

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE



U.S. PROGRAMS

2002 >

ANNUAL REPORT

U.S. Programs Mission Statement

An open society is one that protects fundamental human rights, guarantees impartial justice, provides opportunities for people to make the most of their talents, and makes public decisions through a democratic process that is open to full participation and constant reexamination.

The mission of the Open Society Institute is to promote these values in the United States as well as in emerging democracies around the world. Although the U.S. aspires to the ideal of an open society, in many respects we fall short and in others we are losing ground.

An open society requires a public sphere shielded from the inequalities of the marketplace, but in the U.S., the dominant values have become those of market fundamentalism, which rejects a role for government and poses a threat to political equality, public services, racial justice, and the social safety net. An open society requires an unbiased system of justice that stands apart from political pressures and social inequality, but in the U.S., the pressures of money, bias, and politics undermine the independence of the courts and the fairness of the criminal justice system. An open society is one in which individuals and communities can make the most of their talents and assets, but in the U.S., too many people face barriers posed by failed schools, a dead-end criminal justice system, or the sharp inequalities in our provision of healthcare and economic security. And too many communities are isolated from full participation in democratic decision making or the mainstream of the economy.

Through our grantmaking and our policy initiatives, the Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs seek to restore the promise of our pluralistic democracy and bring greater fairness to our political, legal, and economic systems. We seek to protect the ability of individuals to make choices about their lives and to participate fully in all the opportunities—political, economic, cultural, and personal—that life has to offer.

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A year of change

The United States is still in the throes of the attacks of September 11, having suffered the most significant incursions on civil liberties in at least a generation. The war in Iraq, launched without sufficient debate, left the United States isolated from much of the world. Meanwhile, a steadily worsening economy is creating joblessness and deep cuts in safety net programs at precisely the time that philanthropic resources are also shrinking. Yet even in such a disturbing climate there can be successes that reinforce humane and progressive values, as these 2002 developments supported by the Open Society Institute show:



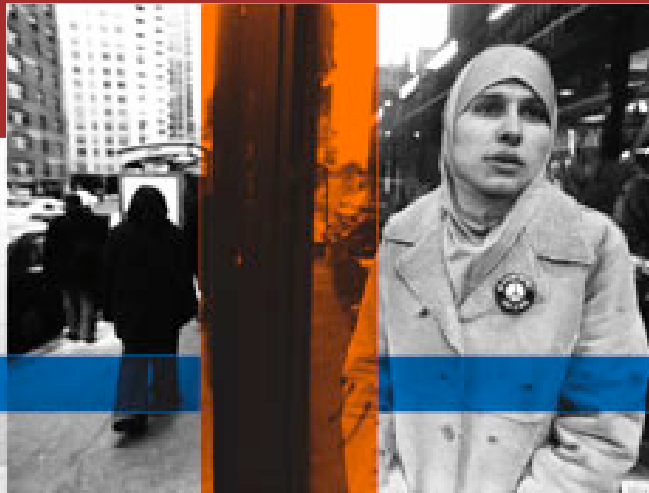
Passage of the bipartisan Campaign Reform Act demonstrates that there is public enthusiasm for reform and the political will to make it happen. While the Open Society Institute (OSI) continues to focus on broader reforms, including public campaign financing at the state level, the next test for the Campaign Reform Act is in the courts, where OSI-funded research will be critical in determining the constitutional parameters of reform.

Launch of The Baltimore Fund, a community development venture capital fund that will invest in growing companies in the Baltimore region and create 1,000 high-quality jobs for city residents. With an early \$5 million commitment from George Soros (in the form of a program-related investment), OSI-Baltimore raised another \$10 million from 14 foundations, banks, and universities, including \$5 million from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Increased access to emergency contraception through collaborative accords allows pharmacists to dispense the so-called morning-after pill without a doctor's prescription. The success of such measures has resulted in a near doubling of sales of Plan B, a dedicated emergency contraception product in which OSI is a principal investor. Recent research suggests that nearly half of the significant 11 percent decline in the U.S. abortion rate is attributable to increased use of emergency contraception—an extraordinary validation of our efforts to find common ground in the country's fractious abortion politics.

Illinois Governor George Ryan commuted 167 death sentences to life without parole and exonerated 4 innocent people on death row before the end of his term. OSI's Gideon Project has been the principal funder of research and advocacy that has begun to chip away at U.S. political and public support for the death penalty. The program supported the off-Broadway play *The Exonerated* and sent the cast to Chicago to perform for the governor as part of a conference for exonerees sponsored by the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law, which took the lead in forcing change in Illinois. In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the death penalty in two cases, finally barring the execution of the mentally retarded.

North Carolina created the first-ever system of full public financing for judicial elections. This achievement marks a great step forward for the OSI-supported Justice at Stake Campaign, a partnership of national and state groups committed to fair and impartial courts that monitors and documents the insidious role of special interest money and partisan politics in judicial races in 38 states.



A year of change



It is particularly vital to highlight success and its ingredients as we gird up for more difficult times. For most of the period since 1996, when OSI's work in the United States began, our mission of advancing social and economic justice has been buttressed by an expanding economy. The vibrant network of state and local policy and organizing groups that OSI and other funders have helped to create and foster made a critical difference in pushing welfare devolution in more progressive directions in state after state. Now their stronger voice and bigger place at the table will have to be sustained and strengthened to deal with huge budget deficits that will hit the poor with great force even as the very richest among us are granted bigger tax cuts.

By the same token, the civil liberties crises we face are daunting—vastly increased government surveillance and detention powers, secret legal proceedings, and institutionalized discrimination against non-citizens. But the array of non-governmental organizations speaking out against these abuses, and fighting them in the courts and in the media, is stronger than it has ever been. And—in contrast to earlier periods of great strain for civil liberties, such as the World Wars and the McCarthy era—these organizations have been unflinching in their principled advocacy. OSI has been proud to support this work and will continue to do so. We need more partners in that effort.

The Open Society Institute underwent significant change in 2002. We launched an office in Washington, D.C., to increase our capacity to promote policies that protect civil liberties, foster more respectful global engagement by the United States, and promote fair globalization. In the years to come, we will move away from grantmaking in several areas and strengthen our work on the U.S. justice system, building on recent strides. But regardless of our shift in focus, we will always strive to be responsive to those who are fighting for justice and equality in a world that increasingly cries out for more of both.

Gara LaMarche
OSI Vice President and Director of U.S. Programs
April 2003

U.S. Programs: History and Transition

George Soros's work in the United States grew out of his experiences with philanthropy abroad. In the mid-1990s, appalled by the response of the United States and other Western nations to the humanitarian crises in Bosnia and Rwanda, he began to question the strength of open society values in the world's leading democracy. In consultation with a number of scholars and activists, he launched a group of initiatives called U.S. Programs in 1996.

Since its inception, U.S. Programs has made a significant impact in fields as diverse and far-ranging as criminal justice reform, judicial reform, reproductive rights, palliative care, and after-school programming—among others. All are documented in this report.

As U.S. Programs has evolved, so have the concerns and interests of George Soros. Today, Soros is deeply engaged with the challenges of globalization: the transparency and effectiveness of international financial and political institutions, the obligation of wealthy states toward poorer ones, and the need for a multilateral approach to global issues such as human rights, security, development, international justice, and environmental protection. Soros wants his philanthropy to follow in this direction.

Accordingly, in May 2002, Soros announced a significant reorganization of the Open Society Institute and the Soros foundations network. Funding will be reduced in a number of countries where the network operates, specifically eight Central and East European countries that are slated for accession to the European Union. At the same time, the foundation will be looking to make an impact in a number of countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

This reorganization will affect every part of the network, including U.S. Programs. Until the end of 2005, spending will not change significantly. But by 2006, U.S. Programs will operate at a much lower level of expenditure. To this end, every commitment, legal and moral, will be honored—but none will be continued in its present form beyond the current term.

Programs that will come to an end in 2003 through 2005 have begun an assessment, consulting with advisers and grantees, to determine the best strategy for use of their remaining funds.

As programs wind down, grantmaking will be restructured in two ways. First, justice will become the primary focus of U.S. funding, including issues now covered by our Criminal Justice Initiative, Program on Law and Society, and drug policy reform work. The program will have an increased focus on civil liberties and human rights in the United States—concerns addressed most recently with a round of emergency grants following September 11.

Second, beginning in 2003 and increasing through 2006, U.S. Programs will maintain a larger flexible general fund. This will make it possible to continue making occasional grants in areas in which we have been involved—such as campaign finance reform, end-of-life care, and community arts—but in which we will no longer maintain ongoing programs. The fund will also be available for crosscutting initiatives and special opportunities.

Even as OSI decreases its grantmaking in the coming years, we will continue to expand our policy presence. The recent expansion of OSI's Washington office is a significant step in this direction. One of its priorities is to build support for a U.S. foreign policy that is multilateral in its approach and more respectful of international law and institutions.

With these changes, the Open Society Institute and George Soros will preserve the capacity to move with the times and to make an impact on the development of open societies for years to come.

In too many poor communities suffering from a lack of basic services, the most visible government action is an increase in surveillance and incarceration. Instead of investing in schools, healthcare, and decent jobs, the response is to criminalize large segments of the population. An open society cannot withstand such abuses of justice. OSI promotes equal treatment of those with the fewest means by promoting advocacy and policy reform, supporting public education campaigns that highlight social inequities, and sponsoring fellowship programs that seed fields with innovative thinkers who shape policy debates.

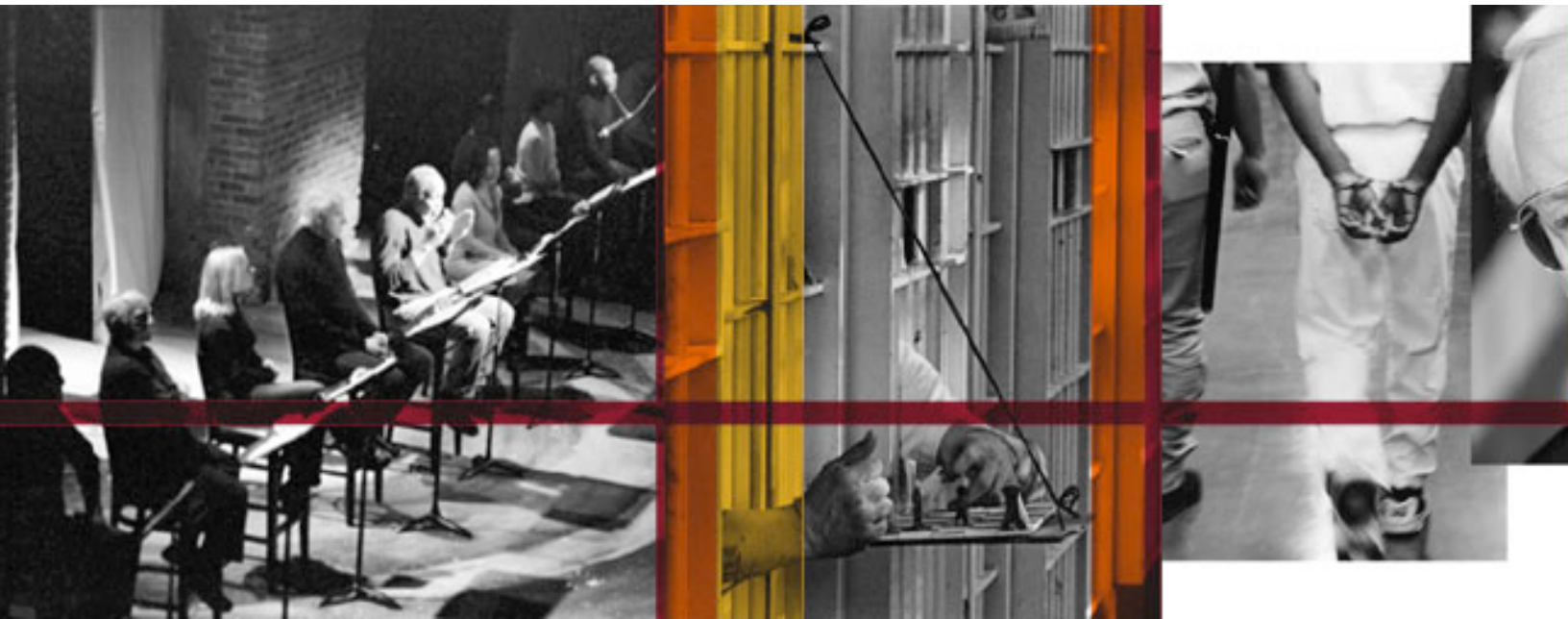


Justice



Criminal Justice Initiative

The mission of the Criminal Justice Initiative is to reduce excessive incarceration and its consequences, promote fair and equal treatment in all areas of the U.S. criminal justice system, redirect public focus and resources away from punishment and toward long-term investment in individuals and communities, and encourage the reintegration of people with criminal convictions through policies that foster public safety, respect for human and civil rights, and responsible citizenship.



