE/GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

"I first heard about the Citizenship Preparation Program on the evening television news. I was interested in the program because I had always wanted to be a U.S. citizen. It was a fun and interesting class each time I went. All of the students in the class got along very well and we helped each other during the class. It was well organized. All of the students in my class passed their citizenship test.

"The day of my swearing-in, there were about 1,200 people there from what I remember. I talked with many of them and they were just as excited as I was that we were finally becoming citizens. I was so impressed that even an 83-year-old man went through the process and swore in on this day...and I have continued to participate in the program even after gaining my own citizenship."

(b)(6) naturalized citizen and volunteer
with the Citizenship Preparation Program

In Phoenix, Arizona and El Paso, Texas, the ACORN Institute (AI) and our community partners have been working with immigrant populations for years and have developed strong programs designed to help immigrants gain a deeper understanding of American history, government, and society on their path to citizenship. AI understands that citizenship confers certain important rights and responsibilities, including the right to travel with a U.S. passport, work for the federal government, and petition for relatives to come more swiftly into this country and live. But the naturalization process does much more than that – it teaches new Americans more about this country's language, history, and government. It allows them to claim greater ownership of their lives.

If awarded a grant from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Citizenship Grant Program, AI and our community partners will be able to expand our citizenship programs and help many more legal immigrants to gain full citizenship status. Our goals for the Citizenship Preparation Program are as follows:

1. Reach out to immigrant populations, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups such as low-income immigrants; refugees and asylees; survivors of domestic violence, other violent crimes and human trafficking; elderly immigrants; and juveniles with special immigrant visa status.
2. Assist these immigrants in applying for U.S. citizenship, both by helping them fill out the necessary forms and enrolling them in our Citizenship Preparation Classes.

3. Educate these new Americans, helping them along their path to becoming U.S. citizens and full participants in American democracy.

We will achieve these goals through the following broad objectives, which are described in detail in the Program and Performance Plan section of this proposal:

1. **Outreach** – a multifaceted approach to raising awareness of our program among immigrant populations, especially within the priority immigrant populations.
2. **Initial Assistance and Enrollment** – a process in which we help Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) to fill out their citizenship applications, tell them about our Citizenship Preparation Classes, and enroll them in these classes.
3. **Education** – our Citizenship Preparation Classes, which teach immigrants about this country's language, history, government and society, preparing them to pass their citizenship test and to become fully participating members in American democracy.

Having run successful outreach and citizenship education programs in Phoenix and El Paso since 2007, AI and our community partners are confident that a grant from USCIS would increase our capacity and help us to help many more legal immigrants in disadvantaged populations to become full U.S. citizens.

b. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

AI's community partners currently provide support to LPRs applying for U.S. Citizenship in the cities of El Paso, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona. Both cities are home to immigrant communities that are in special need of programs supporting their efforts in the process of naturalization. As the largest border city in the U.S., El Paso is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the country. It is also located across the river from the Mexican city of Juarez, making the two cities extremely close in terms of economic and social bonds. The city of Phoenix has the largest percentage increase of LPRs in the U.S., meaning that there will also be an increase in need for naturalization services in that city.

Our community partners, Phoenix ACORN and El Paso ACORN, have a proven history of providing social services to low-income residents in their cities' metropolitan areas. Both offices have established programs for immigration services that start with community outreach, followed by annual (or more frequent) Citizenship Fairs, where local LPRs can come and get help filling out the Application for Naturalization, the N-400. Volunteers, including immigration lawyers, provide the assistance needed to make the naturalization process easy and accessible to residents that may not be able to afford legal assistance. The Citizenship Fairs have been very successful in reaching out to LPRs that had been delaying their naturalization due to lack of funding, lack of information or misinformation about their eligibility.

At the fairs, LPRs are informed about other immigration services that are provided by AI and our community partners. The fairs provide an excellent venue for outreach where LPRs can receive relevant information about eligibility, how the process of naturalization

works and how to prepare for the citizenship test. LPRs can also sign up for AI's citizenship classes offered in ACORN's local offices and be part of the Citizenship Preparation Program. This much-needed program reaches out to LPRs that have found it difficult to apply for citizenship on their own or by hiring costly lawyers.

The number of naturalizations in the United States doubled in nearly every state in 2008.¹ A number of reasons can be attributed to this surprising jump, such as the fact that 2008 was an election year and many eligible immigrants wanted to participate in the election process. There was also an increase in fee costs for the process of naturalization in the middle of the year, so many eligible LPRs rushed to get their forms in before the announced fee increase. In Texas, there were nearly 30,000 more naturalizations in 2008 than 2007, a 30% increase; and in Arizona, the figure doubled from 12,091 to 24,055 in the same period. In the case of Arizona, our community partner, ACORN, contributed to the increase in naturalizations by working with media outlets that publicized both the fee increase and the services provided by community organizations.

The number of naturalizations has been increasing in the last three years, and our program is designed to make the process easier for those LPRs who want to become full members of American society.

The Case for El Paso

El Paso is an important U.S. city because of its unique location and its long history of immigration. The city sits on the Mexico-U.S. border, separated from Ciudad Juarez by the Rio Grande River. The city of El Paso has a population of 592,627 while the borderland region is home to approximately two million people, making it the largest border metropolis in the world.² According to the American Community Survey performed by the U.S. Census, 80% of the El Paso population consider themselves Hispanic or Latino regardless of their legal U.S. status.

Texas was ranked number four in the list of states that had the highest number of persons becoming U.S. citizens in 2008.³ Yet its city of El Paso does not rank high among the metropolitan areas in the state, or in the U.S., in the number of people who became naturalized citizens. In 2007, only 2,314 of the 660,477 people naturalized in the country did so in El Paso, placing it at number 38 on the list of the metropolitan areas with the highest number of naturalizations that year.⁴ Considering the number of immigrants and LPRs that reside in the city, this number is not reflecting the amount of people that should be able to apply and gain their citizenship.

The number of legal residents applying for citizenship in El Paso is likely to grow in the next few years as border security is set to increase. It has been common practice for El

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Table: Persons Naturalized by State or Territory of Residence: Fiscal Years 1999-2008

² ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2005-2007, El Paso, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area

³ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, N-400 naturalization data for persons aged 18 and over

⁴ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2007 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

Pasoans to travel to Ciudad Juarez and back with only their driver's licenses as legal proof of residency in the U.S. Starting June 1, 2009, however, El Pasoans will be required to have a U.S. Passport to travel into Mexico. Because of this new requirement, the El Paso County Courthouse has seen 3,320 people apply for passports in April and 3,626 in March.⁵ AI expects that this new requirement will have more eligible LPRs actively seeking nationalization to avoid problems at the border. This new requirement may place extra pressure on LPRs to obtain their citizenship whereas before there was no immediate need for naturalization.

