

## Improving the Performance of Public Institutions in New York

### Brennan Center for Justice

**\$50,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.brennancenter.org>*

*David Udell, Director, Poverty Program*

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law was established in 1995 to pursue scholarship, legal action, and public education in support of basic constitutional freedoms and equality. In 1997, the Center launched an Access to Justice Project to help ensure the availability of effective civil legal services for low-income individuals and communities. On behalf of several New York City legal service providers and a broad coalition of other plaintiffs, the Center brought two related federal cases: *Velazquez* and *Dobbins v. Legal Services Corporation*. In 2001, the Supreme Court's *Velazquez* ruling invalidated the Congressional restriction prohibiting lawyers at federally funded legal services programs from challenging welfare laws. The *Dobbins* litigation challenges remaining LSC prohibitions on filing class actions, claiming attorneys' fees, soliciting clients, and, particularly, the application of these restrictions to funds from sources other than LSC unless the recipient establishes a physically separate organization. Last year, the lower court ruled that LSC's physical separation requirement violated plaintiffs' First Amendment rights, and a Court of Appeals decision is expected shortly. Depending on the decision, Center attorneys will litigate these cases before the Supreme Court or in further lower court proceedings in the coming year. Meanwhile, the Center continues to provide legal analyses, research, and advice to advocates and policymakers in support of other efforts to ensure poor New Yorkers access to legal representation in civil as well as criminal proceedings, and to enable advocates to monitor government performance and advise applicants at city welfare centers.

**Child Care, Inc.****\$60,000***New York, New York; <http://www.childcareinc.org>**Nancy Kolben, Executive Director*

In 1997, New York State made an important commitment to early education by establishing the Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) program. However, the program currently serves only 60,000 of the state's 220,000 four-year-olds — including 45,000 in New York City, primarily in half-day programs which do not meet the needs of working parents. Overall, less than 60% of New York City children under age five whose parents work have access to regulated full-day child care. And quality is not consistent, in part because the city's requirements for teachers in these programs fail to meet state standards. With our support, Child Care, Inc., New York City's largest resource and referral agency, is working to ensure that proposed increases in public funding for UPK are wisely allocated to enhance program quality as well as increase the number of children served. Staff are advising city officials about policy options and issues that should be addressed as the Administration for Children's Services begins to implement its new strategic plan for early childhood services and the Department of Health revises its child care regulations.

**Children's Rights****\$100,000***New York, New York; <http://www.childrensrights.org>**Marcia Robinson Lowry, Executive Director*

Children's Rights (CR) was created in 1995 by the staff of the ACLU Children's Rights Project to expand upon the Project's child welfare reform efforts. The 1998 settlement of CR's *Marisol* litigation led to several notable improvements in the city's child welfare operations. However, CR's 2005 analysis of New York State reviews of child deaths revealed ongoing weaknesses in the city's investigations of and responses to abuse reports. Last year, following the death of several children known to the city's child welfare system and a subsequent review of all child protective cases, the city Administration for Children's Services (ACS) issued a new Child Protection Plan. Supported by \$16 million in increased city funding, the Plan includes instituting a CHILDSTAT system to track data on families investigated for abuse or neglect, additional staffing and reorganization of field offices, and a new quality assurance program utilizing performance data to improve case practice. With our support, CR staff are now advising ACS officials on the design of these reforms. Based on regular data reviews, CR will report on the implementation of the reforms; their impact on case practice, supervision, and outcomes; and additional improvements needed.

### Citizens Union Foundation

**\$45,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.citizensunionfoundation.org>*

*Dick Dadey, Executive Director*

In 1990, Citizens Union Foundation, a nonpartisan research and educational organization, began a City Council monitoring project to foster public awareness and understanding of Council deliberations, and public scrutiny of Council members' performance. Project staff and volunteers regularly attend meetings of the full Council and its major committees, and report on the proceedings in *Searchlight on City Hall*, a weekly newsletter currently emailed to 1,200 subscribers; and on Citizens Union Foundation's popular Gotham Gazette website. In addition to this ongoing reporting, staff will write and commission articles on issues confronting the Council and its performance under new leadership, and maintain an online database of city laws and member voting records. Through its ongoing promotion efforts for Gotham Gazette and *Searchlight*, Citizen Union Foundation expects to double *Searchlight's* subscriber base by the end of the year. Our grant supports this work.