The off-Broadway ensemble cast—joined by actors Richard Dreyfuss, Mike Farrell, and Danny Glover—of *The Exonerated*, a play about 6 former death row inmates, performed in Chicago for Illinois Governor George Ryan (at far right), who later commuted 167 death sentences and exonerated 4 innocent people on death row.

THE GIDEON PROJECT is named for the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which established that everyone charged with a felony, whether wealthy or poor, has a right to legal counsel. The project seeks to safeguard that right and to promote fair administration of justice. The unequal application of laws, wrongful convictions and incarcerations, and an overburdened criminal justice system frequently thwart the ability of the poor and marginalized communities to receive justice. Such systemic flaws compromise human and constitutional rights, while undermining the foundation of a democratic society.

The Gideon Project funds initiatives that protect the rights of individuals at all levels of the criminal justice system. The project's grantees effect change through research, advocacy, and direct representation. The project has four funding priorities: achieving death penalty reform or abolition, improving public defense services, combating racial profiling, and increasing prosecutorial accountability.

In 2002, the death penalty reform movement achieved key victories, including favorable judicial decisions and legislation limiting the scope of capital punishment. These efforts culminated in Illinois Governor George Ryan's commutation of 167 death sentences to life without parole and the exoneration of 4 innocent people on death row. The Gideon Project helped to establish and maintain momentum in the reform and abolition movement in many areas, including grants to the **Southern Center for Human Rights** and the **Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama**. These grantees provide direct representation in capital cases, conduct public education concerning inequities in the criminal justice system, and have led the charge to establish quality indigent defense systems. **The Constitution Project** received funding to issue its *Benchmark Report*, a public education tool that compares current and proposed death penalty laws in each state. Finally, with OSI support, **The Culture Project** produced the acclaimed off-Broadway hit, *The Exonerated*, a performance comprised of monologues culled from interviews with former death row inmates. The Gideon Project, OSI's U.S. Communications Department, and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law, arranged for a special performance, featuring actors Danny Glover, Richard Dreyfuss, and Mike Farrell, for Governor Ryan and 36 men exonerated from death row. The play's success has helped invigorate the debate on capital punishment nationwide.

In the arena of public defense services, the **Brennan Center for Justice** received funding to train lawyers to incorporate holistic and community-oriented advocacy into their core mission by partnering public defense lawyers new to this approach with lawyers who have successful track records. In conjunction with this grant, the **National Legal Aid & Defender Association** began evaluating the effectiveness of holistic and community-oriented advocacy programs. The **Immigrant Legal Resource Center** received support for its Criminal Defense Immigration Project to train defense attorneys to understand the immigration consequences of criminal charges against their non-citizen clients.

Racial profiling continues to fuel misperceptions about minority criminality, contributes to the overincarceration of blacks and Latinos, and undermines trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. In 2002, a grant to the **American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California** supported its Racial Justice Project, which seeks to end traffic stop-and-search practices that overwhelmingly target minorities. The project combines litigation with a public education strategy to bring an end to racial profiling and to address post-September 11 profiling that targets Arab and South Asian Americans, Sikhs, Muslims, and others caught in anti-terrorist inquiries. The **Northeastern University Institute on Race and Justice** received a grant to organize a conference to develop benchmarks for analyzing police stop-and-search data and police/community partnerships to end racial profiling. Recommendations will be distributed in the fall to police departments, community groups, and legislators.

Prosecutorial accountability is an issue of great concern given the tremendous power and discretion prosecutors possess. In 2002, the Gideon Project and OSI's Program on Law and Society renewed funding to the **Center for Public Integrity** (CPI) to study connections between wrongful convictions and prosecutorial misconduct. CPI and **The Constitution Project** also participated in a roundtable discussion on prosecutorial accountability convened by the Gideon Project. Lastly, the **American Judicature Society** received funding for a conference that focused on remedies for wrongful convictions.



THE AFTER PRISON INITIATIVE promotes social and justice policies that place reintegration and public safety equity at the center of the criminal justice mission. Over the past three decades, while government has continued to spend lavishly on prisons and jails, its commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration has steadily declined. Cutbacks in spending for education, job training, and treatment—both inside and outside of prison—along with the increased emphasis on surveillance, have resulted in high rates of recidivism. Such policies perpetuate a costly system of cyclical reincarceration of people predominately from poor communities of color. After prison, a multiplicity of legal and practical barriers to education, employment, housing, public assistance, healthcare, and voting present often insurmountable roadblocks to reintegration. They perpetuate the stigma attached to imprisonment and virtually guarantee exclusion from the labor market and mainstream society. The After Prison Initiative promotes a new reentry paradigm through grantmaking in four priority areas: justice reinvestment, new leadership development, reentry policy reform, and reduction of civil barriers to reintegration.



The justice reinvestment work promotes the idea that public dollars are better spent on strengthening a community's capacity to keep its residents out of prison than on incarcerating them. In 2002, the **Council of State Governments** received a grant to provide technical assistance to states looking for ways to reduce their overdependence on prisons by developing smarter, cost-saving alternatives that keep people in the community. In so doing, the savings that are generated can be reinvested in the civil institutions of communities with high incarceration levels. A grant to the **Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development** supports research on the potential to spur social-purpose entrepreneurial ventures that can serve as models for reintegration. The project will culminate in a roundtable with criminal justice officials and executive directors of entrepreneurial organizations.

The new leadership development grants support formerly incarcerated community and professional leaders in their efforts to influence and reshape the criminal justice system. The **National Trust for the Development of African American Men** and a team from **Florida Atlantic University** received a planning grant to create a national Civic Justice Corps, comprised of former prisoners working in collaboration with local citizens on public works to improve the health, safety, beauty, and sustainability of their neighborhoods. This work will be done in collaboration with the **NuLeadership Policy Group**, a network of justice reform leaders who were previously incarcerated. A related grant to **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois** supports development of a civic justice curriculum for its program Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives, a partnership with Habitat for Humanity through which people incarcerated in Illinois prisons build homes in low-income communities.

Reentry policy reform stimulates the development of new reentry models that highlight the connection between weak civil institutions and the growth of correctional institutions. A grant to **Family Justice** supports technical assistance to parole and probation departments to reorient their services toward building family strength and to recruit the family as a change agent for people with criminal records. The **Hunter College Center on Aids, Drugs and Community Health** received a grant to implement the second phase of its New York City Jail Community Reintegration Project. The project is building new funding and service partnerships between governmental agencies and local community organizations to ease reintegration for people leaving local jails. The project is exploring the potential for replication in other jurisdictions with large jail populations.



Grants for the reduction of civil barriers to reintegration support litigation, public education, policy advocacy, and coalition-building efforts that challenge impediments to housing, employment, education, public benefits, healthcare, and voting. **The Tides Foundation** received a grant on behalf of the ACLU Foundation, the Brennan Center for Justice, Demos, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the NAACP, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the People for the American Way Foundation, and The Sentencing Project to support a national campaign to challenge disenfranchisement policies and laws in five states. **Community Legal Services** received a grant to pursue the elimination of barriers to reintegration for people with criminal records in Pennsylvania and to help organizations in other states.

Photographer Andrew Lichtenstein, an OSI Soros Justice Fellow, accompanied families as they traveled from New York City to visit relatives in an upstate correctional facility—a 20-hour round trip by bus. Elaine Bartlett is interviewed at home by a television crew after being released from prison.



THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROJECT supports grassroots organizing to redirect the United States' overreliance on punishment and incarceration toward strengthening communities with long-term social and economic investment. The project focuses on empowering communities most affected by mass incarceration to advocate for policies that address underlying social, racial, and economic inequality. The July 2002 edition of OSI's *Ideas for an Open Society* argued that the trend toward three-strikes mandatory sentencing laws for non-violent offenders makes no sense.

The Community Advocacy Project targets four program areas: broad-based coalitions to oppose prison expansion and mass incarceration, youth- and community-led justice movement building, mobilization of former prisoners and families for policy reform, and arts and culture as tools for organizing new constituencies around justice policy reform.

Work in the area of broad-based coalitions to oppose prison expansion and mass incarceration promotes collaboration among advocates who support public policies that invest criminal justice dollars in community development. The **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights** received renewed funding to support its *Books Not Bars* campaign, including workshops for young people and the use of media as organizing tools.

Grantmaking for youth- and community-led justice movement building cultivates the next generation of activists. It is fueled by the belief that young people are often the visionaries who spur social justice movements. In 2002, the **Correctional Association of New York** received funding for its Juvenile Justice Project, which includes outreach to high school students, public education campaigns about youth incarceration, and the promotion of community-oriented juvenile justice programs.



Funding for the mobilization of former prisoners and families supports leadership development among former prisoners and their families. In 2002, the **Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana** received funding to organize parents of incarcerated youth. The statewide parent group held a mock “jazz funeral” to dramatize the dying hopes of incarcerated children in Louisiana. A grant to the **Western Prison Project** enables it to advocate for prison reform in eight Western states and to work for the reversal of rising incarceration rates.

Grantmaking for arts and culture as tools for organizing new constituencies around justice policy reform supports the use of various media to enlist and mobilize new allies. **Picture Projects** received a grant to exhibit *360 Degrees*, a multimedia historical documentary exploring trends in crime and punishment from 1776 to the present. A grant to **Justice Now** supports its work with artist Sarah Jones to develop a performance piece on women prisoners that explores the impact of prison expansion on women in this country.

JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND RESEARCH supports organizations working to: reduce the criminalization of young people by challenging unnecessarily punitive policies, improve the legal representation of youth, and develop and advocate viable policy alternatives to youth imprisonment. Grantmaking focuses on advocacy, demonstration projects, and strategic research. In 2002, the **Advancement Project** received funding for its work with community and youth organizers to document, expose, and prevent the criminalization of youth by their schools. A grant to the **Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia** enabled it to collaborate with grassroots activists, researchers, and public interest lawyers working on the best strategies to roll back zero tolerance policies in public schools. The *Building Blocks for Youth* campaign—a national coalition of juvenile justice advocates that includes the **Youth Law Center**, **Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana**, the **Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia**, and the **Justice Policy Institute**—received support for its work against the demonization and institutionalization of young people. It issued the groundbreaking report *¿Dónde Está la Justicia? A Call to Action on Behalf of Latino and Latina Youth in the U.S. Justice System*. The report makes policy recommendations based on its findings that Latino youth are significantly overrepresented in the juvenile justice system and receive harsher treatment than their white peers.

THE SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS, which advance the goals of the Criminal Justice Initiative, are discussed on page 20.





Program on Law and Society

The mission of the Program on Law and Society is to ensure that the American legal system is accessible to all and that it is impartial, unbiased, and just. The program seeks to expand access to civil legal assistance for low-income and marginalized communities, protect the impartiality of our courts, and promote professional and public interest values over marketplace values in the legal profession.

An open society requires a legal system that guarantees rights and freedoms to all its citizens and ensures that those excluded from the mainstream of society have equal access to those liberties. In the United States today, however, the cost of legal assistance is prohibitive to many people. In addition, public sector lawyers often face excessive caseloads that hamper their ability to do their job well. OSI, through its Program on Law and Society, has sought to redress these inequities and reinstall integrity and trust in the legal profession. Beginning in 2003, many of the program's key grantmaking initiatives will be brought within a broader U.S. justice program.

THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM is rooted in the belief that all people must have the ability to enforce their individual and civil rights, resolve disputes, and defend themselves against governmental abuses. Yet the organizations that work to serve the legal needs of the most vulnerable members of our society are overburdened and underfunded. The Access to Justice program began in response to federal budget cutbacks in 1996 that slashed support for legal aid providers by one-third. In addition to this staggering financial blow, Congress imposed crippling restrictions on which clients legal aid lawyers may represent, what issues they can take on, and which legal strategies they may use. At the same time, Congress limited federal court jurisdiction to hear cases related to immigration, prison reform, and capital punishment.

The program seeks, therefore, to reinvigorate the civil legal aid community by challenging the restrictions imposed by Congress and strengthening the field's capacity to best represent the underserved communities that rely on it. The program funds initiatives that boost public and financial support for civil legal aid, eliminate barriers to accessing justice, develop new approaches to the delivery of legal aid, and broaden the number of such service providers.

In 2002, the **Brennan Center for Justice** received funding to continue its public education campaign to raise awareness of the impact government restrictions have on the capacity of legal aid programs to perform their duties and on the clients who enlist their help. In addition, the center continues its OSI-supported litigation challenging federal restrictions on legal aid programs. It recruited more than 100 organizations to file amicus briefs in support of *Dobbins v. LSC*, which challenges regulations forcing recipients of federal funds to establish a physically separate organization if they want to spend private monies on advocacy work subject to federal restrictions.

To help address the lack of linguistically and culturally accessible legal services for those with limited English proficiency, the **Asian Pacific American Legal Center** received funding to implement a centralized system for intake, brief advice, and legal referral that bridges cultural and language barriers. The **Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center** also received support for its Legal Interpreter Project and to publish a handbook on the effective recruitment, training, and use of legal interpreters.

The Law School Consortium Project, administered by **Central Consortium**, continued to provide technical assistance to an expanding group of law schools interested in helping solo and small firm practitioners develop economically viable practices and meet the legal needs of the underserved. Seven new schools, including the University of Michigan Law School and Rutgers University School of Law, joined the project in 2002, raising the total number to ten. The consortium's emphasis on cultivating private public-interest practices was featured in *The New York Times* in December 2002.

Pro Bono Net's LawHelp, an online legal resource for use by both individuals and advocates, also continued to grow in 2002. More than 30 states, with 23 million low-income residents and 460 pro bono law programs, are developing websites linked to LawHelp.

Community lawyering unites attorneys with local partners to tackle systemic economic, political, and social problems that hamper minority and low-income communities. To promote these partnerships, OSI renewed its commitment to the **Funders' Collaborative for Racial Justice Innovation**, an initiative designed to widen the circle of lawyers and community activists advancing racial justice.

THE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM promotes fair and impartial courts through increased public support for an independent judiciary and reform of judicial selection. Eighty-seven percent of judges in the United States are elected, and in recent years, big money and special interest political pressure have become a staple of judicial campaigns. The program seeks to counter the influence of political and special interest groups that threaten both the integrity of our court system and the ability of judges to render fair and impartial decisions.

OSI grantees are working to address this challenge through the **Justice at Stake Campaign**, a bipartisan partnership of 42 national and state organizations working to keep politics and special interests out of the courtroom. In 2002, with judicial elections in 38 states, Justice at Stake organized a public education campaign to highlight the growing politicization of judicial races. The campaign released *The New Politics of Judicial Elections*, a report by the **Brennan Center** and the **National Institute on Money in State Politics** documenting campaign finance trends in state supreme court races. It also commissioned the largest-ever poll of state judges, which showed widespread concern among judges over growing pressures on their ability to rule fairly and impartially. Over the course of the year, the campaign organized monitoring and public education efforts through the **League of Women Voters**, **The Constitution Project**, and other citizen and bar groups.

Those efforts were complicated by the Supreme Court's ruling in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White*, which overturned on First Amendment grounds a provision that prohibited judicial candidates from "announcing their views on disputed legal and political issues." The **Brennan Center**, on behalf of a number of campaign organizations, filed amicus briefs arguing that the restriction was needed to insulate judges from partisan politics. Following the court's ruling, the **National Center for State Courts** organized efforts to provide guidance to judicial candidates, voters, and the media on appropriate ways to insulate judicial campaigns from partisan politics.

In several states, judicial reformers joined with campaign finance reform advocates to promote public financing for judicial campaigns. By year's end, this collaboration celebrated a significant victory as North Carolina became the first state to enact such a law.

Finally, the **Justice at Stake Campaign** continued efforts to reach out to new constituencies. Two leading campaign reform groups—**Common Cause** and the **Reform Institute**—joined the campaign. The **Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law** spearheaded a campaign of dialogue and outreach aimed at communities of color, with a special focus on civil rights and minority bar organizations. The **Committee for Economic Development** released *Justice for Hire*, a report calling on the business community to support reforms that assure a competent, fair, and impartial judiciary for all.

Although the Program on Law and Society is being phased out, OSI will continue funding for the **Equal Justice Works Fellowship Program**, the largest and most comprehensive of all the public interest law fellowships. Equal Justice Works (formerly the National Association for Public Interest Law) has sent more than 350 lawyers to work in underserved communities throughout the country. The fellows employ sophisticated advocacy strategies to impact issues ranging from environmental justice to immigrants' rights.

Response to September 11

ABUSES OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE UNITED STATES soared following the terror attacks of September 11. The government, caught in a xenophobic current guiding the war on terror, enacted administrative and regulatory changes that facilitated the miscarriage of justice and erosion of rights experienced largely by immigrants and members of Arab, Muslim, and South Asian communities. To combat this antidemocratic trend, OSI made a series of grants for advocacy work, public education, and support to civil rights groups in three related areas: the impact of September 11 on immigration policy and immigrant communities, racial profiling and other forms of discrimination directed at people perceived to be Middle Eastern, and challenges to the civil liberties of all Americans.

In total, OSI funded 28 organizations nationwide. The **Center for National Security Studies** at George Washington University received funding to support its efforts on behalf of the civil rights of immigrants and persons detained after September 11. The center was the lead plaintiff in a federal case that successfully challenged the secret round up and detention of immigrants following the attacks. The **Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund** (MALDEF) received a grant to support its work challenging discriminatory practices and in defense of the rights of immigrants. MALDEF signed on to a lawsuit challenging the citizenship requirement that resulted in the firing of many legal permanent residents who worked as airport baggage screeners. It also undertook educational initiatives designed to educate Mexican Americans about the impact of September 11-related policy issues. The **Arab American Institute Foundation** was supported for its educational efforts promoting tolerance and its work against an upsurge in racial profiling following the start of the war on terror. In addition, it published *Healing the Nation: The Arab American Experience After September 11*, recording the experiences and responses of Arab Americans to the terror attacks.

A grant to **Trial Lawyers Care** (TLC) in New York supported extensive outreach to victims and their families and matched them with volunteer attorneys. TLC set up toll-free information hotlines in English and Spanish and launched a website informing victims' families of services and resources, including the Victims Compensation Fund, available to them in the months following the attacks. TLC helped victims and their families file claims with the government and made much of their information available in Chinese.



Drug Policy Reform

OSI'S DRUG POLICY REFORM work continued in 2002, emphasizing alternatives to imprisonment for low-level drug offenses and decreasing drug-related harm, which includes support for needle exchange programs and overdose prevention. OSI supported the **Drug Policy Alliance**, a leading research, advocacy, and policy organization. It also made a grant to **The Tides Foundation's Fund for Drug Policy Reform**, a funding collaborative that oversees grants formerly awarded directly by OSI. A grant to **Physicians for Human Rights** supports an examination of the Rockefeller drug laws from a human rights perspective, with a focus on the impact of these laws on health.



OSI-Baltimore's Drug Addiction Treatment Program shares a mission with OSI's national drug policy reform efforts. For details, see page 24.



