

United States of America - Midwest

Illinois

Albany Park Day Laborer Cooperative of the Latino Union, Chicago

\$20,000

A group of low-income, immigrant day laborers gathering on street corners to look for day work have built relationships with elected officials, residents, organizations and contractors with the goal of establishing a Workers Center in Albany Park. The Workers Center will be a temporary agency with the day laborers negotiating directly with employers for jobs for themselves. (2004)

Latino Union of Chicago, Chicago

\$20,000

This group of low income, immigrant day laborers gathered on street corners to look for day work. They decided to organize themselves and form a union that would advocate for their rights and fair employment. They have built relationships with public officials, residents, organizations and contractors while establishing a Workers Center in Albany Park. (2005)

Winds of Change, Chicago

\$19,900

These Native American artists decided to enhance their marketability by creating an artist registry and promoting sales of art and performances to promote their indigenous culture and maintain a sustainable livelihood. The project came about as a result of the group's desire to improve their skills in art and to increase their financial income. (2005)

Urban Teen Magazine Project, Chicago

\$20,000

These teenagers came together to produce an urban magazine project. The project provides education in magazine publishing, interactive programming, development of writing skills and needed tools for owning and operating their own future business. The project keeps these youth from engaging in illegal activities like drug use and street gangs. (2006)

ECOVIDA, Chicago \$30,000

This urban farming program provides educational experiences for both the youth and older residents by developing leadership capacity, providing viable alternatives for economic self-sufficiency and creating social consciousness regarding the causes of environmental deterioration and its impact on society. (2003)

San Lucas Workers Center, Chicago

\$45,720

The San Lucas Workers Center is organizing to force day labor agencies, where its members work, to comply with a code of conduct that will end abuse of workers rights, such as discrimination, illegal fees, unsafe transportation and unsafe conditions. They wish to target client companies and ask that the companies only contract with agencies that comply with this code. (2003)

Fellowship of Filipino Migrants in Chicago, Chicago

\$30,000

A group of immigrants from the Philippines, who now reside in Chicago, face constant issues of deportation, un- or under-employment, lack of clothing and food, and poor health. This support group will develop strategies to address all of these problems. (2003)

Section 8 Tenant Empowerment Project, Rogers Park Community Action Network, Chicago

\$5,000

Technical assistance was given to this previously funded group which has organized for training, education and support in knowing their rights, finding adequate and affordable housing, and stopping illegal housing discrimination. (2002)

Urban Sound Studio, Chicago

\$75,399

This group of single parents and ex-offenders have created a full service music studio to develop their talents and skills while creating a sustaining and supportive community. (2002)

Racial Profiling-Action Against Injustice, South Suburban Action Conference, Hazel Crest \$65,000

Low-income residents of color in South suburban communities of Chicago have organized to address issues of racism and racial profiling. By tracking incidents and putting a strategic plan in motion, the residents will have a form of protection. (2002)

Section 8 Tenant Empowerment Project, Rogers Park Community Action Network, Chicago \$40,000

These Section 8 Tenants have organized for training, education and support in knowing their rights, finding adequate and affordable housing, and stopping illegal housing discrimination.

Beardstown Immigrant Families United, Beardstown \$20,000

These economically poor families came together to have a voice in advocating for their needs primarily to address issues of inequality and discrimination. (2007)

Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Chicago \$20,000

This diverse network of family members and friends of Illinois prisoners organized themselves to speak out against the injustices of the criminal justice system, advocate for their loved ones and promote abolition of the death penalty. (2007)

Winning Circle, Chicago \$20,000

Several low-income families organized themselves to develop awareness of and to overcome economic injustices through financial literacy and advocacy. (2007) **Lights of the Round Table, Chicago \$20,000** To a group of recovering addicts and alcoholics who seek to establish a coffeehouse and sober social club as a business for themselves. (2008)

Anawim Center-Leadership Circle, Chicago \$20,000

By educating themselves and others on Native American culture this group of indigenous people are working to change how others view Native Americans. This grant will assist in developing leadership skills and passing the native language on to the children. (2010)

Green Spirit Lawn Care, Maywood \$20,000

To support a project that is involved in earth friendly grounds maintenance in the community year round. It provides employment for the group members who are mostly ex-offenders. (2010)

Iowa

American United Forces, Sioux City \$20,000

In the Sioux-City area, unemployment and underemployment are high, especially in the immigrant community. Many of the immigrants possess skills and unique talents but are unable to use them for lack of resources to purchase equipment and materials. Through this co-op they can share costs and expenses becoming self-sufficient more quickly. (2004)

