From: The Capitol Region Organizing Project (CROP)
To: Grassroots Convening Reality Grantmaking Panel
Re: Request to fund leadership training scholarships for people with developmental disabilities

Date: October 5, 2012

ABOUT THE CAPITAL REGION ORGANIZING PROJECT

Vision: Through the development and exercise of community power, all residents of the Capital region should live in healthier, equitable, and opportunity-rich communities.

Mission: CROP is a regional, community-building organization that serves as a vehicle for people to create democracy, civic engagement, broad-based leadership, collaboration, and power to advance justice and equity for everyone.

Values: All people are entitled to dignity, opportunity, and justice. Public policies related to transportation, housing, education, the economy, infrastructure, jobs, immigration, and other aspects of community and human development, should create stronger, not weaker, communities. People united in common cause can transform communities into just and opportunity-rich communities that work to each others’ mutual benefit. After all, an organized community is a powerful community.

Purpose: CROP has a clear and simple purpose – to build and exercise Power. We are a membership base of institutions with a multi-issue agenda developed by the members. We train leaders in order to develop highly skilled and professional organizers. We work with powerful organizations in California and the United States.

PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING

In order have a diversity of effective leaders, CROP seeks funding to sponsor two (2) of its adult members with developmental disabilities (disabilities that occur before 18 years old and last a lifetime, e.g., Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and similar disabilities) so that they can attend the Gamaliel Foundation’s upcoming, weeklong National Leadership Training in Oceanside, California, from November 11-17, 2012.

Case Statement: As power is concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, fewer people choose to participate in the forums where decisions that affect us all are made. Those most at risk, most vulnerable in society – the poor, minorities, and people with disabilities – are those most
marginalized by the consolidation of power into the hands of elites. As a result, many decisions are made that harm poor and vulnerable people and continue to exacerbate social inequities.

After many decades of gains, public funding to serve the distinct needs of people with developmental disabilities is under attack. California has experienced a 10-year rate freeze for direct support services to people with developmental disabilities and additional cuts of 4.25% for the last two years consecutively (Department of Developmental Disability Services Statistics, Jun. 30, 2012).

People with disabilities and their allies can sit on the sidelines or choose to engage decision-makers to ensure adequate services for themselves and their community. They can either fall into the trap of victimhood or they can resolve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Community organizing is the art and science of engaging ordinary people in the political process and teaching them to act with power. This proposal is about an important synthesis: training leaders to become community organizers within the community of people with disabilities.

Scholarship Applicants: CROP already has two applicants in mind. Both scholarship applicants live in subsidized affordable housing on monthly Social Security checks of $591.00. They are both leaders and members of People First of California, Inc. (People First), an organization of self-advocates training self-advocates. As part of their leadership development program, both applicants are required to complete a Leader’s Form, outlining their motivation and expectations, as well as a Sponsorship Form by a leader from People First. The training location, Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center, has undergone ADA improvements to be able to accommodate persons with disabilities for this training.

Expenses and Revenues: Overall training costs are approximately $1,000 per registrant. The Arc of California (Arc), a statewide and national advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities, is a lead institution within CROP. The Arc will cover half of the training expenses for the applicants. Room and board for the week is included in the $600 registration cost. Transportation will be shared with CROP members who have arranged to carpool from Sacramento.

Reporting: Evaluation forms will be completed at the end of the weeklong training by the training participants and shared with their sponsoring organizations. A report outlining what each scholarship recipient learned from the training will be provided to the Reality Grantmaking Panel within two months of the end of the training, i.e., by January 17, 2013.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership of The Capital Region Organizing Project, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Bailey, Executive Director
Friends of the West Shore (FOWS) and the League to Save Lake Tahoe (LTSLT) have partnered to create The Pipe Keepers Program, a community-monitoring initiative designed to generate awareness about the harmful environmental effects of storm-water outfall pipes around Lake Tahoe. The Pipe Keepers Program will present scientific information to local government agencies to help focus dwindling tax dollars in those areas that provide the greatest environmental benefit to Lake Tahoe.