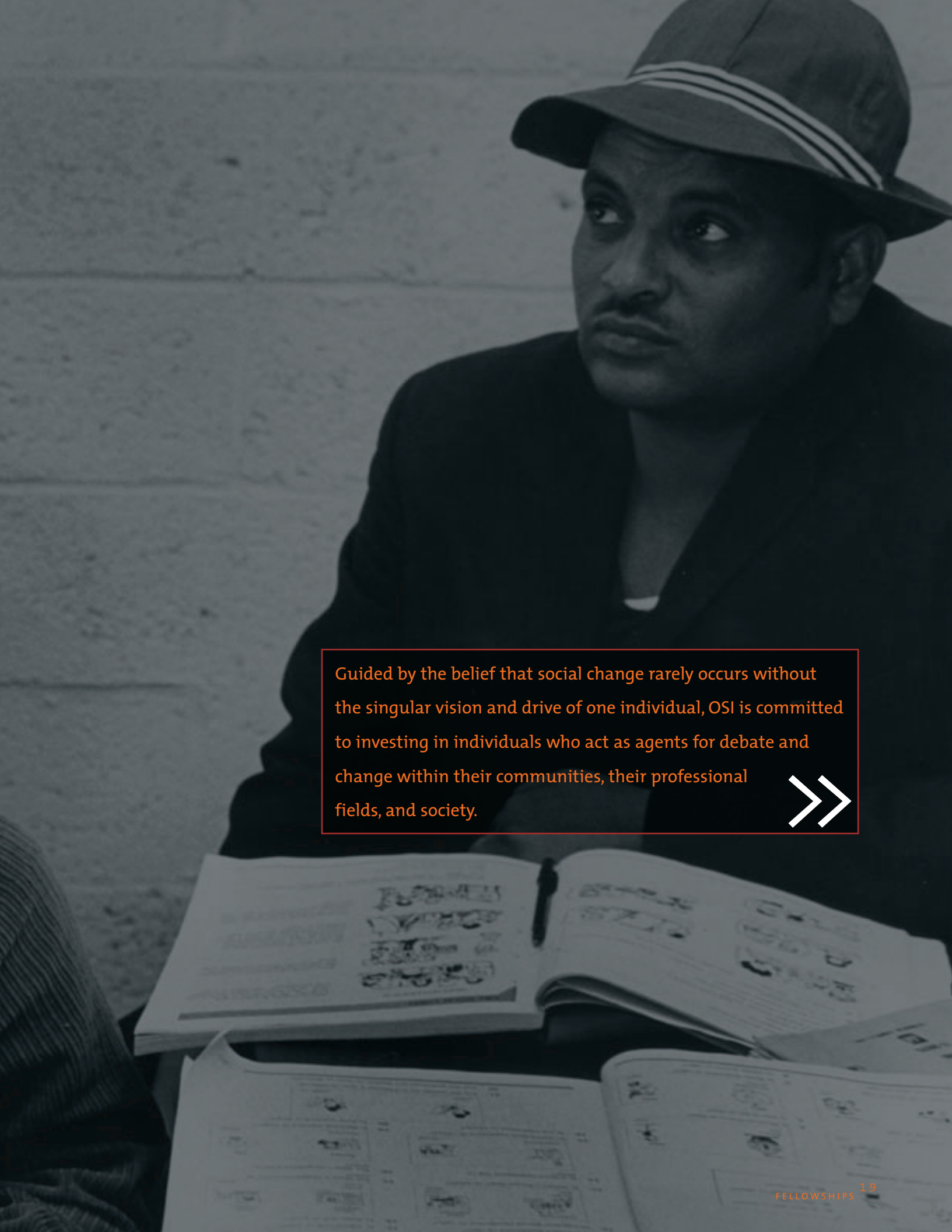
OSI-Baltimore Justice Programs

OSI-BALTIMORE addresses OSI's national justice agenda through its programs on criminal justice, drug addiction treatment, and access to justice. For information on OSI's work in Baltimore, please see page 22.



Fellowships

U.S. PROGRAMS 2002 >

A man wearing a cap and a dark jacket is looking thoughtfully to the side. In the foreground, there are several sheets of blueprints or technical drawings spread out. The entire image has a dark, monochromatic blue tint.

Guided by the belief that social change rarely occurs without the singular vision and drive of one individual, OSI is committed to investing in individuals who act as agents for debate and change within their communities, their professional fields, and society.



THE SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS support the mission of OSI's Criminal Justice Initiative (CJI) to decrease dependency on policies of punishment and incarceration. The fellowships fund individuals in law, organizing, media, and other fields to design and implement projects in concert with CJI's programs.

SOROS JUSTICE SENIOR FELLOWS include seasoned academics, community leaders, and activists who ignite national discussion on criminal justice reform. To date, 43 fellows—among them former prisoners and legal experts—have devoted up to one year to researching, writing, or initiating projects. In 2002, **Ruth Wilson Gilmore**, an anti-prison activist and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, organized urban and rural communities to challenge the premise that prisons benefit local economies. Her work demands a policy shift away from incarceration and toward an emphasis on easing the reentry of former prisoners into mainstream society. **Christian Parenti**, a teacher, journalist, and author, completed a book entitled *The Soft Cage: Everyday Surveillance Past and Present*, which examines the impact of surveillance on the state's power to criminalize and imprison. This work will invigorate the debate that pits public safety against civil liberties. **Catherine Powell**, a Fordham University law professor and human rights expert, promoted human rights perspectives and language as a way to challenge both the overincarceration of minors and the use of capital punishment among this group.

SOROS JUSTICE POSTGRADUATE FELLOWS receive two-year awards for initiatives undertaken with nonprofit agencies. There have been 71 fellows to date. Drawing from her personal experience in prison, **Linda Evans** partnered with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children to spearhead a public education campaign on the sociopolitical obstacles former prisoners face upon release, aiming to increase their participation in civic life. **Presita May**, a lawyer, partnered with First Defense Legal Aid to enlist community-based lawyers to represent people of color in custody and to strengthen communication between community residents and law enforcement officers. **Emily Bolton**, a lawyer, partnered with Innocence Project New Orleans to provide legal representation to wrongfully convicted individuals and identify systemic problems in the criminal justice system that would, if corrected, minimize wrongful convictions.

SOROS JUSTICE MEDIA FELLOWS are journalists who cover criminal justice issues. Participants engage in extensive reporting or writing for one year. There have been 27 media fellows to date, undertaking projects in radio, television, documentary film, print, and photography. **Sara Catania**, a reporter for *L.A. Weekly*, wrote a series of articles on the sustained support in California for the prosecution of people with severe mental illness for capital crimes. Photojournalist **Brenda Ann Kenneally** documented the complex challenges facing women addicted to drugs. Her pictures about the impact of drugs and imprisonment on underprivileged families in the Bronx appeared in a number of U.S. and foreign publications. Journalist **Jan Goodwin** embarked on a series investigating restorative justice and its impact on both crime victims and offenders.



THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM supports individuals who are using their professional skills, talents, and life experiences to create social justice projects in New York City and Baltimore. The fellowships foster a network of community activists providing groundbreaking work in advocacy, organizing, and direct services.

Baltimore and New York each awarded 10 fellowships in 2002. In Baltimore, **Keri Burneston**, an educator, started Fluid Movement, an organization that uses public spaces as performance venues where artists and community residents work together. **Tammy Pinchin Brown**, a law student, established the Ex-Offender Project, which advocates on behalf of individuals denied housing because of their criminal records and works to increase employment and housing opportunities for them. **Rebekah Burgess**, a social work student, is working with El Grupo De Padres Latinos (The Latino Parents Group), which, in partnership with the Education Latino Organization, has strengthened the Latino P.T.A. at Patterson High School to promote better relations between families and schools in that district. It also encourages the formation of similar parent-teacher associations throughout the city.

In New York City, **Brandi Fenner**, a youth organizer, established Education for Liberation, which offers political education and anti-oppression training for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth. **Subhash Kateel**, a civil liberties activist, launched Detainees and Communities United to build a support network of people directly affected by INS detention and deportation. **Bryant Terry**, an educator and activist, created b-healthy! This project educates low-income youth about the link between nutrition and health and empowers them to mobilize around these issues.



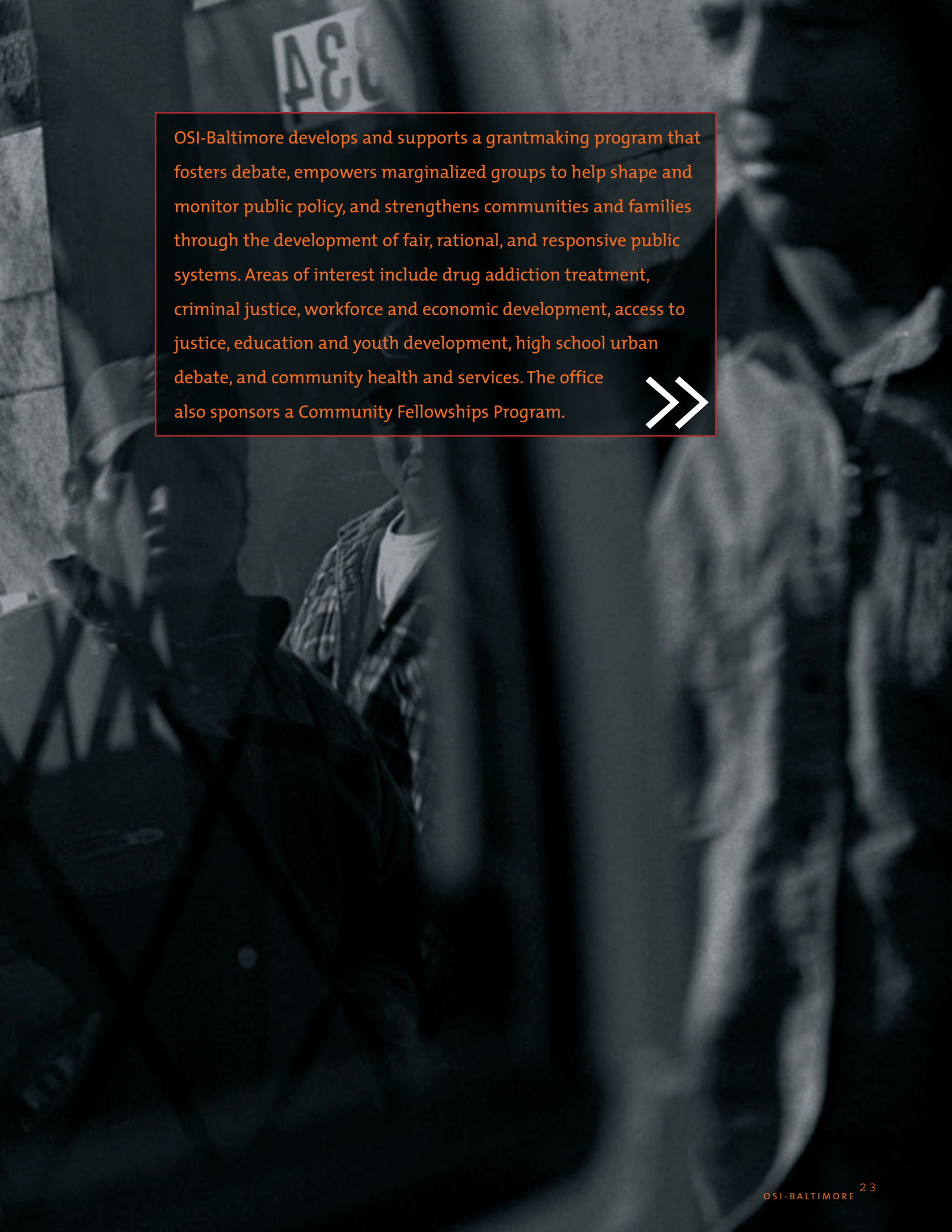
THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS encourages physicians to engage in civil society and to address major social problems by executing an advocacy project that affects policy or brings about systemic change. It is administered by OSI's Medicine as a Profession program. The fellowship nurtures partnerships between physicians and advocacy organizations, many of which work on behalf of people of color and low-income individuals in medically underserved communities. The program has supported 24 fellows to date. **Dr. Alice Huan-mei Chen** partnered with the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum to improve access to healthcare in California for non-English-speaking individuals and for those with limited language proficiency. **Dr. David Krol** is working in Washington, D.C., with the Children's Dental Health Project to improve oral health among low-income and minority children and to advocate for the elimination of socioeconomic disparities in dental health. **Dr. Abe Bergman** continued his work with the Children's Alliance in Washington State to improve health services for children. He is also designing a new voucher that will speed payment to doctors who treat foster children.