### City Futures

**\$30,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.citylimits.org>*

*Andrew Breslau, Executive Director*

Established in 1976 as City Limits Community Information Services, City Futures today houses City Limits publications including *City Limits* magazine, website, and email *Weekly*; and the Center for an Urban Future (CUF), a 10-year-old policy research institute. Four years ago, the Center examined the city's employment and job training services and found them fragmented and ineffective. Since that time, the Bloomberg administration has completely reorganized these programs, which are supported by some \$80 million in federal Workforce Investment Act Funds, and over \$30 million in state, city, and private funds. Primary responsibility was transferred to the Department of Small Business Services, reflecting the city's focus on serving local employers, preparing workers for available jobs, and coordinating economic development and workforce development initiatives. To evaluate the success of these initiatives and inform the city's ongoing attempts to improve them, City Futures is undertaking a multifaceted research and education effort. CUF will investigate how well current services are meeting the needs of employers and job seekers, and publish a research report and policy recommendations on what additional changes are needed. City Limits will then commission articles examining various issues raised in the report. Project findings and recommendations will also be disseminated through public forums, staff media appearances, and briefings for government officials. Our grant supports this work.

### Clean Drinking Water Coalition

**\$50,000**

*New York, New York*

*Cathleen Breen, Watershed Protection Coordinator*

New York City's drinking water comes from upstate reservoirs and aqueducts whose quality is threatened by development. Therefore, the city is now under federal mandate to keep its watershed free of health-endangering pollutants, or spend billions of dollars on filtration. In 1997, federal, state, and city officials; representatives of watershed towns; and the members of the Clean Drinking Water Coalition — the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, NYPIRG, the Open Space Institute, Riverkeeper, and the Trust for Public Land — signed a Memorandum of Agreement committing to implement a watershed protection program. The agreement provided over \$1 billion to fix faulty sewage systems, control storm water runoff, and purchase thousands of acres of land as a buffer against pollution caused by development. Based on these commitments, the Environmental Protection Agency granted the city a Filtration Avoidance Determination which must be renewed next year. With our support, Coalition members participate on watershed oversight bodies, monitor development activities, educate the public, and advocate with government officials to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect the water supply.

### Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies

**\$40,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.coalitionny.org>*

*Philip A. Sapiera, Executive Director*

While public funding for mental health services in New York State has increased dramatically over the past 50 years, institutional care still consumes a disproportionate share of the funds while expenditures for outpatient clinics has not kept pace with rising costs. The result has been a reduction in services despite persistent community needs. New York pays for clinic treatment through a complex amalgam of multiple reimbursement formulas, few of which directly reflect the costs of delivering services. The Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies, an umbrella organization for over 100 community mental health agencies, is working to create a more adequate and equitable payment system. Based on a study of clinic reimbursement methods, the Coalition has developed the basic principles of a new cost-based system that would combine several existing public funding streams and be linked to client outcomes. With our support, project staff and consultants are formulating a detailed rate-setting methodology to be tested using cost and patient data from Coalition members. This information will be used to generate a report and policy recommendations for discussion with providers, consumer advocates, and government officials.

### Common Cause Education Fund

**\$50,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.commoncause.org>*

*Rachel Leon, Executive Director, Common Cause/New York*

The Common Cause Education Fund is the education arm of Common Cause (CC), a 200,000-member national citizens' lobby that works to improve federal and state government operations. Recognizing the distorting and at times corrupting impacts of political fundraising on government policymaking and the democratic process, Common Cause has been a leading advocate of campaign finance reforms. Common Cause/New York was established in 1972 and has been working for many years on campaign finance issues at the state and city levels. In 2001, CC/New York launched a "Connect the Dots" project to highlight the significance of campaign finance and lobbying laws to all areas of state policymaking. Focusing this year on policy debates about such issues as community preservation, energy deregulation, and health care costs, project staff will examine the campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures of industry and interest group members with a major stake in the outcome of these debates. Through its publications, media work, and convenings, the project will publicize the research findings, highlight the need for campaign finance and ethics in government reforms, and educate activists about how to incorporate these points into their issue advocacy. Our grant supports this work.