Adair-Madison Citizens for Community Improvement, Stuart \$20,000

Development often occurs without taking into account the environmental impact of the development. This permanent, membership-based, democratically controlled grass-roots organization will work to positively influence environmental, social and economic issues in the two counties of Adair and Madison in west central Iowa. (2004)

Latino Americano, Waterloo

\$20,000

There are many services available to Hispanic residents in the Cedar Valley area but there is no way to let those who do not read English know about the services. This project is intended to develop a Hispanic language newspaper with free distribution containing items of information specific to the Cedar Valley area. (2004)

Latinos en Action de CCI, Marshalltown

\$20,000

A local group of Hispanic immigrants were having difficulties with the language, culture and understanding the legal system in protecting their rights. They formed a self-help group in the community for development and economic sustainability as well as for personal and group empowerment for their community. Through SDOP funding, they are working to share resources, generate ideas and solve problems. (2005)

Positive Enhancement of People: Eastwood Resident Association, Ames

\$25,000

This community is a HUD housing development for low-income people. They are isolated from the Ames community and even from each other within the four buildings of the housing development. There is no public transportation in the area. Through planning, training, community activities and a "Wheels to Work" program this community can now proactively address the issue of isolation. (2003)

Multicultural Center, Cultures Committee, Webster City

\$90,000

Members of this group have purchased a building to hold cultural events, share information with one another and learn English as a second language to become more comfortable and self assured in their new environment. (2001)

Humboldt Chapter Building Project, Humboldt Citizens for Community Improvement, Humboldt

\$20,000

This group of grassroots farmers is being empowered to address issues of air, river and groundwater pollution, all of which are effecting their livelihood. (2001)

Indiana

Improving Quality of Life for Seniors, Carmel

\$18,000

This project involves a group of 45 Korean-born senior citizens that formed an association. The group meets twice weekly at a senior center that provides classes in English as a second language, preparation for American citizenship, community resources, and health and wellness. They also learn socializing skills and how to prepare nutritious Korean food. (2005)

Abandoned Buildings/Saving Homes in 46201, Organization for a New Eastside (ONE), Indianapolis

\$15,000

Homeowners living in the 46201 zip code area want to become better informed/educated about mortgage loan programs and equipped with options to avoid foreclosure due to disrepair of their homes and environment. (2005)

Kansas

Esfuerzo Hispano, Kansas City

\$19,500

This group of seven organizers and approximately 50 Latino immigrant families came together to build a local community safety net. The project involves building positive relationships with those who have influence and power over the systems and structures that oppress them. (2006)

Hope Street Youth Organizing, Wichita

\$60,000

The youth of Hope Street have organized to gain skills to be strong leaders in their communities by working with local workforce boards to include jobs for youth in their summer programs. They are also working to build better relationships with police officers, resulting in respect for the youth and police officers. (2002)

Hope Street Youth Development, Wichita \$20,000

This project assists in empowering and self-development of young people from economically challenged communities in the Wichita School District. SDOP funds will be used for leadership development. The leadership skills the students acquire will

empower them to contribute positive changes in their schools and give them the experiential foundation they need as adults. (2007)

Ohio

Afrikan Business Entrepreneurship, Dayton \$20,000

Low-income immigrants from Africa organized to form a business cooperative to import authentic products from their countries and sell them locally. (2007)

Benefit Rights Advocacy Group, Cincinnati \$20,000

This project assists in the empowerment of a group of economically poor people making changes in county and state policies/laws that affect them by enabling them to learn organizing and leadership skills. (2007)

EDT Ex-Offender Discernment, Dayton

\$20,000

This project addresses and strongly condemns the widespread, deeply entrenched discriminatory employment practices that relegate ex-offenders to poverty and oppressive living conditions. Through this grant they will learn marketable skills that make re-entry into society much smoother. (2004)

Appalachian People's Action Coalition (APAC), Plains

\$15,000

Appalachian People's Action Coalition represents low-income and poverty residents in the Athens County community. This project was created primarily to build a bigger community wood working shop – thus providing training, education and funds needed to supplement this community's poor economic situation. The need for this project presents an opportunity for the community to become self-sufficient by manufacturing items made out of wood that they can sell as well as learning skills to make their own repairs. (2005)

Lagrange Village Council (LVC), Toledo
\$10,000

Like many other neighborhoods, the Lagrange community faces the challenge of self-addressing crime and unsafe living conditions. They have established a non-confrontational, trained Community Citizen's Patrol (CCP) to monitor and report crime activity in their neighborhood. (2003)

The Women of Faith In Motion Transportation Cooperative, Youngstown
\$28,493

This project provides job training and transportation for low-income women getting into the work force. It also helps the women with matters related to finance, insurance and the purchase of donated affordable cars. (2001)