Pipe Keepers are community members who have volunteered to monitor their local storm-water outfall pipe. Pipe Keepers will collect meaningful information and scientific data to help assist project and program development with the goal of 1) reducing the amount of pollutants that flow into the lake using a technique called infiltration; 2) restoring natural riparian functions; and 3) assisting local government agencies make pragmatic decisions about water quality.

The Program’s Status:
On October 1, 2012, FOWS and LTSLT officially launched The Pipe Keepers Program’s pilot phase. Enormous preparation went into launching this project. To date, FOWS and LTSLT have recruited eight (8) dedicated Pipe Keepers: four (4) who will monitor storm-water outfall pipes along the West Shore of Lake Tahoe, and four (4) who will monitor storm-water outfall pipes along the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

On September 12, 2012, FOWS and LTSLT conducted a comprehensive training session to prepare the Pipe Keepers. Utilizing the help of local water quality experts, the two organizations simulated a 50-year rain event and trained the Pipe Keepers on collecting water samples, measuring turbidity, and computing storm-water runoff rates.

FOWS and LTSLT have also conducted pipe visits with each of the eight (8) Pipe Keepers. During these visits, Pipe Keepers were introduced to their respective pipes, taught how to use their
equipment, and were provided additional training water sample collection making qualitative observations.

**The Program’s Finances:**
Launching *The Pipe Keepers Program* required a significant initial investment. FOWS has procured approximately $2,000.00 worth of equipment so far, with more equipment needed to fully launch and expand the program. Below is a list of all of the equipment required to launch the pilot program.

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* One *Pipe Keeper* already owns the required equipment.
** This table does not take into account staff time accrued.

Although the Hatch 2100Q Turbidity Meters represent a one-time cost, the cost per *Pipe Keeper* is significant. Therefore, to sustain and eventually expand the program to additional pipes around Lake Tahoe, generous grants such as the Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund and the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund’s $1,000.00 grant will provide the much-needed financial assistance to ensure *The Pipe Keepers Program* is a success.

Alexander Leff, Esq.
alex@friendswestshore.org
(530) 412-8009
PO Box 552
Homewood, CA 96145
www.friendswestshore.org
SUBJECT: Reality Grantmakers Panel Proposal / No Fracking Policy

ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL: As the price of oil gas increased, San Luis Obispo County is facing new oil production projects. However, a core problem concerned under-represented citizens encounter is that neither the County of San Luis Obispo nor the State of California have a policy regarding hydraulic fracturing techniques that threaten to contaminate ground water and surface waters. San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper is proposing to use the Reality Grantmakers funding to support our effort to bring a policy proposal to the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors for action to protect the health of our citizens as well as the environment.

“Fracking”, is a hydraulic fracturing technique used to extract oil and gas from geologic formations that previously have been too difficult or too costly to be feasible. However, at the current price of oil, fracking is rapidly becoming the dominant form of new oil and gas production across the US and around the globe.

Fracking utilizes concentrated pressure, forcing a cocktail of water, sand, and undisclosed chemicals to blast open rock formations releasing trapped gas or oil. Although rudimentary forms of fracking have existed for decades, it is only in recent years that technology adaptations have greatly expanded the scope and risks associated with fracking. Some of these modern “advancements” include the use of different chemicals and deeper drilling posing new and unknown risks to the environment and public health, including potential drinking water contamination, groundwater depletion, air pollution, and wildlife habitat destruction.

This issue is of specific concern to SLO Coastkeeper because the oil extraction industry has turned its attention to California’s Monterey Shale formation which underlies our service area.

We believe a County-wide policy or ordinance that affirmatively prevents the use of fracking techniques and the claimed proprietorial mixture of chemicals used will resolve the core problem; level the playing field for our under-represented rural and poor citizens; and assure a higher level of protection for groundwater sources and surface water bodies. We are seeking a $1,000.00 Reality Grant for this sole purpose.