### Consumers Union

**\$35,000**

*Yonkers, New York; <http://www.consumersunion.org>*

*Jean Halloran, Project Director*

A Department of Sanitation study of New York City's residential waste stream reveals that 20% of the garbage currently trucked to out-of-state landfills and incinerators could be recycled, and 40% is food and yard waste that could be composted. Three years ago, Consumers Union (CU) helped launch a Zero Waste Campaign aimed at enhancing the emphasis on waste prevention, reuse, and recycling in New York City's forthcoming 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The draft plan initially proposed by the Bloomberg administration promised to utilize such strategies to reduce the city's waste disposal needs by 70% by 2015, but offered few programmatic initiatives to achieve its goal. With our support, CU and Campaign members are educating city officials, civic groups, and members of the press about the needed additions to the SWMP; other steps the city could take to increase waste prevention, reuse, and recycling; and the economic and environmental benefits of doing so. As part of this work, CU is publicizing the importance of diverting consumer electronics from the waste stream by requiring manufacturers to arrange for the collection and recycling of their used products.

**Donors' Education Collaborative****\$50,000***New York, New York**Norma Rollins, Administrative Consultant*

In 1994, several local and national foundations formed the Donors' Education Collaborative to support sustained advocacy, organizing, policy analysis, and public education aimed at effecting large-scale change in New York City's public schools. Originally envisioned as a five-year funding initiative, Collaborative members have renewed their commitments and allocated \$9 million in grants over the past decade. This year, the Collaborative is supporting eight grantees who are promoting reforms that would make New York's education finance system more equitable, adequately fund New York City schools, address the needs of immigrant students and of over-age, under-credited students, improve teacher quality, provide adequate guidance and college counseling services in all schools, strengthen middle school science programs, and expand the involvement of parents and young people in school decision-making. In addition, Collaborative members will determine priorities for a new round of grantmaking, with an eye toward opportunities presented by the likely resolution of the state fiscal equity lawsuit, the arrival of new decision-makers in Albany, and increasing public debate over standardized testing. The Collaborative will also continue to provide technical assistance to grantees and monitor their progress.

**Empire Justice Center****\$60,000***Albany, New York; <http://www.empirejustice.org>**Anne Erickson, President and CEO*

The Empire Justice Center was created in 2005 through the merger of the Greater Upstate Law Project (GULP), a 30-year-old support center for legal services programs across New York State, and the Public Interest Law Office of Rochester. Building on the work of GULP's Due Process Project, the Empire Justice Center conducts advocacy and class action litigation, and provides legal resources to other advocates to defend and enhance the rights of needy New Yorkers and ensure that they receive benefits to which they are entitled. This year, as New York prepares to respond to new federal welfare regulations, Center attorneys are advising state officials and advocates about the potential impacts of these changes, and state options for implementing them. The Center is also pursuing several class action lawsuits and monitoring the implementation of negotiated settlements aimed at protecting public assistance, Medicaid, and child care benefits for low-income New Yorkers. Lastly, staff are updating the Center's online databases of legal briefs, fair hearing decisions, and other poverty law documents for use by advocates representing public assistance clients. Our grant supports this work.

### Environmental Advocates

**\$55,000**

*Albany, New York; <http://www.eany.org>*

*Robert Moore, Executive Director*

New York State has enacted numerous laws designed to protect our environment and safeguard public health from harm caused by environmental pollutants. However, implementation and enforcement of these laws depend on the budgetary, regulatory, and staffing decisions made by executive branch agencies, often with little public oversight. In order to enhance public scrutiny of the state's environmental programs and policies, Environmental Advocates (EA), a statewide coalition of environmental groups, established a Regulatory Watch project. Over the past three years, project staff have analyzed environmental agency staffing and spending, and published two *Endangered Agency* reports on how staff cuts are putting New York's environment and public safety at risk. In addition to pressing state policymakers to address the findings and recommendations of those reports, this year EA is analyzing the proposed budget for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), highlighting inadequate staffing resources and implications for key programs. Project staff are also investigating DEC programs for regulating water pollution, and will report on how well they comply with state law and the federal Clean Water Act. Our grant supports this work.

### Environmental Defense

**\$60,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.environmentaldefense.org>*

*Fred Krupp, Executive Director*

Two years ago, Environmental Defense (ED) published *Trash and the City* documenting the extensive air pollution and traffic congestion — particularly in poor areas of the outer boroughs — caused by trucks transporting Manhattan's garbage. The report showed how these impacts could be significantly reduced by creating a system of local waterfront and rail-linked waste transfer facilities. Many of ED's recommendations were reflected in the administration's proposed Solid Waste Management Plan. To inform public discussion and City Council consideration of the Plan, and the subsequent development of permit conditions for the new facilities, project staff are educating city officials, community groups, and others about the advantages of a marine-based waste transfer system, and design elements that would minimize facilities' impacts on the communities where they are located. In addition, ED is advising city agency officials on the implementation of recent legislation requiring the Sanitation Department to use the best available technologies to reduce harmful emissions from its trucks. Our grant supports this work.