Deaf and Deaf-Blind Leadership Development and Capacity Building, North Olmstead
\$25,000

To support a committee that provides services and expertise in services to the deaf and deaf-blind. (2008)

Love-N-Care, Cleveland \$20,000

For a group of disabled or low income people, which includes disabled veterans, purchase a handicap accessible van and provide transportation for themselves and others to medical and therapy appointments. (2008)

Karen Cultural and Community Center Micro-loan Fund, Akron \$20,000

To create a micro-loan fund to finance small projects to be owned and operated by the Karen community (a group of refugees from Burma). (2008)

Day Labor Organizing Project, Cincinnati \$19,300

Proposing, promoting and monitoring compliance with regulations and ordinances aimed at reducing discriminatory hiring, employment and compensation practices for day laborers. (2008)

United Men in Recovery, Inc., Columbus, \$20,000

This project is needed to help close the divide with veterans by providing a continuum of care that deals with the dual diagnosis of mental health and drug addiction that can leave those who fought for our country fighting for their survival. The program provides residential and support services to meet the spiritual, social, and economic/housing needs facing homeless veterans and their families. (2010)

Functional Literacy for Adults, Columbus \$30,000

To support an educational program that assists members of the Somali community in Columbus, OH to transition into the culture using language, citizenship and social adaptation skills. The program also involves sharing experiences and stories of persons who have been in this country and community for many years. (2010)

Growing Gardens, Columbus, \$13,100

To support a first year community-based garden project that produced 3500 pounds of produce this growing season, some of which is still being distributed to the community. (2010)

ASL Advocates, Cleveland \$20,000

Persons that are visually and/or hearing impaired sometimes need special training to deal with their physical challenges. This group of visually and/or hearing impaired persons

have developed training for themselves as well as helping organizations become more user friendly to persons with physical problems. .(2010)

African Christian Community Center, Dayton

\$20,000

To help empower African refugees in their resettlement efforts in American culture. ESL classes and employment counseling are two of the major components of the project.(2010)

818 Yard Patrol, Dayton

\$20,000

This group of ex-offenders has formed a business cooperative to serve as a means of self employment. The project is to provide year round lawn care to their customers. (2010)

Long Lasting Community Development Association, Columbus \$20,000

To assist in the empowerment of low income immigrant women and their families from the Middle East and South East Asia through developing life and leadership skills. (2010)

Minnesota

Wisdom Steps Marketing and Outreach Project, Marshall

\$20,000

This is a project centered at addressing and improving the health of Minnesota Native American elders. This innovative health project includes screenings and exercise. (2006)

Alliance for African Assistance Minnesota, Moorhead

\$10,000

By forming an alliance, this group of African refugees plan to challenge discrimination, unemployment, poverty and poor housing conditions through education, and economic development activities. (2003)

Committee for the Preservation of Immigrant Families, Minneapolis/St. Paul

\$10,000

Low self-esteem and low self-confidence are just two of the many effects of having no voice and no power in a society. This Latino community has decided to develop leadership skills through training in areas of team building, effective meeting management and advocacy. It is through this training that the group gains their voice and greater level of self-dignity. (2003)

Anishinaabe Center, Detroit Lakes

\$10,000

Without the proper knowledge and skills, defending one's self can be extremely difficult. Through advocacy skill training, the Anishinaabe people can now speak up for themselves in the face of federal, state and reservation governmental oppression. (2003)

Purchase and Operate A Duplex, Centro Campesino Inc., Owatonna

\$20,000

Migrant agricultural workers in the Owatonna area are subject to prejudice and discrimination. They are very concerned that if they press civil and human rights issues too strongly, they will be evicted from their rented space. By owning their own space, they can become more aggressive without risking eviction. (2003)

Alpha & Omega Transportation, Duluth

\$14,000

Alpha & Omega Transportation is a clean, convenient and economical transportation service linking the Duluth Superior International Airport with local hotels and motels throughout the twin ports vicinity. This service is completely operated and cooperatively owned by welfare-to-work recipients and low-income men and women. (2003)

SOHO Artist Storefront Project, Chisholm

\$120,036

Artistic individuals living with disabilities have challenged the concept that they must work within the limitations society has imposed upon them. They are learning to use computers and printers to market their arts and crafts. They are also running a storefront to display and sell their work and earn a living to become self-sufficient. (2002)

East Hillside/Endion MFIP Organization, Duluth

\$150,000

This community group saw the need to educate themselves in job development skills, leadership training and parenting classes and to work toward eliminating poverty, isolation and discrimination. The project will help in securing jobs and a better future. (2002)

