

## Civic engagement gaining ground within human service agencies

### Alliance members receive grants to fund advocacy efforts



(Alliance E-News Service) — August 26, 2008

The Alliance for Children and Families has expanded its civic engagement program to support even more members seeking to advance social change at the local level. Support for this expansion comes from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

By receiving grants, training, and technical assistance, Alliance members will be better equipped to engage their clients and constituents in civic engagement work that influences practices and public policies affecting children and families.

In July, 25 agencies were selected to receive grants to support their civic engagement efforts in one of three categories: Community Leadership, New Voices at the Civic Table, and National Family Week. Among those, three received the prestigious \$35,000 Community Leadership Award.

The Community Leadership grant category is designed to support an organization's robust and sustained community civic engagement efforts over three years. A key emphasis of this grant is that all stakeholders have important roles to play in advancing positive community change. Community Leadership initiatives involve clients, community members, staff, boards and volunteers, and partners.

This grant category is for those members that have some experience in facilitating civic engagement, are in the process of incorporating civic engagement into their strategic plans, and are interested in sustaining civic engagement work as an integral part of agency practice.

Each of the following Alliance members were recognized with this award:

#### [Parental Stress Center](#) in Pittsburgh

Grant funds will support and develop the capacity of low-income, disadvantaged citizens to actively participate in civic life through the Citizens Leadership Initiative.

#### [Pillsbury United Communities](#) in Minneapolis

Grant funds will go toward the implementation of a youth mural and performance art initiative as a deterrent to crime, as well as to the organization of increased civic engagement around crime, violence, and graffiti reduction issues.

#### [Metropolitan Family Services](#) in Portland, Ore.

Grant funds will aid in creating a leadership institute to provide opportunities for persons aged 50 and over to combine lifelong learning and civic engagement through education, leadership, and volunteer service.

Watch future editions of the *E-News* for descriptions of the New Voices at the Civic Table and National Family Week grants, including the a complete list of 2008 award recipients.