THE SOROS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM at Columbia University's Center for Population and Family Health began in 2002 with awards to eight fellows. This new program was designed to support the work of key intellectuals and to disseminate their ideas to a broader public audience through the publication of an edited volume of essays. The inaugural group will identify steps needed to realize the agendas of the 1994 U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Among the fellows are **Radhika Chandiramani**, a clinical psychologist who works with the New Delhi-based organization Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues. **Martha Davis** is an associate professor at Northeastern School of Law, where she specializes in women's rights, immigration law, employment discrimination, and poverty law. The social scientist **Ayesha Imam** is a core member of the international solidarity network, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, and a founding director of a Nigerian women's human rights organization. **Edwin Winckler**, a political scientist and China specialist, advised Chinese birth program leaders on how to reorient their program toward the Cairo conference objectives.



OSI - Baltimore

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OSI-Baltimore develops and supports a grantmaking program that fosters debate, empowers marginalized groups to help shape and monitor public policy, and strengthens communities and families through the development of fair, rational, and responsive public systems. Areas of interest include drug addiction treatment, criminal justice, workforce and economic development, access to justice, education and youth development, high school urban debate, and community health and services. The office also sponsors a Community Fellowships Program.



OSI-Baltimore combines financial support with advocacy and networking to build partnerships between public and private groups working to ensure greater social and economic justice for all Baltimore residents. In addition to its local impact, OSI-Baltimore provides the opportunity to understand and address the economic, social, and political conditions that hinder the health and prospects of urban centers across the country. Moreover, many of the issues OSI pursues at the national level have a local impact, which has helped OSI-Baltimore create momentum for change at the city and state level. Along with a local staff, the office is governed by a Baltimore-based board of trustees, all of whom are prominent in the city's civic life.

Working in an interdisciplinary fashion, OSI-Baltimore encourages exchange of information, debate of policy options by all stakeholders, transparent government processes, and development of the capacity of nonprofit organizations to advocate on pressing issues. OSI-Baltimore also helps grantees plan for their long-term sustainability by tapping public and private funding.

OSI-Baltimore focuses its grantmaking on drug addiction treatment, criminal justice, workforce and economic development, education and youth development, and access to justice. It also sponsors a Community Fellowships Program and the Baltimore Urban Debate League. It hosts an educational forum series, *Forging Open Society: Generating Ideas, Partnerships, and Solutions*, which brings together government, religious, academic, and community leaders to discuss topics of concern to the Baltimore region. In 2002, topics included palliative care in underserved communities, the needs of a growing local immigrant community, the impact of former prisoners on fragile neighborhoods, and urban high school reform.

THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM focuses on increasing the availability of effective approaches to reduce the harm caused by drug addiction. One goal is to strengthen and expand the public drug treatment system and make it available to all drug-dependent residents. OSI-Baltimore continues to work with the city to secure adequate state funding of the **Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems (BSAS)**, the agency responsible for drug treatment services. In 2002, BSAS received the last installment of a \$23 million annual increase from the state. Over the past two years, Baltimore has had the steepest decline in heroin- and cocaine-related emergency room visits nationwide.

BSAS now faces the challenge of recruiting and training an adequate number of drug treatment personnel as it has doubled its treatment capacity since 1997. OSI-Baltimore has therefore provided support to BSAS to develop, implement, and evaluate approaches to drug treatment personnel recruitment and retention. **The Danya Institute** also received funding to provide in-depth training to clinical staff from public drug treatment programs.

OSI-Baltimore also supports initiatives that heighten public awareness of drug dependency and the financial and social drain it has on local communities. The Maryland chapter of the **National Council on Alcoholism** received funding to support advocacy activities, which help keep this critical issue in the public eye. Finally, the tragic number of annual heroin overdose deaths prompted a grant to the **Baltimore City Health Department** to support the implementation of a program to train heroin-addicted individuals to prevent and respond to heroin overdose.

BALTIMORE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM seeks to end Maryland's overreliance on incarceration, which is costly and disproportionately affects the poor and individuals in communities of color. The program has three main funding priorities: the return and reintegration of former prisoners to their communities, alternatives to incarceration for young people, and advocacy for systemic reform that reduces the rate of incarceration. Grantmaking supports advocacy, public policy reform, technical assistance and evaluation, and encourages partnerships between nonprofit service providers and government agencies.

Each year, Baltimore absorbs almost 5,000 former prisoners from the state correctional system plus thousands of others who cycle in and out of the detention center or serve less than a year in prison. With few services to facilitate reintegration, this large number of former prisoners has a destabilizing effect on poor communities; unable to achieve economic and social stability on their own, many former prisoners end up back in prison. To combat this trend, the **Maryland Justice Coalition** received funding to advocate for systemic reform to reduce the levels of incarceration in Maryland and to improve transitional services. With support from the Reentry Roundtable, which OSI-Baltimore hosts bimonthly for practitioners, Baltimore City won a National League of Cities award to establish a transitional jobs program. The program will provide a sheltered work environment to help former prisoners achieve full employment and reintegrate into mainstream society. A grant to the **Job Opportunities Task Force** supports the design and implementation of the transitional jobs program.

George Washington University's Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections received funding to develop new state parole guidelines which will likely result in more prisoners being eligible for parole. **The National Center on Institutions and Alternatives** received funding to work with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice to determine the best placement options for youth offenders and reform their assessment and case management practices. Funds also support the advocacy efforts of the **Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition** to reduce the number of incarcerated young offenders and reallocate state funds to provide community-based resources for offenders.



THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAM works to build a healthy community of public interest law groups concerned with social change by providing flexible, institutional support. The **American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland** received funds to strengthen its management and fundraising capacity. A grant to the **Homeless Persons Representation Project** will help develop its infrastructure. The **Public Justice Center** received funding to support the Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr. Appellate Advocacy Fellowship. The **Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations** also received support for its year-long program to improve the advocacy skills of nonprofit staff. The forum series *Lawyering for Social Change* examines the role of lawyers in securing justice and fosters connections between public interest law groups and community organizations. In 2003, the Access to Justice Program will be renamed the Community Justice Program to reflect its mission more accurately.

THE WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM aims to improve the economic security of low-income Baltimore residents to enable them to become active members of society. The program awards grants focused on three priorities: improving the public workforce system, increasing awareness of employment barriers and solutions, and demonstrating effective practices to build skills and pathways for marginalized citizens to advance to careers with benefits and higher wages.

In 2002, a grant to the **American Assembly** supported research and a national meeting of diverse stakeholders to identify public policies that would help the unemployed and working poor move out of poverty and into skilled, high-quality jobs. Support to the **Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations** enabled the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute to conduct and disseminate an analysis of the Maryland unemployment insurance system. **The Governor's Workforce Investment Board** received funding to chronicle the progress of a skill development and career advancement program for low-income incumbent workers. The **Empower Baltimore Management Corporation** provided case management support that helped low-income hospital workers improve their skills, seek better jobs, and increase career mobility options.

In 2002, the program also launched **The Baltimore Fund**, a \$15 million venture capital initiative to create 1,000 high-quality jobs in Baltimore for low-income residents over the next 5 to 6 years. This unique regional collaboration, initiated by OSI-Baltimore through a program-related investment and also supported by other foundations, banks, and universities, is part of an innovative, multi-state endeavor managed by TRF Urban Growth Partners. TRF will invest in 10 to 12 companies in the Baltimore region that offer manufacturing, technology, and service jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits.



THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM provides support for advocacy, capacity building, and demonstration programs that work to improve educational opportunities for all Baltimore children, especially those from the city's most fragile neighborhoods and families.

The program supports the **Fund for Educational Excellence's** training program for Baltimore public school teachers and principals. A grant to the **Council for Basic Education** supports the efforts of the Teaching Institute for Essential Science to improve science instruction in city schools.

Following a planning grant from OSI-Baltimore, the Open Society Institute and 11 other private donors joined with Baltimore's public school system to launch the **Neighborhood High School Reform Initiative**. It will create more supportive schools with effective instruction and an academically rigorous curriculum. Partners will oversee the creation of six to eight new small high schools and the breakdown of eight neighborhood high schools.

OSI also supported the strategic planning efforts of **The After-School Institute**, the technical assistance arm of Baltimore's Safe and Sound Campaign that works to improve after-school programs. **Johns Hopkins University** received funding for its Center for Summer Learning, which conducts research and advocacy work and operates summer school programs. OSI-Baltimore also funded **Advocates for Children and Youth** and **Impact Strategies** to work with state officials to develop an agenda that will guide publicly-funded programs for youth. The goal is to help Maryland's youth become engaged, competent, and enfranchised adults. The initiative will identify benchmarks to assess public youth programs.



THE BALTIMORE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE is in its fourth year of challenging public high school students to think critically and to improve their communication skills through team policy debate. The Baltimore City Public School System, Towson University, and the Fund for Educational Excellence collaborate to administer the program, which is overseen by an independent advisory board with support from OSI-Baltimore. League participants compete regionally and nationally on the traditional debate circuit, and internationally as part of the International Debate Education Association, where they placed second in the 2002 competition held in Slovakia.

THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH) is administered with OSI's Medicine as a Profession program. It introduces medical students to the needs of Baltimore's most vulnerable populations by sponsoring internships in community-based organizations and hosting an annual advocacy research project. The program seeks to foster a long-standing commitment to public service and engagement among future generations of doctors. Further details about SSPCH are found on page 37.

THE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM allows OSI-Baltimore to make occasional grants outside its usual target areas that further its mission. A grant to **Your Public Radio Corporation** will help develop a local news department and underwrite *Just Words*, a new weekly show that highlights justice issues relevant to the region. In addition, the **Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers** received support for its Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, which helps community groups access data about their neighborhoods and use it to improve local policymaking.

THE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM provides an opportunity for individuals to use their professional skills, talents, and life experiences to create new resources to resolve challenging issues for disadvantaged communities in Baltimore. Further information about the Community Fellowships Program is available on page 21.



Youth Initiatives

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The Youth Initiatives program aims to develop the analytical, research, and self-expression skills that young people need to think critically about their world and to engage actively in our democracy. The two main components of the program are youth media and urban debate. In addition, OSI advances opportunities and resources for youth through school reform and after-school programs.



Perhaps no single group in society is as marginalized and vilified, blamed and even feared, as young low-income people of color. Despite falling juvenile crime rates, the perception remains that young people are a threat to society. In the education and criminal justice systems, such thinking has led to increased zero-tolerance policies that have had detrimental effects on the most vulnerable youth. Yet young people are an enormous resource to society for finding solutions to social issues and creating social change.

OSI's Youth Initiatives program integrates low-income youth into the democratic process by supporting strategies that develop advocacy, self-expression, and critical thinking skills. The program's key strategies are youth-generated media and formal debate. In addition, OSI is a partner in an initiative to improve education by restructuring low-performing high schools and developing small, effective learning environments.

THE YOUTH MEDIA PROGRAM is informed by the belief that young people's voices need to be heard and that promoting youth-generated media is an important way to engage them in a national conversation on the social issues and policies that impact their lives. Media present boundless opportunities for young people to become not simply consumers but producers of news and information. Youth media also offer outlets for self-expression and training for a new generation of media professionals.

In 2002, WNYC's **Radio Rookies** and the Bay Area's **Youth Radio** received support to continue building their flagship programs that have become models for youth and adult broadcasting in public and community radio. A grant to **WITNESS**, the well-regarded human rights organization, supported the distribution of the *Books Not Bars* video and action plan. This connects to a larger social justice campaign to reallocate funding from juvenile justice to education. **The Circle**, a widely circulated publication chronicling urban and reservation-based issues of Native Americans, was funded to support New Visions, a program that develops Native American journalism through youth-created print media. The **National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture**, a national membership organization for media arts groups, received support to expand its youth media programming. **Global Action Project**, a New York City-based program that helps young people analyze local and global issues through video production, received a grant to document youth media practices through the development of a curriculum that will help build the field.