**Fight Crime: Invest in Kids****\$50,000***Washington, D.C.; <http://www.fightcrime.org>**Meredith Wiley, New York State Director*

Established in 1996, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids (FCIK) brings together police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and crime survivors to advocate for increased public investment in programs that promote healthy child and youth development. Drawing on social science research and crime data, Fight Crime publishes reports and conducts public awareness campaigns highlighting the crime prevention benefits of these programs. Last year, Fight Crime's New York Project staff summarized data for the state's 15 highest crime counties and New York City on the unmet need for each component of Fight Crime's research-based crime prevention agenda — early education, after-school programs, home visiting for new parents, and intensive therapeutic interventions for delinquent youth. This year, FCIK staff and members are advising state policymakers, gubernatorial candidates, and county officials about the law enforcement community's support for investments in these programs, and specific strategies to expand the numbers of children served. In addition, the Project will publish a research report on effective interventions for troubled youth. Our grant supports this work.

**Healthy Schools Network****\$50,000***Albany, New York; <http://www.healthyschools.org>**Claire Barnett, Executive Director*

Children are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards because their brains and bodies are developing and their behavior often puts them at greater risk of ingesting harmful substances. These hazards — including lead, mold, asbestos, and poor air quality — can affect even healthy children and impair their ability to learn, as well as the health and productivity of adults working in the same environments. The Healthy Schools Network was established in 1994 to focus public attention and hold public officials accountable for improving the environmental conditions in school buildings. Last year, the Network joined forces with the Learning Disabilities Association of New York State (LDA) and Citizens' Environmental Coalition to convene the Children's Environmental Health Partnership. With our support, the Partnership will publish a report on the state of children's environmental health policy in New York, identifying the roles of various state agencies and budget and policy priorities. Network and LDA staff are engaging a diverse array of organizations in Partnership efforts to educate policymakers, journalists, and the broader public about environmental toxins that threaten children as well as strategies to reduce exposure to such toxins.

### **Hunger Action Network of New York State**

**\$45,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.hungeractionnys.org>*

*Bich Ha Pham, Executive Director*

Founded in 1982, the Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS) is a statewide coalition of over 300 emergency food providers, other community and advocacy organizations, and individuals. In recent years, HANNYS has focused its research and advocacy on state and county implementation of new rules affecting public assistance recipients and applicants. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and tightened the requirement regarding the portion of assistance recipients who must be participating in approved work-related activities. In order to inform the implementation of the new TANF policies in New York, HANNYS is educating state policymakers, county social services agencies, advocates, and the public about options for providing adequate support to assistance recipients and maximizing opportunities for them to move out of poverty, while complying with the federal regulations. In addition, HANNYS is conducting a campaign to mobilize support for increasing the state's public assistance grant, which currently remains at the level set in 1990 despite a 50% rise in the cost of living since then. Our grant supports this work.

### **Inside Albany**

**\$50,000**

*Albany, New York; <http://www.insidealbany.com>*

*Lise Bang Jensen and David Hepp, Producers*

One of the central themes in recent American politics has been the devolution of federal authority to the states. Whether the issue is access to abortion or income support, Medicaid coverage or voting machines, national norms and federal mandates are giving way to state prerogatives and community standards. At the same time, many issues of direct local concern, such as tax policy, school spending, or the creation of new subway service, are also decided by state lawmakers. The most extensive television coverage of state policy issues and Albany politics is provided by "Inside Albany," a weekly news program that has aired on public television stations across the state since 1975. With our support, this year "Inside Albany" is reporting on key policy and budget issues and the machinations of state government, including various efforts to reform how it operates and the impact of the state election campaigns on the policy agendas and actions of incumbent officials. Our grant also supports advertising and promotion aimed at increasing program viewership among New Yorkers interested in civic affairs.

