

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

Total Award: \$225,000 over 1 year

Florida Community-Labor Organizing Project

To support the Florida Community-Labor Organizing Project, an initiative to protect and improve access to health care for low-income Floridians. Key to the project's strategy is developing coalitions between constituency groups with common health-related concerns and increasing the capacity of coalition members to conduct public education campaigns on the need to improve access to and maintain the quality of publicly-funded health insurance programs. Specifically, the American Institute for Social Justice (AISJ) will work to achieve 3 goals: (1) to ensure that the implementation of existing pilot Medicaid privatization plans in 2 counties meets local needs, (2) to prevent expansion of privatization into additional counties before results of the pilot are clear, and (3) to guarantee a comprehensive safety net that provides people at up to 200% of poverty level with quality health care through justly-administered charity care programs, KidCare, and expanded Medicaid. To this end, building on its earlier success with its Living Wage initiative, AISJ will conduct public education and outreach that will create a policy environment in which an increase in the cigarette tax could be imposed to fund targeted expansion of Medicaid coverage.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$175,000 Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

\$50,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*