AI needs to be prepared for a greater number of LPRs in El Paso seeking U.S. naturalization services. The Citizenship Preparation Program will help AI provide more citizenship classes and make LPRs better equipped to pass their citizenship exam on the first try, thus reducing the time it takes to process their citizenship and avoiding further costs for reapplying if they fail the exam.

The Case for Phoenix

In Arizona, 81% of all immigrants in the state end up in Maricopa County, the site of the City of Phoenix.⁶ In the year 2000, nearly 69% of non-citizens in the state were in Phoenix regardless of their legal status.⁷ The numbers have been increasing since then, making Phoenix one of the preferred cities for LPRs in which to reside.

In 2007, 8,334 people obtained their U.S. citizenship in Phoenix, placing the city at number 17 on the list of metropolitan areas with the highest number of naturalizations that year. The city, however, had the highest percentage increase (177%) as a preferred destination for LPRs from the years 2001 to 2006 in the U.S.⁸ This change is highly significant because it indicates that there will also be a considerable increase in LPRs eligible to become citizens in upcoming years.

As of January 1, 2007, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimated that 240,000 LPRs lived in Arizona, with 160,000 eligible to become U.S. citizens.⁹ Sixty-seven percent of the LPRs in Arizona can be found in the Phoenix metro area; thus it can be argued that, in 2007, about 107,200 LPRs in Phoenix were eligible for citizenship. As pointed out above, only 8,334 of them actually obtained their citizenship, which is about 7% of the population eligible to do so.

AI realizes that there is a real need for citizenship services in the Phoenix area. The increase in LPRs living in Phoenix calls for more programs to serve those who are interested in applying for citizenship. The reason for the low number of LPRs who

⁵ Ramon Bracamontes. *Passport Rules Kick In June 1*. El Paso Times, April 28, 2009.

⁶ ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2005-2007, Maricopa County, AZ Metropolitan Statistical Area

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, United States Census 2000

⁸ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Characteristics of Major Metropolitan Destinations of Immigrants, February 2009

⁹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population in 2007, February 2009

acquired their citizenship can be attributed to the sudden increase of immigrants in a city that was unprepared to deal with this kind of population influx. Early in 2009, the first Citizenship Fair in Phoenix saw 250 people seek AI services, which confirms that there is indeed a need to provide these services to the immigrant community.

Need for Outreach

Because of the expected increase in LPRs seeking naturalization, community outreach is vital for the continuation of our program. Outreach efforts include low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in the El Paso and Phoenix metro areas. AI's community partners work in areas that are typically low- to moderate-income and approximately 80% Latino. The population served includes immigrant working families. About half of those served are female and the other half male.

AI employs a unique outreach model of door-to-door canvassing and handing out fliers in neighborhoods throughout El Paso and Phoenix. Canvassers speak with families on a personal basis, informing them of our Citizenship Fairs and the Citizenship Preparation Program, and providing them with fliers so that they can be reminded of the program and pass along the information to others that may need our services. While this model is labor-intensive, it is highly effective in reaching the immigrant population, especially the elderly who tend to stay at home during the day.

The door-to-door canvassing work is complemented by collaborating with our existing network of partnering churches, schools, businesses, media outlets and other organizations, to reach even more LPRs that are interested in naturalization services. Becoming a U.S. citizen in both Phoenix and El Paso will allow full civic participation of populations that are already an important part of the American community.

c. PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE PLAN

The Citizenship Preparation Program has three main objectives that come together to help legal immigrants gain the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. These main objectives are **Outreach, Initial Assistance and Enrollment, and Education.**

Outreach

AI and our community partners have developed a multifaceted outreach strategy for bringing legal immigrants, especially those from disadvantaged populations, into our Citizenship Preparation Program. For the outreach portion of the project, AI will subgrant to the community-based organizations El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN, both of which were selected as outreach subawardees after submitting proposals to AI that detailed and justified their capacity and capabilities of reaching the priority immigrant groups. Phoenix ACORN and El Paso ACORN are grassroots community organizations run by low- to moderate-income members that have successfully performed outreach projects on immigration and a variety of other issues for several years.

Outreach Strategy

1. **Distribute flyers through networks.** The memberships of El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN include a high percentage of immigrants. Thus, ACORN members perform a great deal of outreach simply by talking to their families, friends, neighbors, fellow churchgoers, etc. ACORN will create flyers advertising AI's citizenship classes, and these will be distributed throughout immigrant communities by ACORN members and staff. ACORN will also ask community partners, such as churches, schools, and other organizations, to distribute flyers to their membership.
2. **Canvass neighborhoods with high immigrant populations.** To reach a wider group than the personal networks of ACORN members, ACORN will organize canvassing days, during which community members cover a targeted portion of the city with flyers at high traffic areas. ACORN staff and members have an intimate knowledge of Phoenix and El Paso neighborhoods and where there are high concentrations of immigrants.
3. **Media outreach.** Community members who have successfully completed AI's program will be interviewed by the media to raise public awareness of the Citizenship Preparation Program. ACORN will reach out to the media, including networks with which ACORN has a close relationship such as Univision and La Voz Newspaper, to publicize upcoming citizenship fairs and to organize interviews of ACORN members who will be interviewed about their experiences in our Citizenship Preparation Program.
4. **Target outreach to priority immigrant populations.** El Paso Citizenship Preparation Classes have been attended by approximately 10-20% people over age 65, while Phoenix's classes have been attended by significant numbers of domestic violence survivors and some refugees. In addition, nearly all of the attendees in both cities belong to another disadvantaged immigrant population: low-income families. El Paso ACORN already has strong working relationships with other local organizations that help the priority immigrant populations as defined by USCIS. El Paso ACORN will work with these groups and others to bring in more members of disadvantaged immigrant populations to the program. These organizations include:
 - a. City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, which provides services to the elderly. A letter of support from this department is attached to the proposal.
 - b. El Paso County Attorney's Division on Domestic Abuse, who are very interested in reaching out and helping victims of domestic violence and the elderly. Their letter of support is attached to the proposal as well.
 - c. Las Americas Refugee Asylum, which offers legal assistance to refugees, asylees, and domestic violence survivors under the Violence Against Women Act. This group works with the Citizenship Preparation Program regularly at citizenship fairs, with volunteer training, and by providing legal advice to citizenship class attendees. A letter of support from this group is also attached to the proposal.