THE URBAN DEBATE PROGRAM promotes the principles of open society by teaching young people to form cogent arguments and engage in public policy debates. Now in its 6th year, the program has supported 14 urban debate leagues nationwide, enabling disadvantaged youth to compete successfully in a traditionally elitist activity. Urban debate programs have received national attention, including a *U.S. News & World Report* cover story. American University received a grant to launch the **Marshall Brennan Urban Debate League** in Washington, D.C.'s public schools. This league, modeled on the practices of urban debate leagues in Baltimore and Atlanta, is a unique collaboration of three university partners—the American University Washington College of Law, the Catholic University of America, and the University of the District of Columbia. **The Jersey Urban Debate League**, administered by FOCUS, a Hispanic outreach organization, received funding to expand its program in the Newark public schools to three contiguous school districts. **The New York Urban Debate League**, launched in 1997 by OSI, is now operated by IMPACT Coalition, a community-based organization. It has expanded the program to 44 New York City public high schools and continues to develop partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. The majority of IMPACT's work focuses on policy debate, but the organization also empowers young people through community-forum debate and career development. For information about the Baltimore Urban Debate League, see page 27.

OSI'S EDUCATION STRATEGIES advance opportunities for youth through initiatives for school reform and after-school programs. In 2002, 10 new high schools in New York City opened under the auspices of the **New Century High Schools Consortium**. This consortium is part of a multiyear initiative launched in 2000 that forges partnerships between school districts and communities to create new, smaller, and more educationally sound high schools.



The consortium—managed by New Visions for Public Schools in collaboration with the United Federation of Teachers, the Council of Supervisors and Administrators, and the New York City Board of Education—is funded by OSI, the Carnegie Corporation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. **New Visions** received a five-year, \$10 million commitment from OSI and each of the other funders to manage this initiative. It has facilitated the borough-wide transformation of high schools in the Bronx, where 24 grants were awarded in the spring of 2002. Ten schools opened last fall with others scheduled to open later in 2003. The new schools included the **Bronx High School of Visual Arts**, which partnered with the Lehman College Art Gallery, and the **High School for Teaching**, which joined with the Lehman Center for School/College Collaboratives to emphasize an interdisciplinary curriculum encouraging internships, career exploration, job shadowing, field trips, and relationships with professional mentors. The **Bronx Sports Academy** began operation in partnership with the Urban Assembly, Take the Field, former Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy, and ESPN. It seeks to integrate sports and sports-related fields into an enhanced high school curriculum.



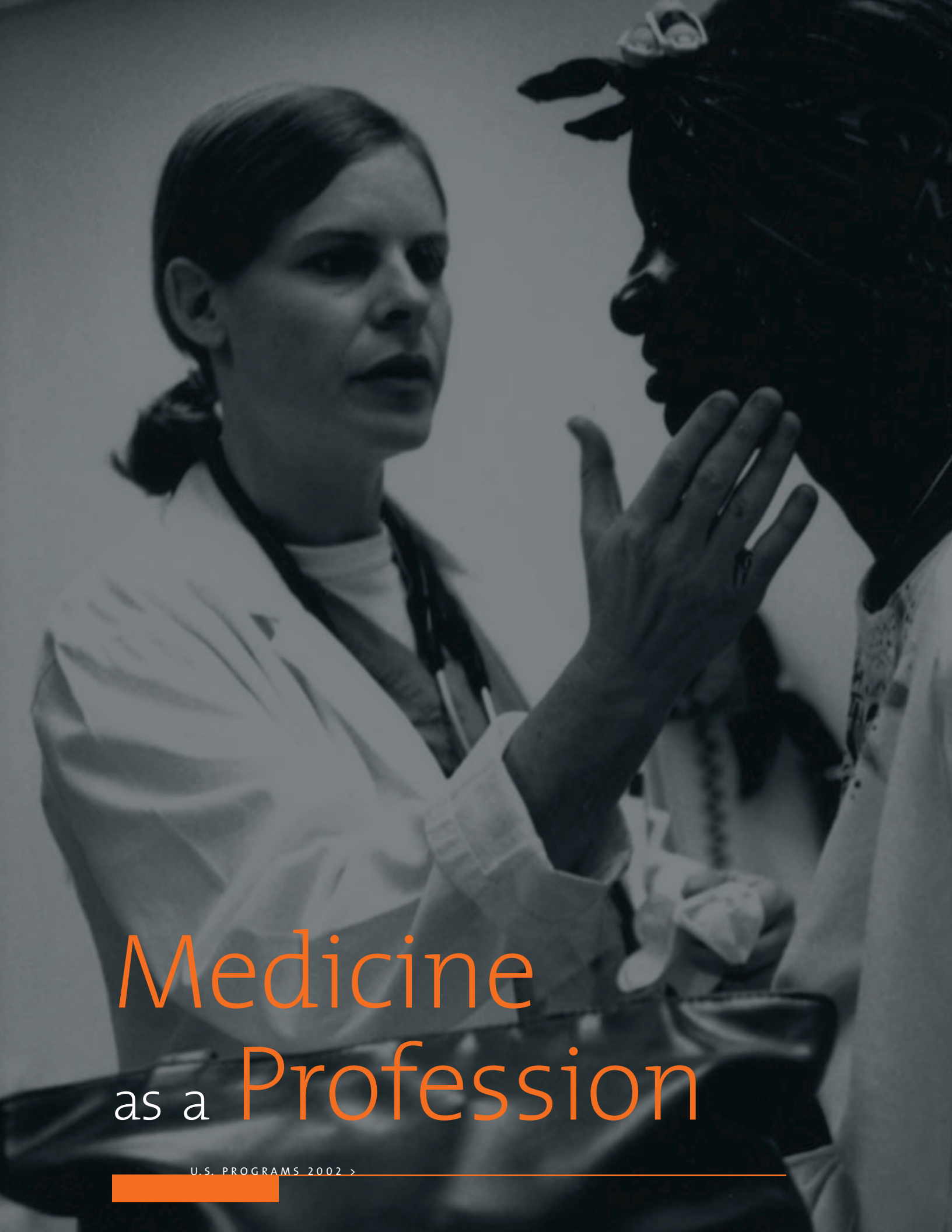
In addition, two schools are targeting out-of-school youth. The **South Brooklyn Community High School for Leadership**, operating in partnership with Good Shepherd Services, employs an instructional model based on leadership development, goal setting, and community building. **Community Prep School**, partnered with CASES (Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services), provides a transitional learning academy for court-involved youth. The **Brooklyn High School Superintendency** and its community partners received funds to launch the transformation of its large, low-performing high schools, which are scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2003. The New Century High School initiative will potentially transform the secondary school experience for more than 10,000 students. Most importantly, it has created momentum for the city to continue addressing inequities in the school system for some of its most disadvantaged students.



New York City's public radio station, WNYC, hosts the highly acclaimed Radio Rookies, a program that trains young people to use words and sounds to tell true stories about themselves, their communities, and the world. And on Manhattan's public access station, Manhattan Neighborhood Network, young people produce television shows for its Youth Channel.

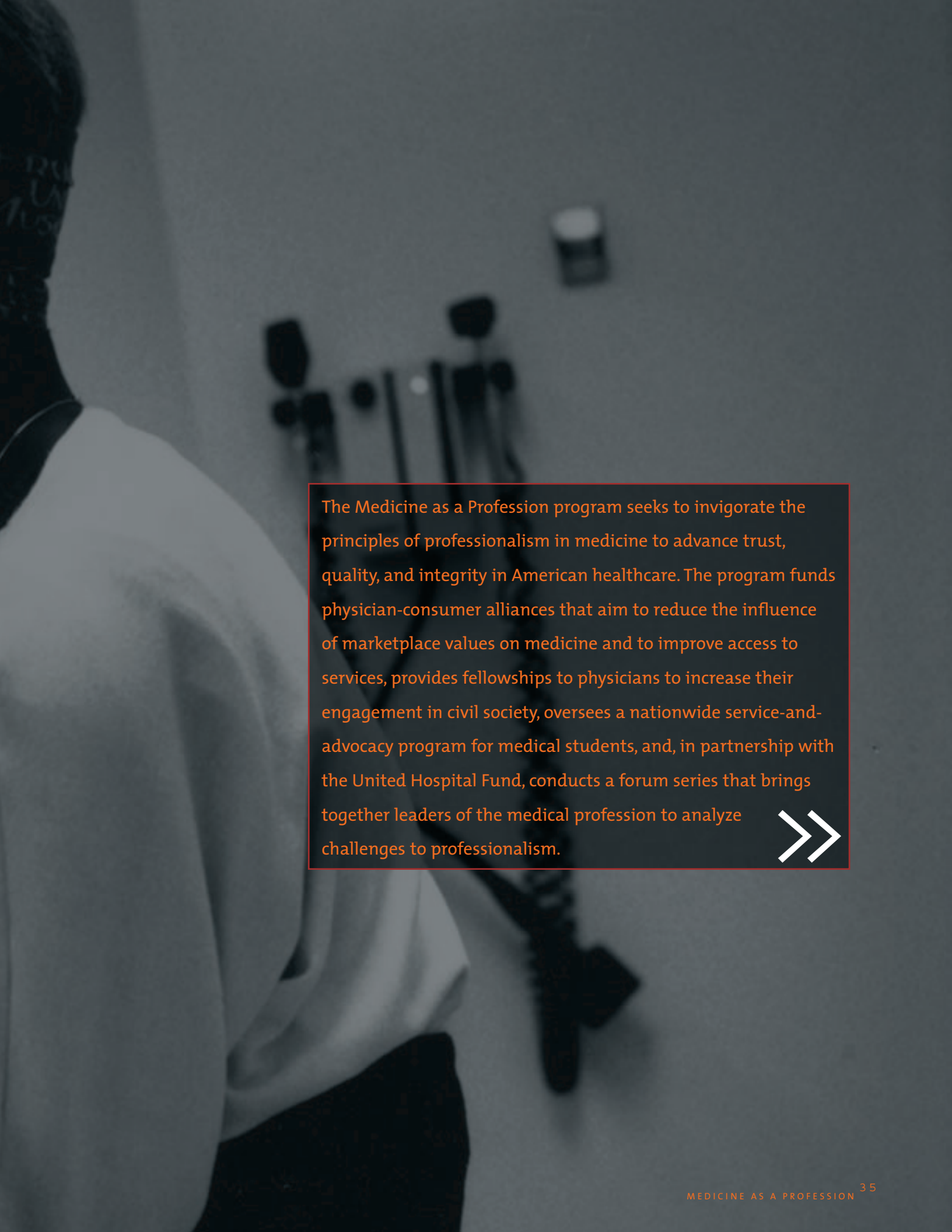


OSI also supports **The After-School Corporation (TASC)**, a nonprofit organization created in 1998 by George Soros, who pledged a challenge grant over five years (extended to a seven-year term) to make after-school programming a public responsibility. TASC funds community-based organizations partnering with the New York City Department of Education and other New York State school systems to provide free school-based after-school programs. TASC is also forging a broad-based coalition between private and public funders to effect necessary policy changes that will guarantee quality extended-learning opportunities for all public school students, while helping to strengthen families and education. In 2002, municipal funding for TASC was included in the executive budget, a critical step in the institutionalization of after-school programs. To date, there are 221 TASC programs operating throughout New York State, with 164 of them in New York City. TASC also took a lead role in 2002 in making after-school an important venue for the delivery of services to children and families most affected by the September 11 disaster.