San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER® is a trademark and service mark of Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. and is licensed for use herein.
ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper is the only environmental watchdog dedicated solely to enforcement of water quality, watershed, and marine protection throughout San Luis Obispo County. This part of the Central Coast, often referred to as California's “Middle Kingdom”, contains some of the most spectacular coastline, wild areas, streams, and wetlands in the world. Since 2002 SLO Coastkeeper has been a consistent voice for environmental change taking the necessary action to protect this special place.

Founded in 2002, we are the only environmental organization dedicated solely to protecting water quality, watershed, and marine habitats throughout San Luis Obispo County, northern Santa Barbara County as well as local efforts in Santa Cruz County. San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper, a program of Environment in the Public Interest, has built a reputation as the reasonable voice for environmental change on the California Central Coast.

This part of the Central Coast, often referred to as California’s “Middle Kingdom”, contains some of the most spectacular coastline, wild areas, streams, and wetlands in the world. Our mission is to support the quality of life in this special region by protecting Fishable, Swimable, and Drinkable water.

Demonstrations of our capacity to successfully advocate for significant policy change is reflected in our efforts achieving passage of a County-wide single-use bag ordinance as well as advocacy shaping the Central Coast Water Board’s Ag Discharge Order.

PROJECT BUDGET

If we are the successful recipient of the Reality Grantmakers Grant, we anticipate the following project expenses:

From Reality Grant:
1. Legal Review of a SLO County Fracking Policy draft(s) and final: 2hrs x 175.00 = 350.00
2. Document Prep, Advocacy, & Public Comment (written & hearings) 10hr x 65.00 = 650.00
3. SLO Coastkeeper Policy Staff:
   Fuel, copies, phone, etc. NTE = 50.00

Match From Coastkeeper Budget:
4. Additional Legal Review (over 2hr) 2hr x Pro Bono = 0.00
5. Document Prep, Advocacy, & Public Comment (written & hearings) 30hr x 65.00 = 1950.00

SLO Coastkeeper Policy Staff

Total Project Expense: $2,950.00

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal for funding.

Sincerely,

Gordon Hensley,
San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper

San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER®, a program of Environment in the Public Interest, is a trademark and service mark of Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. and is licensed for use herein.
Organizational Background

Founded in 2006, Washoe Meadows Community is a grass roots non-profit organization of volunteer activists and supporters from across the state working to protect the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Washoe Meadows State Park near South Lake Tahoe. Washoe Meadows State Park was designated a state park in an emergency statute in 1984 that noted its unique and irreplaceable resources and its extreme value to the maintenance of the water quality of Lake Tahoe. A proposed river restoration project that would include golf course development in the park has spurred the Community to defend Washoe Meadows and seek other solutions. Intensified scientific review has shown serious deficiencies in current restoration and golf course construction plans that could destabilize the river reach and impact sediment flow into Lake Tahoe. The massive excavation and land incursion would required the removal of over 1600 trees and would threaten the delicate hydrologic balance of the park’s fens and wetlands that serve as the first sources for clarifying water that flows to Lake Tahoe. The golf course development requires the downgraded reclassification of state park land, which is unprecedented in California.

Funding Request for Upper Truckee River Keepers Activity

Who will do the work: Scientists and members of the public and a testing laboratory

What: Water sampling on the Upper Truckee River where it borders Washoe Meadows State Park and Lake Tahoe Golf Course and at selected locations between there and Lake Tahoe

Why: Kick-start a River Keepers program to collect and analyze water samples from the river. Initially test for turbidity but the program can later be expanded to test for a broader range of variables and conditions.

Begin to fulfill longer term goals:

- Raising public awareness of the issue of potential contamination of the river
- Broadening public interest in the ecology and health of the entire Upper Truckee River watershed and its effect on Lake Tahoe.

When: During and after peak flows during Spring snowmelt, generally April or May.

Goals / desired products of this request

Pro-actively interest the community in watershed issues. Evaluate field information to correlate field tests with lab testing results to lay the groundwork for future field sampling.

Products will include:

- Event announcements
- Laboratory results
- Technical summary prepared by volunteer scientists based on lab results.
Past channeling of the Upper Truckee River and construction of a golf course too close to it have resulted in erosion and sediment deposits into the river. The fine particle sediment can eventually flow into Lake Tahoe and negatively impact the water clarity.