Phoenix ACORN works closely with Concordia Lutheran Church, whose letter of recommendation is attached to this proposal. Phoenix ACORN is also part of a

local coalition called "Ya Es Hora Ciudadania," which means "Now is the time for citizenship." Phoenix ACORN will obtain attendance lists from Citizenship Fairs held by the coalition and will call through the lists to further widen their outreach scope. Other coalition partners include:

- d. Univision 33 TV
- e. La Voz Newspaper
- f. Mi Familia Vota
- g. National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO)
- h. American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
- i. Respect/Respeto
- j. Somos America/We Are America Coalition
- k. United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Phoenix ACORN will also reach out to additional local organizations serving the priority immigrant populations, such as:

- l. International Rescue Committee, an assistance organization for refugees and survivors of trafficking
- m. Fresh Start Women's Foundation Women's Resource Center

Initial Assistance and Enrollment

The initial assistance and enrollment portion of the project involves organizing and conducting citizenship fairs, which move the program smoothly from outreach to education. Our subawardees, El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN, will organize and conduct these fairs, which they have been doing for years with great success. At the fairs, ACORN offers information about our citizenship classes, enrollment in upcoming classes, and assistance with filling out citizenship applications. We will also contract with other community partners, such as Las Americas Refugee Asylum in El Paso and AILA in Phoenix, to offer free legal advice at these citizenship fairs. Attorneys with our community partners have attended our citizenship fairs in the past and have offered useful legal advice to those who express interest in our classes and in filling out the N-400.

Initial Assistance and Enrollment Strategy

5. Citizenship Fairs

- a. Contract with immigration attorneys to supervise application and enrollment process and to consult with applicants
- b. Assist legal immigrants interested in becoming citizens with filling out N-400 applications
- c. Take photographs for citizenship applications
- d. Make copies of documents
- e. Perform quality control on applications by more experienced volunteers and attorneys
- f. Enroll applicants in our upcoming Citizenship Preparation Classes. In El Paso, determine whether to enroll each student in the English or Spanish language class. Phoenix classes are bilingual.

Education

Education Strategy: Citizenship Preparation Classes

Our Citizenship Preparation Classes are taught by qualified teachers who routinely achieve success rates of 95% or greater of students passing their citizenship tests. Our classes are designed to foster a working understanding of American history, government, and civics, and to prepare students for their interview with a USCIS official.

The complete 4-month course will be offered three times during the grant year in El Paso and in Phoenix. Classes are taught in Phoenix and El Paso on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm.

Beyond preparation for the citizenship test, our classes emphasize active citizenship and include lessons to develop the leadership skills of each student. Our instructors offer flexibility and have a sensitivity to those whose interview dates are coming up fast, and they will provide additional small-group or one-on-one tutoring sessions, often on weekends, for students close to their interview date. While the course is four months in duration, our instructors will work with students for longer than four months if requested, up until the day of their interview. After they have completed a course and have gained U.S. citizenship, we encourage our past students to volunteer to reach out to those who will be the next group of students. Many of our students become our volunteers and even our instructors.

Teaching plans and materials used in Phoenix and El Paso are attached to this proposal.

Timeline and Performance Measures

- Between September 2009 and September 2010, AI and our community partners will conduct **three 4-month Citizenship Preparation Courses** each in Phoenix and El Paso.
- These courses will be preceded by **three citizenship fairs** in each city.
- Citizenship fairs to kick off each round of classes will be conducted in **September 2009, January 2010, and May 2010.**
- Each class meeting is **two hours** in duration. Classes meet **twice per week** in El Paso and Phoenix (Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 pm).

Responsible Staff and Volunteers

(b)(4), (b)(6) Director of Grants Administration for AI, will serve as Project Administrator. (b)(4), (b)(6) will oversee the grant, ensure that the project is carried out properly in both cities, and be responsible for all necessary reporting. Her resume is attached, though it does not include her present position with AI. She began work with AI on April 6 of this year.

El Paso

(b)(4), (b)(6) will supervise local operations, staff and volunteers and report to (b)(4), (b)(6). His resume is attached.

(b)(4), (b)(6) a retired public school cafeteria worker and mother of three adult children, earned her citizenship in 2007 after attending our classes. (b)(4), (b)(6) coordinates citizenship fairs and grassroots fundraisers, acts as media spokesperson, and supervises the Spanish language citizenship classes.

(b)(4), (b)(6) who works in a boot factory and has one grown child, also completed our program and earned his citizenship in 2007. (b)(4), (b)(6) coordinates our citizenship fairs, recruits volunteers, conducts grassroots outreach and assists with the enrollment process. He is an assistant teacher in the Spanish language citizenship class.

(b)(4), (b)(6) is a math professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. He and his wife Anna and their two young children live in a neighborhood where ACORN has helped neighbors get rid of a drug dealer. (b)(4), (b)(6) teach the English language citizenship preparation class. His resume is attached.

(b)(4), (b)(6) is a social worker for adults with mental health problems and mental retardation. Her mother completed our program in 2007. She is an assistant teacher in the English language citizenship preparation class.

Phoenix

(b)(4), (b)(6) will supervise local operations, staff and volunteers and report to (b)(4), (b)(6). Her resume is attached.

(b)(4), (b)(6) is our primary Citizenship Class Instructor. A restaurant manager, she has extensive experience in group dynamics and interactive models of instruction. (b)(4), (b)(6) has taught our bilingual class for almost two years, enjoying high rates of class participation and successful completion. Her resume is attached.

(b)(4), (b)(6) is a naturalized citizen who recently completed our program. He performs outreach, especially in partnership with Univision 33 TV, assists with completion of citizenship applications at our fairs, and regularly participates in our ongoing Citizenship Classes to motivate and share information with current students.

(b)(4), (b)(6) are immigrants themselves, who have participated in our train-the-trainer program led by immigration attorneys. They have trained others to assist legal immigrants with completing citizenship applications, as well as expanding our grassroots outreach efforts.

(b)(4), (b)(6) both newly naturalized citizens, share information in classes regarding what to expect in the USCIS interview, etc., to help

others prepare.

Barriers and Resolutions

Our community partners, through years of working closely with low-income and immigrant populations, have encountered and resolved many barriers that could prevent people from attending citizenship classes.