### Long Term Care Community Coalition

**\$50,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.ltccc.org>*

*Richard Mollot, Director*

The Long Term Care Community Coalition, comprised of 26 consumer, professional, and civic organizations, works to protect the rights of residents of long-term care facilities, and to improve the quality of care they receive. As both New York's elderly population and state healthcare spending continue to escalate, there are multiple pressures to reduce expenditures for long-term care. Over the past decade, these pressures and the clout of the provider industry have eroded budgetary support for state oversight and enforcement of nursing home standards. Now, the Coalition is concerned that the well-being of vulnerable elderly may be further compromised by efforts to reduce reliance on institutional care by expanding access to assisted living and other options. To ensure that these efforts actually benefit the elderly, rather than resulting in substandard care, the Coalition is educating policymakers and the public about the ramifications of current state proposals, and safeguards needed to protect the rights of care recipients. In addition, project staff are disseminating information about legal strategies and programs utilized effectively in other states to enforce nursing home standards when responsible state agencies fail to do so. Our grant supports this work.

### Municipal Art Society

**\$50,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.mas.org>*

*Kent Barwick, President*

From Downtown Brooklyn to Manhattan's far West Side, from the Bronx to Staten Island, rezonings and large development projects promise to profoundly alter the character of many neighborhoods and the public infrastructure required to support them. Yet in most cases, community members have had little involvement in shaping developers' plans, and those plans have not addressed priorities articulated by the community. Recognizing this long-standing problem, the Municipal Art Society's Planning Center created a task force and launched an advocacy campaign to highlight the importance of community-led planning. After analyzing New York City's current planning systems and approaches used in other cities, the Center identified several policy reforms that would give community plans greater influence over city planning and budget decisions. With our support, the Center will advise policymakers on these reform options and on how to enhance the planning capabilities of community boards. In addition, the Center will publish planning report cards analyzing the extent to which city capital funds are — or are not — being utilized to support plans developed by local communities.

### **National Center for Law & Economic Justice**

**\$75,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.nclej.org>*

*Henry Freedman, Executive Director*

The National Center for Law & Economic Justice (formerly the Welfare Law Center) was established in 1965 as a legal services support center to conduct litigation and policy analysis aimed at ensuring that needy Americans receive adequate public assistance benefits. Following the 1996 abolition of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children entitlement and transfer of most responsibility for welfare programs to the states, the Center embarked upon Project Fair Play New York to safeguard the rights of poor New Yorkers facing benefit cuts, inappropriate work placements, and abusive administrative procedures. As the city's welfare rolls have declined, the Project has also advocated for the employment supports low-income workers need in order to climb out of poverty. With our support, Project staff are pursuing class action litigation, monitoring the implementation of court orders, and advising policymakers, advocates, and community groups. In particular, they are pressing city officials to ensure that city Human Resources Administration employees and the private agencies with which they contract comply with existing laws and court settlements requiring that assessment, benefit determination, and placement procedures address the needs of individual clients, provide reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities, and maximize access to education and training.

### **New York League of Conservation Voters' Education Fund**

**\$35,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.nylcv.org>*

*Marcia Bystryn, Executive Director*

The New York League of Conservation Voters' Education Fund was established in 1993 as a sister organization to the League of Conservation Voters to educate the public about the ways in which state and local governments affect the environment. The Education Fund has developed City Council district environmental profiles and a legislative tracking system to help New Yorkers hold elected officials accountable for their actions — or inaction — on critical environmental issues. This year, in conjunction with an advisory group of environmental advocates, the Fund is developing an environmental agenda for the administration. The agenda will identify actions that government agencies could take to improve the city's air and water quality, reduce energy use, and otherwise enhance the quality of the environment and conserve natural resources. Using performance benchmarks and indicators outlined in the agenda, Fund staff will publish a report card on the administration's contributions to environmental sustainability. Our grant supports this work.

### **New Yorkers for Parks**

**\$45,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.ny4p.org>*

*Christian DiPalermo, Executive Director*

New Yorkers for Parks (NYP) is New York City's oldest independent organization working to promote better care of the city's 28,800 acres of park land, beaches, and playgrounds. Thanks in part to its efforts, the city recently began restoring funds cut from the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) over the last 15 years. However, staffing and resources for parks remain inadequate to the task and inequitably distributed. With our support, NYP is partnering with the Citizens Budget Commission (CBC), a research and advocacy organization expert in the analysis of New York City and State finances and service delivery, to produce a report on DPR's finances and management practices and the privately funded conservancies with which it contracts. The report will examine changes since 1991, when CBC produced a similar report, and identify promising parks management and revenue-generating models used elsewhere. The research will guide NYP's and CBC's advocacy efforts aimed at promoting better use of available resources and improvements in park conditions and services in all neighborhoods of the city.

