

# THE URBAN JUSTICE CENTER'S INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD



## Guidelines

The Urban Justice Center (UJC) has created the "Innovations in Social Justice Award." The Award will provide seed money to an individual to start a new, innovative Project at the UJC. We seek a highly qualified individual to develop a Project that will advocate for a marginalized and under-represented population in creative ways. Factors for selection include the applicant's experience and creativity, and the likelihood that the applicant will have a high impact and successfully maintain the Project after the conclusion of the Award. Advocacy methodology is limited only by the creativity of the recipient and may include litigation, public education, coalition building, and grass-roots mobilization. The winning candidate will start a Project within the UJC's New Project Initiative under the supervision of the Executive Director.

## Award

The award will be \$100,000, which will be used for salary, fringe benefits, overhead and other project expenses. The funds must be budgeted to last for a minimum of one year. The salary level will depend on the experience of the recipient and will reflect a fair wage for public interest work in New York City. The candidate that is selected will start a Project within the UJC's New Project Initiative under the supervision of the Executive Director.

## The Urban Justice Center

The UJC serves New York City's most vulnerable residents through a combination of direct legal services, systemic advocacy, community education and political organizing. The UJC's Projects defend the rights of people who are overlooked or turned away by other organizations. The UJC has a long history of successfully incubating new Projects.

The UJC has a unique Project-based structure. Each Project raises its own funds. At the same time, the Project Directors have wide freedom in running their Projects – selecting advocacy methodology, determining advocacy strategy, hiring staff, etc. The UJC's structure allows it to attract a highly motivated, committed, and qualified staff that works to achieve measurable results.

The UJC focuses time, energy and money on establishing a friendly and supportive work environment. Our culture values independence, creativity, and an appreciation for achieving demonstrable results. The UJC has become a destination of choice for progressive advocates in New York.

Visit [www.urbanjustice.org](http://www.urbanjustice.org) for a more complete description of the UJC.

## Eligibility

All attorneys and graduating law students are eligible. Students must graduate no later than with the class of 2008. Experienced attorneys are also encouraged to apply. Applicants must demonstrate that the Project does not conflict or unduly overlap with any of the UJC's existing Projects. See the UJC's web site at [urbanjustice.org](http://urbanjustice.org) for a description of the current UJC Projects. Applicants must plan to work full time at the UJC.

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\* This is a one time grant, funded by an attorney fee award to the Urban Justice Center.

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## Selection Criteria

In evaluating the applications, special consideration will be given to

Projects that:

- represent a marginalized and underserved (or non-served) population
- employ an innovative approach
- combine direct service representation with systemic advocacy
- will likely have a large impact

Applicants that:

- demonstrate the vision and skills necessary to accomplish the Project
- show a commitment to raising the funds necessary to maintain the Project after spending the Award

## Submissions

Please assemble the following, in order:

1. A fully completed application form;
2. A resume;
3. A proposal of up to two pages (single spaced) describing the project, including the population to be served, need addressed, methodology, and substantive work of the project;
4. Two confidential letters of recommendations from supervisors, professors, or close colleagues. Recommendations should be a maximum of one (1) page. Please ask the individual writing the recommendation to place the letter in a sealed envelope and sign it across the back. Candidate's name should also be written on the envelope.
5. A copy of an official school transcript for the last law school attended.  
*NOTE: Transcripts are only required for law students or attorneys within two years of graduation.*

Mail a completed "hard copy" application to:

Urban Justice Center  
Re: Innovations in Social Justice  
123 William Street, 16th Floor  
New York, NY 10038-3804

*Faxed or emailed applications will not be considered.*

## Timeline

Completed applications must be received by November 15, 2007. Finalists will be selected by December 15, 2007. All Finalists will be contacted to schedule an interview in January 2008. Prior to November 15, 2007 brief questions may be emailed to Doug Lasdon at [dlasdon@urbanjustice.org](mailto:dlasdon@urbanjustice.org). NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

The Urban Justice Center does not discriminate against any applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, political belief, marital status, veteran status, age, gender identity, or sexual orientation.