Our Phoenix classes are located on the West side of Phoenix, where most legal immigrants live. Still, Phoenix ACORN is flexible and has set up additional, alternative sites as needed, especially in response to requests from community partners. In El Paso, classes are centrally located in town. Most students who attend live in a central location, though El Paso has had a few students driving up to 25 minutes to participate.

Offering classes in the evenings makes them much easier for most working people to attend. Both El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN are prepared to offer additional class times if needed.

El Paso ACORN accommodates parents by inviting children to class and providing an activity table for them, though few students have brought their children to class.

d. CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Building on Success

A grant from USCIS would allow AI and our community partners to expand our vital programs for immigrants in El Paso and Phoenix. Our current capacity has allowed our community partners to achieve the following in recent years:

El Paso ACORN

- July 2007: Conducted Citizenship Fair; assisted 140 LPRs in completing naturalization applications
- July-December 2007: Taught 60 LPRs in Citizenship Preparation Class
- January 2008: Conducted Citizenship Fair; assisted 50 LPRs in completing naturalization applications
- September 2008: Conducted Citizenship Fair; assisted 80 LPRs in completing naturalization applications
- October 2008-March 2009: Taught 30 LPRs in Citizenship Preparation Class
- April 2009: Conducted Citizenship Fair; assisted 30 LPRs in completing naturalization applications
- May 2009: Enrolled 20 LPRs in upcoming Citizenship Preparation Class

Phoenix ACORN

- January 2007-present: Have taught 600 LPRs in Citizenship Preparation and/or ESL classes
- 2007: Assisted 1,700 LPRs in completing naturalization applications

- 2007: Worked on coalition that together assisted 5,000 LPRs in completing naturalization applications
- Have had as many as 200 students enrolled in Citizenship Preparation Classes at one time
- April 2009: Conducted Citizenship Fair which attracted 250 attendees; assisted 200 LPRs in completing naturalization applications

Considering the great need for naturalization assistance services in El Paso and Phoenix, along with the success stories of our students, AI and our community partners are excited about the opportunity to apply for additional funding in order to increase our outreach, assistance, enrollment and education. Funding from USCIS would allow us to reach more LPRs who wish to become citizens and to encourage and assist them on this path.

Staff

Throughout this project, AI will steadily provide staff as well as leadership training, technical assistance, research, and strategy support to the staff and volunteers of our partners in Phoenix and El Paso. AI with its Citizenship Preparation Program will reach the priority immigrant population groups most in need of naturalization assistance. Phoenix and El Paso reflect different demographics because of the singular histories of the cities, but they are alike in that both have sizeable eligible LPR populations that are lacking comprehensive programs that allow them to become American Citizens. Both cities have considerable low-income immigrant populations, often with limited English proficiency or who, in the some cases, are linguistically isolated Spanish speakers. Because of these regional demographics, all activities will be conducted using bilingual English/Spanish instructors and outreach workers who are sensitive to the needs of a diverse population.

The staff in both El Paso and Phoenix is very dedicated to the mission of the program and AI. Because they are helping members of their own community, they have a personal interest in seeing the program succeed. Many of them understand their communities' needs for these types of services because they see how the availability of these services make for a better and more involved community. As their records above show, they are extremely dedicated to the well-being of their communities and know that working with our partners and our program will make a difference in their communities and their lives.

Community Coalitions

AI works with our partners in El Paso and Phoenix to conduct regular Citizenship Fairs in areas with high concentrations of immigrants. At these fairs, our partners assist immigrants in filling out citizenship applications and distribute informational material. Multiple pro-bono lawyers are available on-site to answer questions and provide free workshops and presentations on the workings of the naturalization process.

Our media partners, especially Univision, expand our outreach exponentially by announcing our events and services. In addition, reporters attend the fairs, interviewing new applicants and volunteers, making our program a "household name."

Our legal partners, AILA in Phoenix and Las Americas Refugee Asylum in El Paso, attend our fairs, providing pro-bono legal advice, assistance and referrals. They provide training for application assistance volunteers, as well as oversight, which ensure the quality of volunteer-completed applications.

Our coalition partners include churches, labor unions and community organizations. These partners assist with outreach, through flyering and communications to their own networks, and provide volunteers for the Citizenship Fairs. In addition, they provide free or low-cost locations for our fairs and classes.

Our coalition partners are as interested in the well-being of the community because they understand the importance of having a more integrated community. Because they are part of the communities that they serve, becoming involved in the Citizenship Preparation Program is proof that they believe in the program, and, most importantly, that this is an important and worthy cause to be involved in for the social and economic improvement of their communities.

Expanding Program Capacity/Volunteers/Outreach to Priority Immigrant Populations

AI's community partners conduct extensive outreach on this program through door-knocking, flyering, conducting educational fairs, radio and television advertising, and partnering with other organizations such as Univision and many others that bring a wealth of experience to our program.

We have developed an extensive network of volunteers in both Phoenix and El Paso. In our classes, we emphasize the need and provide opportunities for students to "give back" to their communities; this focus increases the involvement of student volunteers who participate in our trainings and Citizenship Fairs. In addition, word-of-mouth outreach is significant; students engage their natural networks to expand our capacity. Graduates of our program give presentations and hold meetings with potential community partners, to inform them of our services. Volunteers also enrich our Citizenship Classes by sharing their own experiences with citizenship preparation and offering additional tutoring services as needed.

e. SUSTAINABILITY

In 2007, both of our partners in El Paso and Phoenix began providing citizenship classes for eligible LPRs interested in becoming U.S. citizens and more active members of their community. This program has already met with many success stories in both cities, with a high rate of students passing their citizenship test and helping to keep the program going for more LPRs in the area. AI and its community partners have an established network of media outlets, businesses and other community organizations that help not only with our

community outreach but also by providing experienced volunteers. AI is in regular contact with a number of immigration lawyers and specialists willing to assist with citizenship applications and train volunteers to help those that come to our partners for naturalization information and aid. Furthermore, because our program is successful and reaches a very specific population, many of our new participants come to our partners through word-of-mouth, with a large portion of applicants being referred by friends and relatives.

Sustaining Priority Immigrant Groups

With increased communication and outreach as provided by additional funding from this grant, AI will have put in place a greater referral network, working with other community organizations listed in the performance plan, which service primarily priority immigrant groups including refugees, domestic abuse victims and seniors. Because our organizations are committed to helping the same immigrant populations in need, we are confident that our relationships will continue beyond the grant period.