The Washoe Meadows Community will sponsor an activity to engage members and the public on field trips to take water samples and measurements.

1. Collect river water samples under the instruction of a volunteer scientist who will explain the significance of the sampling.
2. Use field turbidity measurements to estimate fine sediment concentration based on relationship between Total Suspended Solid (TSS) and Particle Size Distribution (PSD) and Turbidity.
3. Send samples to a lab for testing to check correlation between field turbidity estimates and TSS and PSD.

**Funding Summary**

Funding is needed for laboratory testing of water samples. Laboratory testing is approximately $50 per sample so ~ 18 samples could be tested. Other activities such as volunteers to lead the event, event notices, and summary from scientists, etc. will be donated.

**What pollutants are causing Lake Tahoe’s clarity loss?**

Particles in suspended in fluids can be of many different sizes. Tahoe scientists have determined that fine sediment particles (<16 micrometers) are causing 2/3 of the clarity conditions.

1 micrometer = 1 millionth of a meter
25,400 micrometers = 1 inch

**Partnerships**

We will ask other Conservation organizations to participate in this activity.

**Fiscal Sponsor**

Resource Renewal Institute, a 501 C3 organization, is our fiscal agent and they receive all income for Washoe Meadows Community and handle outgoing payments.

[www.rri.org](http://www.rri.org)

**Resource Renewal Institute (RRI)** supports global environmental projects.

Contact information: Resource Renewal Institute, 187 East Blithedale Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941, Attention John Angel, Phone: 415 928-3774
The Wild Equity Institute requests $1,000 for general operating support from the Reality Grantmaking Panel. Your investment in our organization will help us prevent a new cluster of five power plants from harming community health and jeopardizing three endangered species, while building a stronger environmental movement for all.

**The Problem.** After many years of campaigning, environmental justice advocates successfully closed two power plants in San Francisco that were harming community health in the City’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods. However, this success caused energy producers to focus on another disadvantaged community for replacement power: East Contra Costa County.

The California Energy Commission has now approved a cluster of five power plants in Antioch and Oakley, California. While the newest power plants are cleaner than the older models shuttered in San Francisco, they collectively emit large amounts of pollution in a small area that faces some of the highest cancer and heart disease rates in the County.

The pollution also jeopardizes three endangered species: the Lange’s Metalmark butterfly, the Antioch Dunes evening primrose, and the Contra Costa wallflower. The power plants are all in the immediate vicinity of the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, the last habitat for these three species. The Fish and Wildlife Service predicts that nitrogen emissions from the power plants will cause the butterfly to go extinct: unless mitigation measures are provided.

Despite this confluence of concerns, the California Energy Commission has failed to require these power plants to obtain federal Endangered Species Act or Clean Air Act permits that would result in emission reductions protecting community health and endangered species. This is particularly confounding because just a few years ago the Commission requires extensive pollution mitigation when power plants threatened a different butterfly and communities in the South Bay.

**The Goal.** The goal of our campaign is to require the California Energy Commission and the owners and operators of the power plants (including PG&E, GenOn, Calpine, and Radback Energy) to provide pollution reductions similar to those required in the South Bay just a few years ago. Armed with strong statements from the Fish and Wildlife Service, we will challenge the approval of these power plants in court and public processes. We will argue that the power plants will cause illegal harm to the three endangered species, and also argue that the most recently approved power plants must obtain carbon dioxide emission permits under the recently promulgated “tailoring rule” issued by the EPA, which will reduce the carbon footprint of these power plants while providing overall reductions in acute co-pollutants.

In the process, we will partner with community organizations focused on air emissions and grassroots conservation groups focused on species conservation, creating a more powerful environmental movement overall. Our partner organizations include Communities for a Better Environment and the Center for Biological Diversity.
The Wild Equity Institute: History and Mission. The Wild Equity Institute was founded in 2009 to unite the grassroots conservation and environmental justice movements in campaigns that build a healthy and sustainable global community for people and the plants and animals that accompany us on Earth. We accomplish this by working on projects that highlight and redress the inequitable distribution of environmental harms across our human communities while improving our relationship to the lands in which we live. In the process, the Wild Equity Institute does more than win campaigns: it engages allies, help them work collaboratively, and sustains the collaboration to make the environmental movement stronger, more diverse, and resilient.