American Oromo Community of Minnesota, St. Paul

\$150,000

Basic knowledge of the English language is a need for this Oromo community. They have organized to learn English, computer skills, and interpersonal relations to have better opportunities in the job market and become self-sufficient. (2002)

Lindy's Dream Builders, Duluth

\$150,000

A group of low-income women own and manage a construction company to create affordable housing for low-income families and provide decent paying jobs for themselves. (2002)

West Side Community Gardens, St. Paul

\$45,000

A group of 28 Hmong farmers has organized to purchase land in their neighborhood to grow vegetables, selling the excess to generate income for their families. Of the amount granted, \$5,000 was awarded for technical assistance for legal matters. (2001)

White Earth Land Recovery Project, Callaway \$20,000

Through cooperative efforts, the Anishinnabig Tribe of the White Earth Reservation is growing traditional Native American foods. Health education, greenhouse construction and maintenance and seed preservation are part of the project. (2007)

Sudanese Community Development, Mankato \$18,000

To support training programs for Sudanese immigrants in basic English as a second language, basic computer skills and basic orientation to workplace culture. (2008)

Michigan

K. I. Sawyer Community Association, Gwinn

\$17,000

This community was established in 1996 in the vacated housing of the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base after the base was closed. The Association was formed to provide a voice through which the residents, working together, could build a vibrant, prosperous community. Funding will be used for training, improvement of the monthly newspaper and community dialogues. (2004)

Campaign for Human Dignity, Kalamazoo

\$20,000

The Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network (KHAN) is working toward ending the systemic discrimination against those perceived to be poor and/or homeless in the Kalamazoo area. This project involves advocating the stopping of Kalamazoo law enforcement officers abusing, harassing and targeting homeless persons in public spaces and business places and advocating for improving relationships. (2006)

The Disability Business Initiative, Ann Arbor

\$86,800

To promote self-employment of the disabled, 40 persons with disabilities have created a small business expo, an exhibit video road show, and an internet-based on-line community to change the negative attitudes and barriers that make it difficult for them to find jobs. (2002)

Low-Income Tenant Union of the Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network, Kalamazoo

\$20,000

The goal of this project is to empower a group of homeless people moving into private apartments to organize against housing discrimination, advocate for fair rental agreements and fight unfair evictions. (2007)

Mt. Olive Neighborhood Watch, Inc. Detroit \$20,000

A project to help kids make better decisions by reviving the community through sports and reading programs. Refurbishing and maintaining the Fletcher Playground. (2008)

Michigan People's Action, Lansing \$30,000

To assist a group of low income workers and their supporters to organize themselves and work on issues of wage theft, discrimination and unemployment benefits. Components include leadership development training and community education and involvement.

Missouri

Grass Roots Organizing Health Rights Access Project, Mexico

\$35,000

This organization believes that basic health care for all, regardless of ability to pay, is a fundamental human right. By offering a voice of accountability this group hopes to create systemic changes that will improve access to healthcare for their families and others like them. (2004)

Renewing Rural, Milan

\$20,000

With a tremendous increase in Spanish-speaking residents, Milan is in need of immediate bilingual government employees, especially for driver license testing as is required by Missouri law. The project's goal is to get more bilingual officers in place for the short term while the new immigrants learn English. (2004)

The Multi-Purpose Van Project, St. Louis \$17,000 To be used by a group of Kenyan immigrants to purchase a multi-purpose van to provide access to health-care and employment, along with transportation for the disabled. (2008)

Nebraska

Valley Transportation, Valley

\$32,100

A group of elderly and disabled individuals formed a non-profit coop to provide transportation to doctors' appointments, shopping and other outings that require transportation to larger cities. (2004)

Si Se Puede, Omaha

\$20,000

More than 150 workers from different meat packing plants in the area organized to create more humane working conditions and decent wages. Work related injuries, health problems and miscarriages are a few of the conditions this group will address. (2003)

Sudanese Cultural and Community Dev Association, Omaha \$20,000

This group of Sudanese refugees was admitted to the US with little resources and limited English skills. This grant will allow them to invest in their own training and prepare them for employment thereby enabling them to become participants in the social and economic life of their new country. (2010)

North Dakota

Immigrant Microenterprise Development, Fargo \$20,000

A group of economically poor immigrants came together to develop a multicultural market to host small businesses. The center will also provide business training. (2007)

South Dakota

Dakota Rural Action, Brookings

\$100,000

Disenfranchised farmers have organized to safeguard their family controlled farms from corporate controlled agribusiness farming. By learning corporate laws and helping to close loop holes that would allow corporate control, the farmers have more control over their economic future. (2002)