AI and its partners in Phoenix and El Paso are aware that these priority groups may be in greater need to obtain their citizenship because of their social or personal situations. AI and our partners believe that these populations should continue living their lives with the assurance that they are guaranteed the rights and privileges that come from being an American Citizen. As our outreach team and coalition partners announce and promote our services, special attention will always be given to these immigrant groups. It is our belief that the priority groups will lead lives that are more satisfactory by being full members of their communities, and becoming empowered by the knowledge that they are now an important part of American society.

Sustaining Funds for Services

AI has an experienced and dedicated staff of development professionals. Once this program has gained more momentum and visibility, the likelihood of funding for this program will increase. The need for more civic participation from minority groups is key for the social and economic development of their communities. Beyond the funding period, the AI development team will continue to seek additional funding so that more LPRs that are eligible for citizenship are able to become American Citizens and develop into full participating members in their communities. The AI development team will work with other organizations that promote not only the naturalization of eligible LPRs, but also the civic engagement of minority groups.

Because the priority groups have a special need to become U.S. Citizens, prospective funders will be advised of the needs of the priority populations and why their transition into American civic life is necessary for their well-being. Our community coalitions have been especially useful in helping our community partners reach more funders. Our coalitions are a testament to our commitment to the community and to our reputation as a capable organization that will reach LPRs in need of citizenship services.

Sustaining Volunteers/Recruitment/Community Participation and Commitment to the Project

This is perhaps the most crucial element when speaking of program sustainability, as this aspect is informed by the success of the program itself. AI's community partners in El Paso and Phoenix pull from a vast network of community members and volunteers. The program's history has shown that those who participate in this program do so not only to receive a piece of paper, but to become fully engaged citizens of the United States. Many of the participants who took advantage of our program and citizenship classes often go on to work as volunteers, conducting outreach, assisting in educational fairs, and even assisting in the naturalization courses with our partners. As this program grows and begins to reach and help more of the immigrant priority populations, so will the program capacity increase, as it builds a more educated volunteer base with new U.S. citizens that will help in outreach to other eligible LPRs that can benefit from our program.

It is our goal that those participants who go through the program successfully will advise other LPRs in similar situations to do the same, especially if they are low-income or members of the main priority groups: those over 65 years of age, refugees or abused women. Because some of these populations may be hard to reach due to their social status or personal problems, it is very important for our partners to keep reaching out by giving them examples of the best outcomes our program has to offer.

Organization Legal Name: ACORN Institute

Organization Legal Address: 2609 Canal Street, 5th Floor, New Orleans, LA

Authorized Official: Brennan Griffin, Executive Director, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Point of Contact for the Application: Diana Sarcar, Development Coordinator, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Partner(s) Associated with the Project: El Paso ACORN, Phoenix ACORN

Total Federal Funding Requested: \$99,994.36

Priority Immigrant Group(s) to be served by the project:

- Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) 65 years or older who are eligible, or soon to be eligible, to apply for naturalization
- Those persons that have adjusted to LPR status under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), U or T Visa, or Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa Status and are eligible, or soon to be eligible, to apply for naturalization
- Low-income LPRs who are eligible, or soon to be eligible, to apply for naturalization

Goal(s) and Objectives:

1. Help naturalization applicants grow fully prepared and confident for every aspect of their naturalization exam, including the areas of U.S. history and government, reading, writing, and speaking English
2. Educate immigrants about civic opportunities and duties they will encounter after they become new citizens

Project Summary:

ACORN Institute is requesting \$99,994.36 from the USCIS in order to support our Citizenship Preparation Program. This project aims to provide important services such as Citizenship Classes and leadership training to immigrants in Phoenix, Arizona and El Paso, Texas in order to provide important skills and support to the immigrant community. This project will target eligible legal permanent residents of the United States who want to become U.S. citizens but who have not yet completed the citizenship process. The project will largely target immigrants from disadvantaged groups. The project not only helps legal permanent residents become American Citizens but also encourages civic participation in American society and imparts the importance of being full contributing members of their communities.

AI Citizenship Preparation Program (CPP)
Budget Narrative, FY 2009-2010

Citizenship Preparation Program	
A. Project Personnel	36,375.00
B. Project Fringe	8,096.44
C. Travel	4,550.00
D. Equipment	0.00
E. Supplies	3,348.00
F. Construction	0.00
G. Contractual	43,724.92
H. Other Direct Cost	3,900.00
Total Project Amount	<u>3,900.00</u>
	\$99,994.36

AI Citizenship Preparation Program (CPP)
Budget Narrative, FY 2009-2010

A. Project Personnel				
1)	(b)(4), (b)(6) AI National Project Director, Admin	(b)(4)	(b)(4)	
2)	(b)(4), (b)(6) AI Project Director, Service Work			
	3) AI Local Direct Service Staff			
	4) Project Support Staff, Admin.			
Total Personnel:	\$36,375.00		\$36,375.00	Admin Salary Amt. (b)(4)

(b)(4), (b)(6) AI National employee, has duties that are two-fold within the context of this proposal, both of which are described in #1 and #2 as follows: #1 consists of administrative work, which includes developing and administering subawards to two community-based organizations (Phoenix ACORN and El Paso ACORN), which currently provide outreach and services to legal immigrants. These CBOs will be responsible for identifying and referring legal immigrants as described by the AI Citizenship Preparation Project. (More information on this is described in the Contract Services category of the budget.) Other administrative duties include the following: providing oversight of the AI Direct Service staff in each city in which AI is providing naturalization assistance services; working with subawardees and contractors; providing orientation to the project to all AI Direct Service staff; working with outreach organizations and other community programs that can refer priority group immigrants to the program; overseeing the documentation gathering and reporting requirements; and ensuring timely and accurate submission of all programmatic and fiscal reporting require

AI Citizenship Preparation Program (CPP)
Budget Narrative, FY 2009-2010

B. Project Fringe				Fringe breakout for Adm
Social Sec.	(b)(4)	(b)(4)		722.30
Medicare				168.93
Health Care				2,330.00
Pension				1,165.00
Unemploy				349.50
Work Comp				233.00
Total Fringe	\$8,096.44		\$8,096.44	4,968.73

Fringe benefits requested are reflective of the required employer-required and the employer offered. AI pays 100% of health insurance and 10% pension/retirement for the employees who work 30 hours or more. Part-time staff are not eligible for these benefits, because of this the fringe benefits vary per type of staff.

