

Community Catalyst, Inc.

(Boston, MA)

Prescription Access Litigation Project

Total Award: \$150,000 over 1 year

To support the Prescription Access Litigation Project (PAL) to reduce the inflated prices paid by people in the United States for prescription drugs. PAL uses litigation to challenge allegedly illegal practices employed by pharmaceutical companies to inflate the price of prescription drugs and, thereby, change industry behavior. It provides information, training and technical assistance to the 100+ state and local organizations in 35 states plus several national organizations that have joined the PAL coalition. PAL was formed to assure that litigation activities are driven by consumer concerns rather than attorney fees, and to increase the capacity of member organizations to effectively address prescription drug issues in their locales. It makes effective use of the media to educate the public about the allegedly illegal practices employed by pharmaceutical companies to keep the price of their products high. During this grant year, PAL will explore the feasibility of involving members of the business community in its work and will continue its efforts to recruit nonprofit health insurers to join its coalition. It also will continue to build upon its successful outreach to organized labor, as exemplified by its 2004 partnership with the AFL-CIO.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$75,000 Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

\$75,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice: *Objectives I & II*