In three years the Wild Equity’s work has been featured in over 100 radio, television, and print news articles, including cover stories in the SF Weekly and San Francisco Chronicle, several articles in the Los Angeles Times, and appearances on KQED’s Forum show. Our work has been supported by the Rose Foundation for Communities & the Environment, the Fund for Wild Nature, the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund, Patagonia’s Environmental Grants Program, the Firedoll Foundation, and hundreds of community members.

The Wild Equity Institute’s Management and Structure. The Wild Equity Institute is a California non-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) public charity. With 20 regular volunteers, two staff members, and an active Board of Directors, we have developed a hard-working and efficient structure that leverages charitable contributions effectively.

Our six-member board includes Ken Masters, a San Francisco-based philanthropist and hedge fund manager; Dr. Douglas Bevington, program director for Environment Now; Rose Braz, a long-time social justice organizer now working at the Center for Biological Diversity; Neal Desai, Pacific Region Associate Director of the National Parks Conservation Association; and Anna Sylvester, a valuation specialist with several years experience in non-profit management.

Our sixth board member, Brent Plater, also serves as Wild Equity Institute’s Executive Director. Mr. Plater has spent the past decade working for conservation and environmental justice. He has received several awards for his work, and last year he was selected by the National Audubon Society and Toyota as one of 40 emerging leaders receiving a TogetherGreen Fellowship.

The Wild Equity Institute’s Finances and Budget. Since our first full year of operation in 2010, the Wild Equity Institute’s budget has tripled. Today approximately 20% of revenue comes from major gifts, 30% from services to other non-profits, 25% from foundation grants, and 25% from memberships and events. Due to successful fundraising efforts, we have already exceeded our budgeted income from foundation grants in 2012.

Wild Equity Institute 2012 Budget

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Program Expenses     | 24,000.00 |                 |           |
Background
The Wolf Creek watershed occupies a biotically diverse band of elevation between the Central Valley and the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Wolf Creek is 23 miles long and its watershed covers over 50,000 acres. Populations of indigenous people in the Wolf Creek watershed were once relatively large because of the land’s productivity and biodiversity prior to the environmental devastation brought on by gold mining in the Sierra Nevada.

Our Mission, Goals & Objectives
WCCA exists to: 1) preserve, and protect Wolf Creek and its watershed for the benefit of present and future generations; 2) engender community stewardship of the creek and its watershed; 3) restore the creek to a condition of optimal health and integrity; 4) monitor the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the creek; 5) thrive as an organization and thereby have a long-lasting presence and beneficial impact in the watershed.

Our Work - Programs, Accomplishments, Impacts
WCCA is a small citizen-led grassroots organization that serves a disadvantaged community in rural Northern California. All positions in the organization but one are filled by volunteers - trained water monitors, committed members of the Steering Committee, Outreach Committee, Board of Directors, as well as treasurer, and webmaster. WCCA is the only local group whose activities are focused primarily on cleaning up Wolf Creek and restoring this neglected community resource to a condition of optimal health and integrity. Our core programs are:

Outreach and Education: WCCA has established working relationships with teachers at three local schools whose students are learning about local area ecology and developing watershed awareness. Through our public meetings on watershed health and functionality, and through our booths at local fairs and farmers’ markets, we are able to reach many community members with information about the Wolf Creek watershed. WCCA volunteers promote best management practices in home and business landscaping, and demonstrate how these practices contribute to the health of the Creek. We have produced brochures, display materials, and handouts that describe our projects and goals. We maintain an informative website that includes a virtual tour of parts of Wolf Creek.