**TOTAL PERSONNEL & FRINGE FOR
PROJECT INCLUDING PROJECT STAFF &
ADMIN**

\$44,471.44

**TOTAL PERSONNEL & FRINGE FOR ADMIN
STAFF**

16,618.73 =16.6% ADMIN OF PROJECT TOTAL

C. Travel			
Project Travel Expenses	(b)(4)		210.00
			1,440.00
			600.00
			2,000.00
			300.00
Total Travel	\$4,550.00		\$4,550.00

Travel is included for AI Direct Service Staff in various cities and AI National staff for training and technical assistance. Currently AI doesn't have a Per Diem policy, but in the event one is approved it is requested in this proposal. Airfare, lodging, ground travel expenses are included for onsite technical assistance, project training, and coordination for AI Direct Service Staff.

D. Equipment	\$0.00
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AI Citizenship Preparation Program (CPP)
Budget Narrative, FY 2009-2010

E. Supplies*		
General Office Supplies for Direct Service Staff	(b)(4)	1,680.00
Project Postage		900.00
Project related resources ESL materials, software, etc.		768.00
Total Supplies	\$3,348.00	\$3,348.00

Project supplies are requested to cover the cost of supporting the project and providing training materials for direct service provision. \$384 per city is requested to provide some resource info to each city.

F. Construction	\$0.00
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G. Contract Services		
Subaward with 2 CBOs (El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN) to assist AI in referring legal immigrants to the project's services	\$25,174.92 total (both locations)	25,174.92
Accounting Contract with regular accounting contractors CCI, Admin Amount	\$100,000 accling contract @ 8.55%	8,550.00
Enter into contracts with domestic violence/trafficking victims service providers, refugee, legal service providers, etc., in each city	\$10,000 total (both locations)	10,000.00
Total Contract Serv	\$43,724.92	\$43,724.92

Contractual service are provided to ensure the successful completion of the project. ACORN Institute has working partnerships with local CBOs that currently provide outreach and services to legal immigrants. Due to the enormous request for services, AI has identified the need to provide additional services and the local CBOs will refer participants to

AI Citizenship Preparation Program (CPP)
Budget Narrative, FY 2009-2010

H. Other Direct Costs		
Comm Maint.	(b)(4)	360.00
Office & Equip. Maint	(b)(4)	480.00
Rent	(b)(4)	1,800.00
Telephone	(b)(4)	360.00
Utilities	(b)(4)	900.00
Total for AI Office		\$3,900.00
Total Other Cost	\$3,900.00	

Other Direct Cost are to support the AI Infrastructure to ensure successful provision and oversight to the project.

Total Project Request \$99,994.36 \$5.64

Subawardee Budget Narrative
(El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN)

Subawardee Budget Narrative--El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN

A. Project Personnel	17,280.00
B. Project Fringe	7,369.92
C. Travel	525.00
Total Subawardee Project Amount	\$25,174.92

Subawardee Budget Narrative
(El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN)

A. Project Personnel		
Outreach Specialist (Phoenix)	(b)(4)	11,520.00
Outreach Specialist (El Paso)	(b)(4)	5,760.00
Total Personnel:		\$17,280.00

El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN will provide outreach services with four Outreach Specialists who will work in El Paso and Phoenix to target priority immigrant groups as well as other immigrant populations, informing them of the program and naturalization opportunities. El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN have an experienced outreach staff that will be utilized for this project.

Subawardee Budget Narrative
(El Paso ACORN and Phoenix ACORN)

B. Project Fringe		
Social Sec.	(b)(4)	1,071.36
Medicare		250.56
Health Care		3,456.00
Pension		1,728.00
Unemployment		518.40
Workers Comp		345.60
Total Fringe	\$7,369.92	\$7,369.92

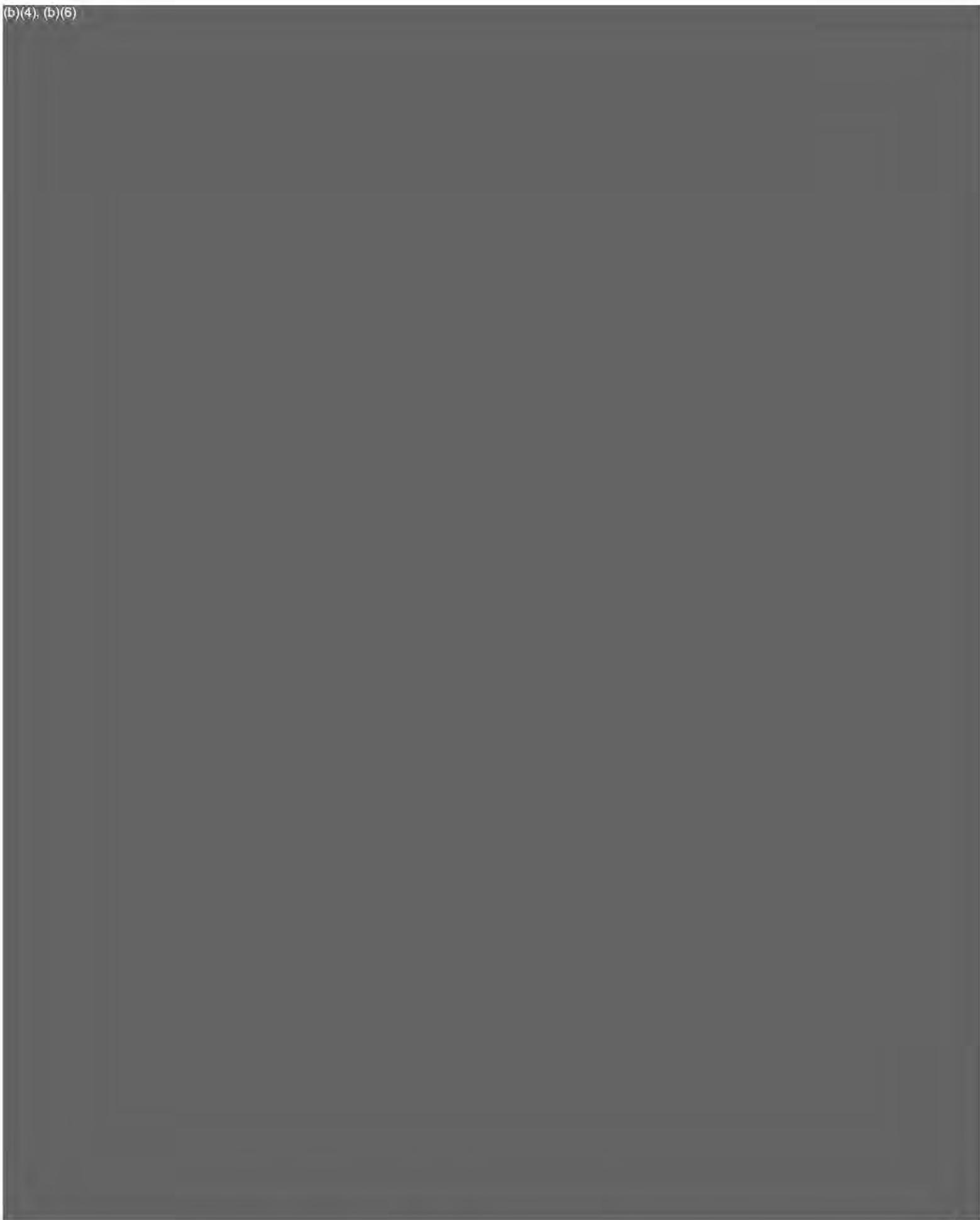
Fringe benefits requested are reflective of the required employer-required and the employer offered. ACORN pays 100% of health insurance and 10% pension/retirement for the employees who work 30 hours or more total.

