

American Institute for Social Justice, Inc.
(Washington, DC)

Total Award: \$120,500 over 3 months

Hurricane Recovery and Rebuilding

Presidential Authority Grant

To support the American Institute for Social Justice's (AISJ) efforts to rebuild the ACORN office and its network in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. AISJ provides training and technical assistance in organizing principles and methods as well as administrative assistance to grassroots organizations attempting to operate on shoestring budgets. For over 25 years, AISJ has provided support to ACORN's community organizing work in low and moderate income neighborhoods in New Orleans. With a base of over 9,000 member families, New Orleans ACORN is one of the largest community-based organizations of low-income people in New Orleans and Louisiana. Fortunately, even before the Katrina made landfall, AISJ and ACORN had already taken steps to shore up their own operations, relocating the servers from their national headquarters and financial operations to Baton Rouge. However, their New Orleans offices - which housed their national headquarters, local organizing operations, and financial management for all of ACORN's local and national offices - have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Currently, ACORN is focusing on reopening its national operations in temporary Baton Rouge and Houston offices to keep all of ACORN's local offices functioning, including ACORN offices that will be reaching out to, assisting and organizing evacuees from New Orleans.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$3,500 Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

\$50,000 Environment/Contemplative Practice Programs: *Goal I, Objective II, Strategy 1*

\$17,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*

\$50,000 Special Katrina Relief Grant