

Gulf Coast Relief Panel Call  
Wednesday April 17, 2007  
12:30pm

**Present:** Joe Sullivan, Meg Riley, Martha Thompson, Becky Cureau, Steve Crump.

### **1. Panel Check-Ins**

### **2. Community Funding Grants**

#### **a. Welfare Rights Organization: Viola Washington**

**Requested Grant Amount:** \$35,000

**Goal:** WRO seeks support to begin linking locally disrupted and internally displaced persons who are survivors of Katrina and Rita with needed services and resources to help them return home and/or improve their situations. At the same time, this project will be an opportunity to re-strengthen WRO's membership and increase members' involvement in monitoring policy and advocating policy changes around issues that directly affect members' lives (especially related to welfare policy).

Joe Sullivan Moves for \$35,000

Eunice Benton Seconds

→**VOTE: MOTION IS APPROVED**

#### **b. U.S. Social Forum**

**Requested Grant Amount:** \$15,000

**Goal:** The USSF is a space for organizers, citizens, and people affected by Katrina to share experiences and strategize with others from around the country who are also organizing around same issues. The USSF offers an opportunity to meet and foster dialogue with communities affected by racism; immigration laws; global warming; the war; militarism; the prison-industrial complex; workers rights and environmental racism. The USSF offers an opportunity to coalesce and push forward campaigns as part of a broader movement for social justice. A key outcome of partners' participation in the UUSF will be practical proposals for activism. The USSF will include many activists and organizations that have been working along the Gulf Coast both pre- and post-Hurricanes, and will be a key forum for highlighting the work and moving the work forward.

Becky Cureau moves for funding for \$15,000.

Eunice Benton seconds

→**VOTE: MOTION APPROVED**

#### **c. Rethink—Kids Rethinking New Orleans' Schools**

**Requested Grant Amount:** \$25,000 (The first grant to Rethink was for \$27,000). This grant will defray the costs of Rethink's Summer Program – the total cost of which is \$70,000.

**Goal:** To develop leadership/citizenship among low income, New Orleans youth of color, and to ensure that participants feel the effects of empowerment throughout and well beyond the Katrina reconstruction years.

Joe Sullivan moves for \$25,000

Becky Cureau seconds

→**VOTE: MOTION IS APPROVED**

**Next Call: May 9<sup>th</sup> 11:30 CST, 12:30 EST**

*Report Respectfully Submitted by Megan Joiner*