**TOTAL PERSONNEL & FRINGE FOR
 SUBAWARDEE** **\$7,369.92**

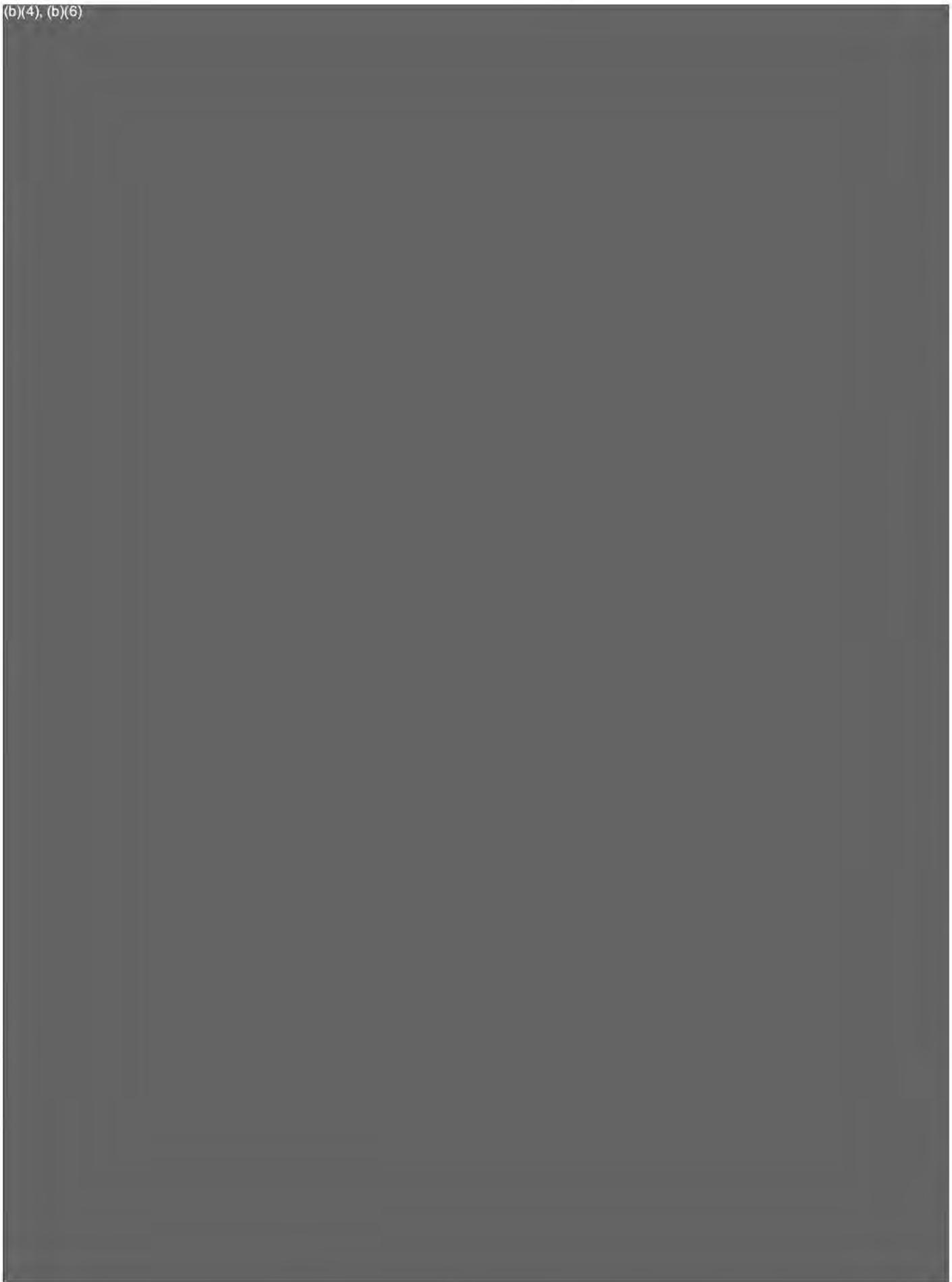
C. Travel		
Project Travel Expenses	(b)(4)	525.00
Total Travel	\$525.00	

Travel is included Outreach Staff in both locations cities. Ground travel expenses are included for daily travel needed to complete outreach objectives.