Medicine as a Profession

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The Medicine as a Profession program seeks to invigorate the principles of professionalism in medicine to advance trust, quality, and integrity in American healthcare. The program funds physician-consumer alliances that aim to reduce the influence of marketplace values on medicine and to improve access to services, provides fellowships to physicians to increase their engagement in civil society, oversees a nationwide service-and-advocacy program for medical students, and, in partnership with the United Hospital Fund, conducts a forum series that brings together leaders of the medical profession to analyze challenges to professionalism.





Medicine as a Profession (MAP) supports the engagement of physicians in civic life and in efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare. It strives to reinstall a sense of trust and integrity in the medical profession. MAP has supported alliances between physicians and consumers that minimize market influences in the delivery of medical services. It maintains a fellowship program that supports projects to make medicine an integral part of civil society. Together with the United Hospital Fund, MAP has convened forums to examine the challenges to professionalism in medicine. In the January 2002 edition of OSI's *Ideas for an Open Society*, MAP explored the need for physician input into public policy and healthcare-reform debate.

During 2003, many of MAP's program priorities will change as it focuses on its fellowship program and shifts the ownership of its Service Program for Community Health to community-based organizations. Also, MAP funded the creation of a new, independent organization, the Institute on Medicine as a Profession (IMAP), which will focus on research and advocacy. Though MAP's traditional grantmaking focus will shift, the objectives of the program will continue to be met through the work of its fellows, the grantees it has supported, and IMAP.



THE INSTITUTE ON MEDICINE AS A PROFESSION (IMAP), a separate nonprofit organization, grew out of the MAP forums which brought together medical professionals and MAP board members to discuss the challenges to professionalism in medicine. IMAP will convene medical organizations, consumer groups, and policy institutions, and will publish an annual report on the state of the profession. Through research and advocacy, IMAP will explore issues essential to the well-being of patients, including quality and transparency in healthcare, integrity in the doctor-patient relationship, physician civic engagement and public advocacy, and patient-centered medical practice.

THE SOROS ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP FOR PHYSICIANS supports doctors in partnership with organizations to advocate for system- or policy-level change on behalf of communities and individuals whose needs are often overlooked. The fellowships are discussed in detail on page 21.



THE SOROS SERVICE PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (SSPCH), administered with OSI-Baltimore, places medical students in community-based organizations to develop their advocacy skills and to instill a commitment to service for vulnerable populations. Participants can undertake summer internships or one-month clinical clerkships in New York City or Baltimore. Community health consortia will begin to take over SSPCH administration in 2003 and will take full ownership in 2004. The program's objectives and form will remain intact, while further empowering a community role in healthcare delivery and education.

Since SSPCH's inception in 2000, 123 students have participated, including 32 who joined in 2002. In Baltimore, they conducted a survey of homeless and poor people to assess the medical debt carried by indigent patients. In New York City, students undertook projects dealing with topics such as healthcare for the homeless, services for victims of domestic violence who have HIV/AIDS, and care for the homebound elderly.

PHYSICIAN-CONSUMER PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH-CARE, which drew to a close in 2002, nurtured collaboration between consumer and physician organizations to promote quality of care, spur fair allocation of scarce resources, strengthen accountability to patients, and enforce standards of ethics for healthcare professionals. MAP focused on helping underserved communities gain access to healthcare and ensuring that consumers' concerns are represented in health policy debates. The alliances included partnerships such as the one between the **Milwaukee County Medical Society** and the **Center for Public Representation**, a public interest law firm, or the **Bronx Faith and Medicine Health Access and Outreach Project** between Montefiore Medical Center and the faith community. A gathering of the grantees revealed that, despite the many kinds of joint partnerships, all alliances shared similar approaches to determining why and how they should work together, identifying and raising awareness about issues of common concern, and seeking solutions. Though the concept of the physician as a patient's greatest advocate is embedded in the relationship, it is typically viewed as a one-on-one dynamic in a medical office, not in the political sphere. Successful alliances will help to educate some physicians about the broader role they can play as advocates.

THE STRATEGIC GRANT PROGRAM funded initiatives that advance MAP's goal of increasing civic participation, raising ethical standards, and promoting professionalism among physicians. The **Health Privacy Project**, led by JanLori Goldman, received funding to establish a taskforce to examine how the fear of bioterrorism is dictating public health policy and posing dangerous challenges to individual privacy and civil liberties. With MAP's support, the project will continue to draw attention to the enforcement of federal health privacy regulation through its Consumer Coalition for Health Privacy. **Physicians for Human Rights**, led by Leonard Rubenstein, continued its efforts to stimulate activism among medical students by conducting training in human rights, to encourage future doctors to do campus organizing, and to advocate for human rights issues in the juvenile justice system in the United States and around the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa.

The mission of the Project on Death in America is to understand and transform the culture and experience of dying and bereavement through funding initiatives in research, scholarship, the humanities, and the arts, and to foster innovations in the provision of care, public education, professional education, and public policy.



Project on Death in



America



OSI's Project on Death in America (PDIA) recognizes the enormous opportunities to improve the way we care for seriously ill people and their families. PDIA works to promote frank discussion about the dying process and to alleviate unnecessary suffering. Thanks to the work of PDIA grantees, palliative care—which improves quality of life for seriously ill patients—has gained prominence on the public agenda. Although PDIA will end in December 2003 after nine years of grant-making, the program is working to make sure that the progress it spearheaded continues.

The program's newest innovation in 2002 was the establishment of the **Funders' Consortium to Advance Palliative Medicine**. It is administered in collaboration with the Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation and made its initial two-year grants to seven palliative care fellowship training programs around the country. The purpose of this initiative is to help establish palliative care as a recognized subspecialty of medicine and to position it as an integral component of standard medical education. The consortium offers OSI a way to ensure that the commitment it has made to improving palliative care over the last nine years will continue.

Programs receiving grants from the consortium include, among others, the Palliative Care Program at the Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin, the Combined Fellowship in Pediatric and Adult Palliative Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals in Milwaukee, and the Center for Palliative Studies at the San Diego Hospice. These programs train physicians to assess and manage the physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering faced by patients with life-limiting illnesses.

In 2002, PDIA continued to invest in education and capacity building among grantees. A grant to **Radio Bilingue** enabled it to produce a national radio campaign in Spanish to inform underserved Latino families about care options for dying family members. Public radio producer Joe Richman's **Radio Diaries** received funding from PDIA and OSI's Youth Initiatives for *My So-Called Lungs*. The piece, which serves as a teaching tool, featured an audio diary by Laura Rothenberg, a 21-year-old woman who recently died of cystic fibrosis.

New Jersey Health Decisions received funding for its Project on Health Decisions for People with Disabilities, which advocates on behalf of disabled people and their family members. It will train and institutionalize a regional Disability Ethics Network to conduct community-based consultation for individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses, focusing on dispute resolution and mediation. The project will also educate professional staff on end-of-life care and develop policy and service guidelines for hospice and palliative care delivery for this community.

PDIA awarded several grants that deal specifically with palliative care for young people facing death. **Nancy Contro**, of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, received a grant to provide counseling for Mexican families with children suffering from serious illness. PDIA continues to support the **Education Development Center's Center for Applied Ethics and Professional Practice** to develop resources for children's hospitals treating patients with grave diseases. Six major hospitals will test the program materials.

PDIA'S PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM supports researchers, educators, and practitioners of palliative care. The Faculty Scholars Program nurtures people working to effect institutional changes and mentor subsequent generations of healthcare practitioners. In 2002, PDIA selected the last cohort of 9 faculty scholars, bringing the total to 87. Faculty scholars included doctors, researchers, and nurses with subspecialties in education, gerontology, psychiatry, pediatrics, oncology, and emergency medicine. **Eric Krakauer**, of Massachusetts General Hospital, is working to develop institutional policies and guidelines for end-of-life care that address optimum use of life-sustaining treatments, cultural sensitivity, and sedation for dying patients.

THE SOCIAL WORK LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS PROGRAM supports social workers who apply their expertise to end-of-life issues and bereavement counseling through innovative research and training projects. Eleven practitioners were selected in 2002, for a total of forty-two. **Susan Murty** received support to train students, faculty, and community partners at the University of Iowa on rural end-of-life care, with an emphasis on rural Latino communities.

Pain management was the subject of the fall 2002 edition of OSI's *Ideas for an Open Society*. The essays examined the lack of public knowledge regarding pain treatment and the tangle of state and federal laws that complicate patient access to appropriate pain medications.

In order to facilitate the sharing of information between scholars and healthcare providers, PDIA made several grants to support professional meetings. **The Life Institute** received funding for a meeting on pediatric palliative care, and the **University of Alabama at Birmingham** for initial discussions on developing the infrastructure for research in the psychiatric aspects of palliative care.

PDIA'S INTERNATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM is a joint initiative with OSI's Network Public Health Program to enhance hospice and palliative care development in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and South Africa. The program's goals are to integrate palliative care into national healthcare policies and systems, educate current and future healthcare professionals, increase public awareness about end-of-life care issues, and make the necessary opioid medications available for patients suffering from cancer and HIV/AIDS. The program supported the publication of *Transitions in End of Life Care: Hospice and Related Developments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, a survey describing hospice and palliative care activities the region.



OSI's Program on Reproductive Health and Rights promotes reproductive freedom as a core element in advancing women's civil liberties and human rights, and in securing larger social and economic opportunities for women and their families. The program funds advocacy, public education, litigation, and model service-delivery projects intended to enhance the capacity of family planning and pro-choice organizations and mobilize support for their objectives and values. A signature strategy involves education and training around emergency contraception and early medical abortion. These are important public health innovations in their own right but also present a critical opportunity to move public discourse on abortion away from the "clash of absolutes" that has prevailed for decades.



Program on
Reproductive
Health and
Rights



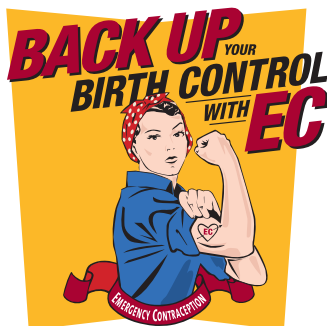
With social conservatives again ascendant across America, the long contentious history of the country's movement for sexual and reproductive rights has in many respects come full circle. Contemporary battles over sex education, family planning, and abortion have their roots in public policy disputes that aligned fundamentalists against modernists more than a century ago, when the notorious Victorian, Anthony Comstock, mounted a national campaign to root out behavior he considered sinful.

Comstock's evangelical fervor culminated in the adoption by the federal government and the states of broad criminal sanctions on sexual speech and commerce, including all materials related to birth control and abortion. Authorized as a special agent of the U.S. Postal Service, with the power to undertake searches and to make arrests, Comstock spent the rest of his life as the country's moral arbiter.