### **Public Policy and Education Fund of New York**

**\$50,000**

*Albany, New York; <http://www.citizenactionny.org>*

*Richard Kirsch, Executive Director*

The Public Policy and Education Fund was established in 1986 as the tax-exempt affiliate of Citizen Action of New York, a grassroots organization with 25,000 members statewide. Over the past three years, the Fund has documented the failure of many New York hospitals to establish and make clear to the public their financial assistance policies, despite receiving millions of public dollars for uncompensated care. In addition, its most recent report revealed that hospitals commonly bill uninsured patients at much higher rates than those used to bill public and private insurers. As a result of mounting public pressure to address these findings, the state enacted a new law setting limits on charges for hospital services to low- and moderate-income patients, and requiring hospitals to establish and inform patients about financial assistance policies. With our support, Fund staff are now advising state officials as they prepare guidelines and procedures for the implementation and enforcement of the law. The Fund is also producing its own review of hospital policies; preparing briefing papers for state policymakers; and educating journalists, consumers, and agencies serving low-income New Yorkers about the new law and its implementation.

### Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy

**\$60,000**

*Albany, New York; <http://www.scaany.org>*

*Karen Schimke, President*

While New York is home to many excellent children’s programs, large numbers of children remain underserved. On the national “Kids Count” indicators of child well-being, New York’s total score places it 25th among states. Last year, the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA) released *Growing Up in New York* documenting how the state’s children are faring on various indicators of health, education, and economic security. It then launched the New York Children’s Action Network (New York CAN) to promote policy and practice reforms and investments in children’s services. To support its own advocacy and the work of New York CAN, this year SCAA will report on changes in key indicators from *Growing Up in New York*. In addition, staff will produce a policy paper outlining ways to improve services to needy children in order to reduce the numbers of older youth who end up “disconnected” from school and work, and often from family and community as well. Lastly, to focus attention on budgetary choices that could strengthen children’s programs, SCAA will develop a model for a state children’s budget and then advocate for its use. Our grant supports this work.

### Social Science Research Council

**\$60,000**

*New York, New York; <http://www.ssrc.org>*

*Craig Calhoun, President*

Growing public pressure for school system accountability, fueled by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity court decision and the federal No Child Left Behind Act, has underscored the need for reliable data and independent assessment of school performance and the impacts of system-wide programs and policies. To meet these needs, a group of officials from the New York City Department of Education, education researchers, and representatives of the business and advocacy communities are launching a Research Partnership for New York City Schools under the auspices of the Social Sciences Research Council. The Partnership will house a data archive and a corps of education researchers who will conduct and commission studies on city public schools, staff, and students, and on the equity and adequacy of resources and services. With our support, project staff and working group members will complete the planning process and begin commissioning research reports. They will reach out to a wide array of school system constituents and researchers to inform that process, to encourage their use of the data archive, and to solicit ideas for future Partnership research.

**Vera Institute of Justice****\$40,000***New York, New York; <http://www.vera.org>**Michael P. Jacobson, President*

Some 5,200 youths under age 16 are held annually in New York City's juvenile detention facilities while awaiting trial for delinquency. Many of these young people are charged with misdemeanors, have no prior arrests, and/or will be found not guilty when they appear in court. Nationally, only one third of young people arrested for delinquency are ultimately convicted. The costs of unnecessary detentions are paid in dollars by city and state taxpayers and in diminished life opportunities by young people, as detained youth are more likely to be imprisoned at trial than those in alternative programs. Early this year, following the closure of New York City's only juvenile alternative to detention program, the mayor's office acknowledged the need for a new approach to reduce unnecessary jailing of young people arrested for nonviolent offenses. At the request of the mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinator, the Vera Institute of Justice has begun working with a team of city officials to plan a system to screen arrested youth, make recommendations regarding pretrial detention or release, direct those who do not require detention to community alternatives, and monitor the providers of those programs. With our support, Vera staff are continuing to advise city officials in the formulation and validation of a risk assessment instrument. They will then help develop a central coordinating office to manage services for arrested young people, and engage family court judges, lawyers, police, and service providers in helping to shape and implement systemic reforms.