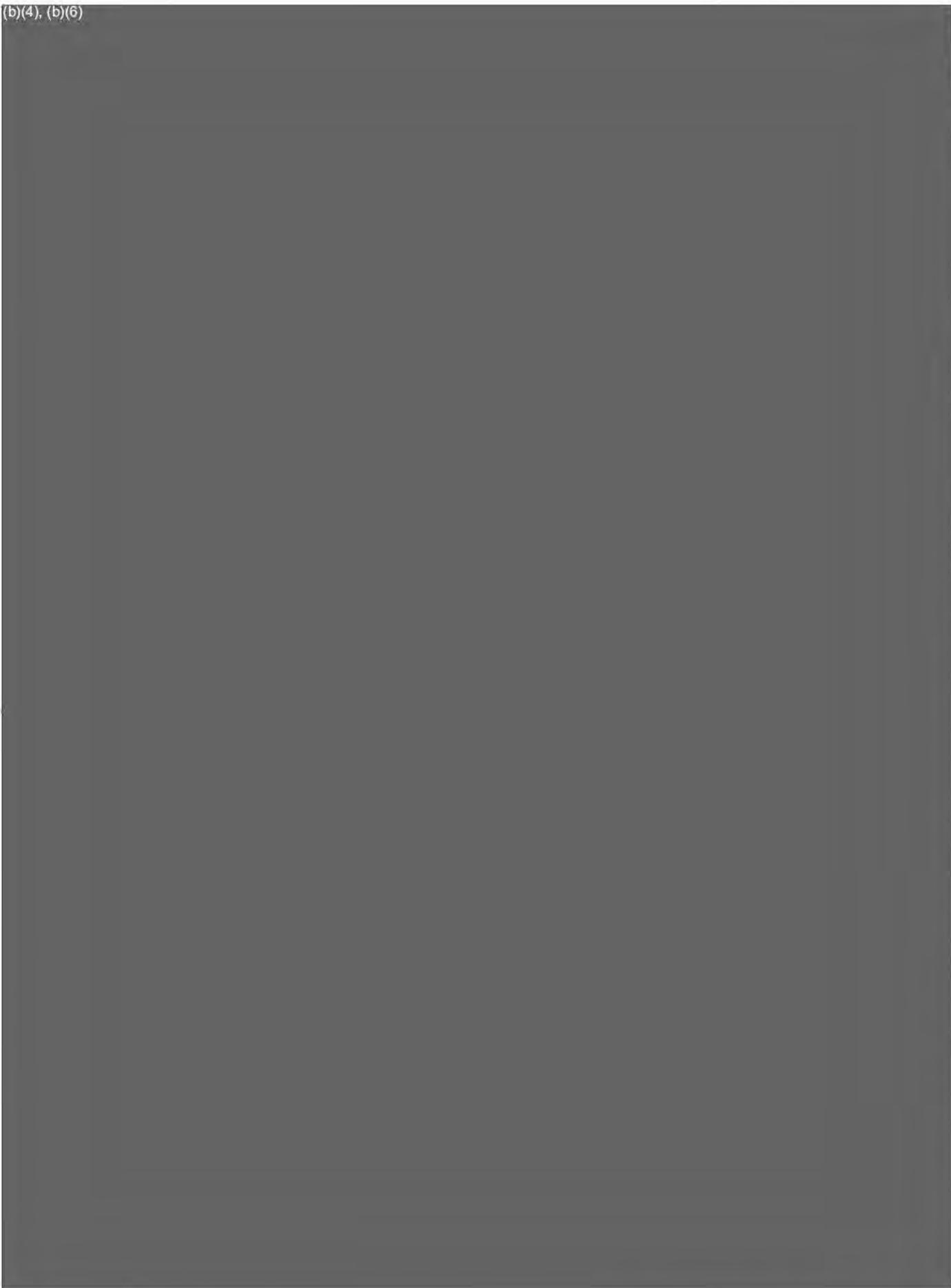
Total Project Request **\$25,174.92**

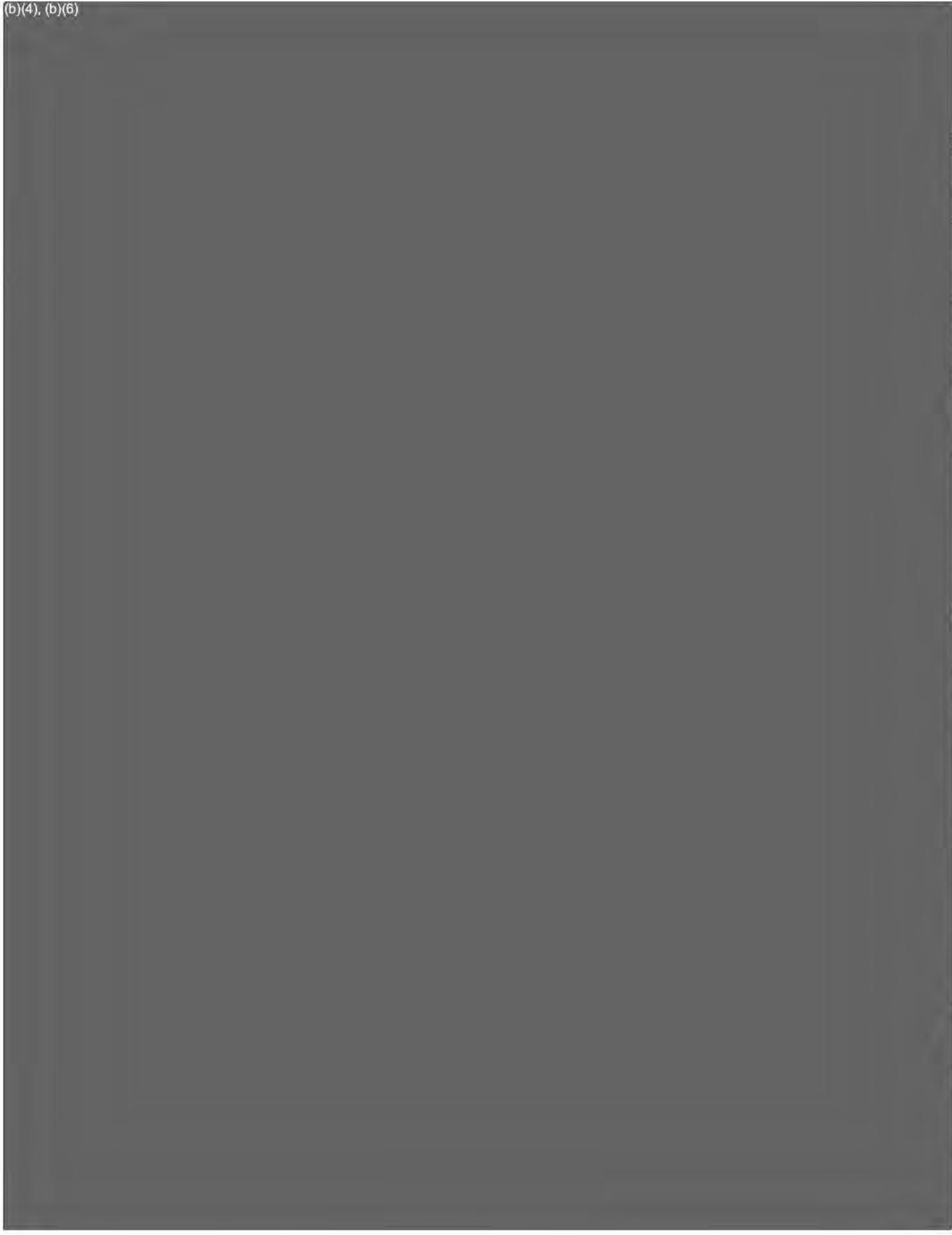


(b)(4), (b)(6)



(b)(4), (b)(6)





(b)(4), (b)(6)