Over time, a broad coalition coalesced to overturn Comstock's legacy and develop constitutional protections under the umbrella of a right to privacy. *Roe v. Wade*, the historic 1973 Supreme Court decision that protects safe and legal abortion, was built on this fundamental notion of liberty and on earlier legislative and judicial victories by feminists, civil libertarians, medical doctors, and social scientists intent on anchoring law and public policy in rational argument, not religious belief.


But the foundations upon which *Roe* was built have long been contested. A conservative movement has seriously undermined, and now threatens to reverse, the decision along with other milestones in reproductive rights that have demonstrably advanced women's status, expanded opportunity for poor families, and improved overall public health outcomes. A new generation of "Comstocks" now controls much more than the post office.

Hoping to clarify public understanding of the issues at stake, OSI joined with colleague foundations to bolster progressive advocacy and media strategies around reproductive health and choice. Support continued for the **Joint Emergency Campaign for Choice**, a coalition of organizations working to raise public awareness of the threat to judicial independence posed by extreme conservative nominees to the federal courts.



With support from OSI, a coalition of more than 100 national and local medical and public health organizations launched the Back Up Your Birth Control campaign to raise awareness and encourage advance prescription of emergency contraception. A symbol of the campaign is Rosie the Riveter, who today still stands for a woman's ability to choose her own path in life, including being able to plan when she becomes pregnant.





The **Alan Guttmacher Institute** and the **Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States** (SIECUS) received grants for policy development and grassroots mobilization in support of comprehensive sexuality education. **Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health** also received funds to disseminate its findings on the adverse impact of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act on women's reproductive health, children's health, Medicaid enrollment, and child protective services.

Efforts continue to educate the public and train providers in new, early options for pregnancy termination that make it possible to move abortion provision back into general medicine, decreasing opportunities for harassment at free-standing clinics. OSI made a grant to Long Island College Hospital's **Early Options Training Center**, which trains family practice doctors in early abortion procedures, including Mifeprix, formerly known as RU-486, and a simple manual vacuum-aspiration technique. Mifeprix blocks the production of hormones needed to sustain pregnancy. It can be administered routinely by physicians or midlevel medical personnel and can be used through the seventh week of pregnancy.

The **Institute for Reproductive Health Access**, affiliated with **NARAL/NY**, received a grant for its groundbreaking Residency Training Initiative, which successfully advocated for a city mandate that all ob-gyn residents rotating through New York City's public hospitals receive abortion training. The institute then launched a three-year effort to replicate the project in partnership with local advocates in eight states that house half of all such residency programs.

Emergency contraception, commonly known as the morning-after pill, prevents pregnancy up to three days after unprotected intercourse or failed contraception. Research estimates that nearly half of a notable 11 percent decline in abortions in the United States since 1992 is attributable to increased access to emergency contraception.

Alaska, California, New Mexico, and Washington have all legalized direct pharmacy sales of emergency contraception without a doctor's prescription. OSI funded the **Pharmacy Access Partnership** to provide emergency contraception training to California pharmacists and **NARAL/NY's** campaign to educate providers and the public about the benefits of moving to direct pharmacy access in New York. Meanwhile, with support from an OSI program-related investment, **Women's Capital Corporation** filed a petition with the Food and Drug Administration to bring emergency contraception over-the-counter nationwide.

Addressing a mandate to build a constituency of U.S. women who support multilateral foreign policy, the program made grants to the **Communications Consortium Media Center**, the **National Council of Women's Organizations**, and **Women's Edge** to educate the public, journalists, and policymakers about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), an international treaty that has been ratified by 170 countries but not by the United States.

OSI funded Columbia University's Center for Population and Family Health to inaugurate the **Soros Reproductive Health and Rights Fellowship Program**. This new initiative is meant to advance and disseminate new intellectual work in this field. Please see page 21 for more information on the fellowships.

The mission of the program on Governance and Public Policy is to strengthen the institutions of representative democracy in the United States, reengage citizens in public life, and ensure that public services respond to public needs. The program supports research, education, and nonpartisan advocacy for reform, primarily in three areas: the political process, including efforts to reduce the influence of money on elections and legislation, the devolution of public responsibility from the federal government to states, localities, nonprofits, and the private sector, and media policy, focusing on efforts to ensure that media serve the public by encouraging pluralistic democracy.



Governance and Public Policy



Americans have reason to worry about the health of our democracy. The 2000 election focused attention on the fragility of the right to vote. The collapse of powerful political donors such as Enron and WorldCom showed the corruption of politics by money, spurring passage of legislation to eliminate large corporate contributions from politics. The recession has further weakened our ability to protect working families and the disadvantaged. Changes in the media industry threaten democracy in this information age.

The program on Governance and Public Policy sees these problems as inter-related and has addressed them by promoting reform of the political process and campaign finance, creating organizations that allow citizens to be heard at the state level, and encouraging new approaches to media policy. Recognizing that the program will end in 2003, grants were made in 2002 totaling \$8 million to ensure the long-term vitality of key organizations and movements.

The strategy of supporting these movements has begun to show results. An important example is the passage of the McCain-Feingold law banning large contributions to political parties. That bill's success against all odds demonstrated that there is a real movement for reform in the U.S., consisting of grassroots efforts to engage the public, institutions that research the role of money in politics to make a persuasive case for reform, and legal organizations that ensure that reform laws are drafted with due respect to the right of free expression. Grantees such as the **Brennan Center for Justice**, **Common Cause Education Fund**, and **Public Campaign** have been central to all aspects of this effort.

The program helped amplify citizens' voices in the states, enabling them to play a crucial role in coping with the current recession and fiscal crisis. OSI supports a network of organizations working on state budget and fiscal policy through the **State Fiscal Analysis Initiative**. Intended to broaden protections for vulnerable people, increasingly these groups are called on instead to preserve what remains of a social safety net against the incredible pressures of budget shortfalls.

In 2001, the program began to look at the worrisome shifts in the media industries that affect the functioning of democracy. Research and advocacy by grantees helped convince the FCC to slow down the process of deregulating radio ownership, and the **Media Access Project** remains at the center of advocacy within the FCC. Other grantees, such as the **New America Foundation**, are exploring whether the broadcast spectrum can be treated as a common good, or whether opening access to the spectrum for public use could be an alternative to regulation. **The Campaign and Media Legal Center** will craft the legal arguments for making broadcast time available to candidates. There is a growing interest in media policy issues among public interest groups and other foundations.

The program has helped to build an infrastructure through which the people's voice can be heard. Yet the fundamental crisis of democratic self-government remains, and many aspects have been made worse by shifts in the economy and political climate. In the year ahead, as the program prepares to wind down its grantmaking, it will consider how best to address these persistent problems for a future in which the only certainty is that there will be new challenges.



Concluded Programs

U.S. PROGRAMS 2002 >




Several programs drew to an end in 2002 after making a significant impact in their fields, from promoting democracy in the Southern states to fostering partnerships between arts organizations and underserved communities.

THE ARTS INITIATIVE (1998-2002) focused on exploring the role of the arts in fostering civil society. It awarded \$6 million in grants to 55 organizations during the life of the program. Grants supported policy initiatives related to free expression and increased participation in arts activities for all citizens, efforts to strengthen organizational capacity, and special projects that engaged the public on issues relevant to the goals of OSI. Grants in 2002 included support to **Alternate Roots** for a conference entitled *The Festival of Southern Arts and Community: The Intersection of Arts & Activism*. **Creative Time** was funded to commission three performing artists to develop *Hear New York*, collaborative neighborhood projects that explore hope, fear, and tolerance. **Maryland Institute College of Art** received support, in collaboration with OSI-Baltimore, to create a new Master's of Arts program in Community Arts and Arts Education.

THE FUNDERS' COLLABORATIVE FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION (1999-2002) supported projects that reduce the harm caused by the widespread availability and misuse of guns. The collaborative was funded by OSI, the Irene Diamond Fund, and private donors. **The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence** received a grant for the *Campaign for Closing Illegal Firearm Markets*, a multistate public education campaign to close the channels by which criminals and juveniles obtain guns. A grant to the **Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research** supported the investigation of links between the implementation of gun laws and domestic violence. The collaborative also funded **States United to Prevent Gun Violence**, a coalition of grassroots organizations working to maximize the potential of state groups by providing technical assistance, facilitating communication and collaboration among its members, and providing a unified voice to communicate with national groups.

THE NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (1999-2002) supported grassroots organizations that build local participation in social justice initiatives within disenfranchised communities. Organizations received grants and technical assistance to strengthen their organizational infrastructure and social impact. The organization **Andolan: Organizing South Asian Workers** received a grant to organize and raise public awareness about employer accountability among low-wage workers in the South Asian community. A grant to **Roza Promotions** supported culturally appropriate social services and advocacy on behalf of Liberian and Sierra Leonian refugees and immigrants in Staten Island. **Public Allies** received support to increase opportunities for the city's youth to participate in local nonprofit organizations. The **Queer Economic Justice Project** was given a grant to build capacity for mobilization around economic justice issues within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

THE SOUTHERN INITIATIVE (1999-2002) supported grassroots organizations working to enhance political and educational opportunities and reform criminal justice in the southern United States. In its final round of grantmaking, the Southern Initiative supported 10 organizations in 9 states. The **Virginia Organizing Project** received funding for its work supporting the passage of living-wage laws in Charlottesville and Alexandria. A grant to the **Kentucky Coalition** enabled it to undertake statewide efforts in education, environmental reform, and tax reform. **Save Our Cumberland Mountains Resource Project** received general support for its initiatives to ensure environmental and social justice for the poor in Tennessee. The **Southern Partners Fund**, a regional community foundation, received funding to continue its fundraising efforts and to support grassroots organizing in the South.



In June of 2002, OSI reestablished an office in Washington, D.C. The office was created in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks and in response to the resulting policy changes within the United States government. Expanding on OSI's ongoing policy work in the United States, the Washington office focuses on addressing violations of civil liberties in the U.S., advocacy work in criminal and civil justice reform, and domestic human and civil rights. In addition, OSI-Washington seeks to influence debates over the role of the U.S. in the world, global economic policies, and international development assistance, including funding for the fight against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

OSI - Washington

U.S. Programs

2002 Expenditures

Criminal Justice Initiative	\$11,050,000
Program on Law and Society	\$7,378,000
Drug Policy Reform	\$5,048,000
OSI-Baltimore ¹	\$6,515,000
NYC Community Fellows and Initiative	\$1,608,000
Youth Initiatives	\$4,448,000
After-School Program (includes The After-School Corporation)	\$21,583,000
Medicine as a Profession	\$3,364,000
Project on Death in America	\$5,178,000
Program on Reproductive Health and Rights	\$5,515,000
Governance and Public Policy ²	\$8,768,000
Other U.S. Initiatives ³	\$10,327,000
Total U.S. Programs	\$90,782,000

¹ OSI-Baltimore's gross expenditures in 2002 were \$8,068,000, offset by the expenditure of returned grants from prior years totaling \$1,553,000.

² In preparation for its discontinuation after 2003, the Governance and Public Policy program borrowed from its 2003 budget to make multi-year grants, which are included in this total.

³ Other U.S. Initiatives include Response to September 11 grants, Arts Initiative, Funders' Collaborative for Gun Violence Prevention, Southern Initiative, U.S. Programs Director's Office, and Communications.

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