

Tides Death Penalty Mobilization Fund – State Strategies
Fall 2011 Grants Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the total grantmaking amount for 2011?** The total grantmaking amount from the Tides DPMF – State Strategies will be between \$500,000 and \$700,000, distributed in Fall, 2011.
- 2. Is this process the same as last year?** No, this year the process is divided into two steps. Applicants must submit a LOI by June 15th and will be notified by July 1st if they are invited to submit a proposal. Proposals are due by August 10th. The LOI narrative should serve as the basis for the proposal.
- 3. How is the Tides Death Penalty Mobilization State Strategies Fund different from Funders for Alternatives to the Death Penalty?** The Tides Death Penalty Mobilization State Strategies Fund provides grants to state-based activist organizations working on death penalty abolition or reform efforts in the US. The DPMF is comprised of three foundations: Atlantic Philanthropies, Open Society Foundations, and Sheilah’s Fund at Tides Foundation. The Funders for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP) is an affinity group comprised of foundations working to abolish the death penalty in the United States. The following funders comprise this group: Atlantic Philanthropies, Butler Family Fund, Fund for Nonviolence, Maverick Lloyd Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and Sheilah’s Fund at Tides Foundation.
- 4. What is the difference between Tides Foundation and The Advocacy Fund?** The Death Penalty Mobilization Fund (DPMF) is a collaborative of Tides Foundation (a 501(c)3 organization) and The Advocacy Fund (a 501(c)4 organization) that supports strategic collaborations of local, regional or national nonprofits [501(c)(3)’s and 501(c)(4)’s] working to abolish the death penalty at the state and/or federal levels. The grants for charitable organizations and projects are made from Tides Foundation, and the grants for 501(c)4 organizations and lobbying projects are made from The Advocacy Fund.
- 5. How should documents for the grant process be named?** Please name each document with your organization’s name in the following manner: “orgname_date_loi.pdf” and “orgname_date_bud.pdf” (for example, Tides_061511_loi.pdf).
- 6. Who will be reviewing applications?** The applications will be reviewed by funders of the three contributing foundations and advisors from the field. Advisors will have input but will not make the final grant recommendations.
- 7. How is the organizational budget different from the project budget? We only have one budget.** The organizational budget should give a snapshot of the budget for the organization. The project budget should include only items related to the proposed grant funded project, and include any additional funding that might have been secured to help fund the proposed project. If you only have one budget then just submit the project budget. If we need further budget documents, we will ask you at a later date.

- 8. Does the fund make grants for operating expenses?** Yes, fund grants may be used for operating expenses.
- 9. How much should I ask for if I'm applying to DPMF and FADP?** Please request the level of funding appropriate to your organization's current needs. Actual grant amounts will be determined in consideration of a full spectrum of needs and opportunities within the field.
- 10. What is the difference between lobbying and non-lobbying expenses?** There are two types of lobbying—direct lobbying and grassroots lobbying. In general, direct lobbying is a communication with a legislator (federal, state, local) or legislative staff member that refers to specific legislation and takes a position on that legislation. Direct lobbying also includes communications with the general public that refer to and state a position on ballot measures (such as referenda, ballot measures, and constitutional amendments). Grassroots lobbying is a communication with the general public that refers to specific legislation, reflects a view on that legislation, and contains a call to action. One useful measure to know if specific legislation is being referred to: is there a bill number? If so, that is specific legislation. Expenditures on these types of activities would be considered lobbying expenses. Additional helpful information can be obtained from the Alliance for Justice (www.afj.org/for-nonprofits-foundations/).
- 11. If I have questions about whether my work is lobbying, who should I contact?** Please contact Tides DPMF at deathpenalty@tides.org regarding questions regarding lobbying activities.
- 12. Are there funds available for lobbying activities?** There is significant funding available for lobbying activities and you are encouraged to apply to this fund for lobbying activities your group plans to engage in. Please note any lobbying activities in the lobbying column in the budget template.
- 13. Is there an appeal process?** The decision of the reviewers is final and there is no appeal process.
- 14. Is there multi-year funding available through the DPMF?** DPMF anticipates primarily doing single year funding in order to spread the available funds the farthest possible.
- 15. Where should questions be directed?** Please contact Tides DPMF at deathpenalty@tides.org for questions regarding the overall grant process. Contact FADP coordinator, Pat Clark at dpfunding@gmail.com for programmatic questions.