

**Education Fund of Family Planning
Advocates of New York State, Inc.**
(Albany, NY)

*Protecting Patients' Rights: Fighting Religious
Restrictions on Health Care Choices*

Total Award: \$75,000 over 1 year

Program Contribution

Health Program, \$50,000

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic
Justice, \$25,000

To support the Protecting Patients' Rights: Fighting Religious Restrictions on Health Care Choices project to assure that medical treatment decisions are based on medical advice and patients' individual religious or ethical beliefs. The project will advance this goal by harnessing the collective power of a newly formed, broad-based coalition of consumer groups, health care providers, and public policymakers to slow the spread of faith-based restrictions in the American health care system and the resulting loss of patients' access to services. Among the issues to be addressed by the coalition are the need for health providers to fully disclose faith-based treatment restrictions to potential patients, the need to safeguard the ability of physicians and other caregivers to discuss all treatment options with patients and to direct patients to facilities where treatments can be obtained, the need for governmental health care policies to be based on sound medical science and not faith-based health care concepts and doctrines.

Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice: *Objectives I & II*