Creek Monitoring and Stewardship: The Wolf Creek watershed is composed of interacting landscapes and creek systems that carry a variety of pollutants, including harmful bacteria, pesticide degradation products, and heavy metals. WCCA has a robust citizen monitoring program for regularly monitoring the physical, chemical, and biological condition of Wolf Creek at 20 sites. Our volunteer monitors can identify problems early, so there is a greater likelihood of an effective response. Baseline water quality is documented so any degradation can be properly attributed to the correct source. Twice each year the monitors walk a section of the Creek at their assigned sites to observe and record biological and other indicators of creek and riparian area health, such as overhead canopy, nearby land use, erosion, and plant types. By monitoring water quality over time we can gauge deterioration (or improvement) in the health of the Creek. By monitoring both aquatic and terrestrial conditions at different locations we can learn more about the possible sources of contamination and pinpoint problems. We have a substantial body of state-certified data ready to analyze that will help us in our efforts to determine how common land use practices in the Wolf Creek watershed affect water quality and habitat function, and to identify and prioritize viable restoration, preservation and education projects.

Regulatory solutions - Low Impact Development: Changes to the permeability of the soil or drainage patterns, release of toxic substances, paving over large areas, leaving soil exposed to the
effects of water and wind, concentrating surface runoff, and using biocides and chemical fertilizers, can all degrade the health of the Creek. WCCA volunteers attend City and County Planning Commission meetings in order to participate in discussions of construction projects affecting Wolf Creek. This program is a critical component of our overall effort to engender commitment to watershed stewardship among City and County officials. WCCA was the driving force that led to adoption of Grass Valley’s first riparian set-back regulations.

By advocating for enforcement of regulatory solutions, we assist City and County officials in planning for low impact development including erosion and sediment control, Creek setbacks and easements, riparian buffer zones, wetlands protection, storm water catchment, permeable surfaces, as well as wildlife habitat and trails.

Restoration: Many of the WCCA volunteers involved in the Creek monitoring and stewardship program are also involved with restoration projects. Their regular presence at specific sites along the Creek helps to inform our proposals for restoration projects, and to identify land-use practices that negatively impact Wolf Creek. We have a long list of viable restoration projects for which we are separately seeking funding and partnerships with other local environmental groups. We await the outcome of our application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funds to complete Phase I of a plan to restore and reclaim a neglected meadow and a portion of South Fork Wolf Creek on California State Parks land.

Watershed Assessment and Planning: We have performed extensive GIS mapping of the Wolf Creek watershed as part of our effort to understand the scope of the hazardous waste legacy left to us by historic gold mining in the watershed. There are 74 known abandoned mines within the city limits of Grass Valley, and 337 known sites in the Wolf Creek Watershed, plus tailing piles, placer diggings, acid mine drainage, and old hydraulic mining sites. We are separately seeking funding and partnerships for a formal assessment of conditions throughout the Wolf Creek watershed to look at land use, land cover, and hydrology from historical and current perspectives, including abandoned mines and the proposed re-opening of the Idaho-Maryland mine. This big-picture approach to watershed management would allow us to accurately pin-point the sources of pollution and degradation and then prioritize the focus of our preservation and restoration efforts throughout the watershed.

Collaborations, Affiliations
WCCA is allied with Sierra Streams Institute (SSI) and the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), who maintain similar water quality monitoring programs as well as with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), whose representatives oversee all of our monitoring quality assurance plans. We have established a working group with SSI to begin work on a watershed assessment for Wolf Creek. The Sierra Fund (TSF) is a close ally in dealing with the critical issues involving abandoned mines in our watershed. We have established relationships with teachers at local schools (Grass Valley Charter School, Bitney College Prep Charter High School, Nevada City School of the Arts). We are collaborating with California State Parks to restore a meadow and creek on public land. We have established relationships with the City of Grass Valley, the Nevada Irrigation District, local indigenous tribes, and regional watershed groups. WCCA is a member of the Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba alliance (CABY), and the Sierra Nevada Alliance (SNA).

Finance
Our organizational budget relies heavily on donations of volunteer time and facilities, which represent 60-70% of our total budget. In 2011, our budget was $64,000 (including in-kind donations). We anticipate a similar level of in kind support for 2012. Small grants pay for specific initiatives, and cash donations from fundraising help to support our organization.