

The Fund for a Safer Future – 2013 Action Fund

Americans Committed to Preventing Gun Violence

The Fund for a Safer Future

After the tragic shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others in 2011, the Joyce Foundation created the Fund for a Safer Future (“the Fund”), with the goal of achieving comprehensive, effective policies to reduce gun injury and death. Other prominent donors have since joined in this effort, including: the MacArthur Foundation, the McCormick Foundation, the Broad Foundation, the Crown & Goodman Family Foundations, and two significant anonymous donors. Arabella Advisors has been a consultant to the Fund which is housed at the New Venture Fund.

The recent shooting in Newtown, Connecticut of 26 people, including 20 young children, underscores the urgency of the Fund’s work. **Clearly, more must be done to reduce gun violence in our country.**

Gun violence takes a serious toll on public health and safety in the United States. Each year, nearly 100,000 Americans are killed or injured by firearms. **It does not have to be this way.** Lax gun laws make it easy for almost anyone to buy an unlimited number of increasingly lethal firearms, including deadly assault weapons like the one used in the Newtown shootings. Loopholes enable even prohibited persons like felons and persons with mental illness to obtain guns without background checks. Among our peers in the developed world, the United States has some of the weakest gun laws and the highest rate of firearm deaths.

Through November, donors have committed nearly \$16 million over four years to support the Fund and its strategies. The Fund and its members already have made over \$13.4 million in grants to support efforts to reduce gun violence. Already, the Fund’s investments are advancing the conversation:

- Grants supporting messaging research, communications training, and nonprofit journalism are shaping the media conversation around the need for stronger gun laws.
- Grants supporting policy-oriented research are providing an evidence basis for policymakers and the media as they consider new gun violence prevention policies.
- Grants supporting grassroots organizing are giving groups the skills to take advantage of the latest digital tools to build public engagement.
- Grants supporting coalition building are enlisting key stakeholders for policy reform, including mayors, law enforcement officials, and faith leaders.
- Grantee groups are coalescing around federal policy goals, including: background checks on all gun sales; bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines; and a crackdown on gun trafficking.

Seizing New Opportunities – 2013 Action Fund

The Fund’s strategies have led us to a point where grantee groups and other allied organizations are poised to make significant progress. The magnitude of the Newtown tragedy has galvanized the nation. The public is demanding stronger gun laws. President Obama has said he is prepared to take “meaningful action.” Donor support can help secure change. Organizational capacity of those groups working for change will be tested in the coming months. They will face increasing opportunities and demands. We must support them in their efforts to:

- supply policy expertise;
- add research and polling support;
- deploy leaders from law enforcement, state and local government, and the faith community;
- elevate the voices of victims and survivors; and
- harness the grassroots power of the American people in all 50 states to achieve shared policy objectives.

The Fund for a Safer Future has created a rapid response fund, known as the **Fund for a Safer Future – 2013 Action Fund**, to give donors a vehicle for supporting tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations doing this important work over the next 12 months. We expect a highly dynamic policy environment over this period, with opportunities and demands that are somewhat unpredictable. Therefore, the Action Fund is designed to be short-term and flexible, to make grants quickly to support emerging, highly promising strategies and projects. Decisions on how funds are allocated will be made by a steering committee of experienced grant makers in gun violence prevention.

Join Us

For more information about the Fund for a Safer Future – 2013 Action Fund, please contact Nina Vinik (312-782-2464) or Chris Hobbs (202-595-7885). To make a tax deductible gift to the 2013 Action Fund, send your contribution to:

Fund for a Safer Future – 2013 Action Fund
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