

textile trades. The UFCW is run by its members, who elect their local union officers, help negotiate contracts and resolve grievances, organize other workers in UFCW represented trades, and work to improve their communities.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was organized on the campus of Howard University by five illustrious and industrious women: Arizona Cleaver Stemmons, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, Pearl Anna Neal and Fannie Pettie Watts. The founders sought to establish a new organization based on the ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and Finer Womanhood. The sorority is the sister organization to Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. The two organizations are the only constitutionally bound brother-sister organizations in the National Pan Hellenic Council. Since its inception, the sorority has grown to more than 100,000 women worldwide. There are more than 500 collegiate and graduate chapters, divided into nine regions in the United States and Africa.

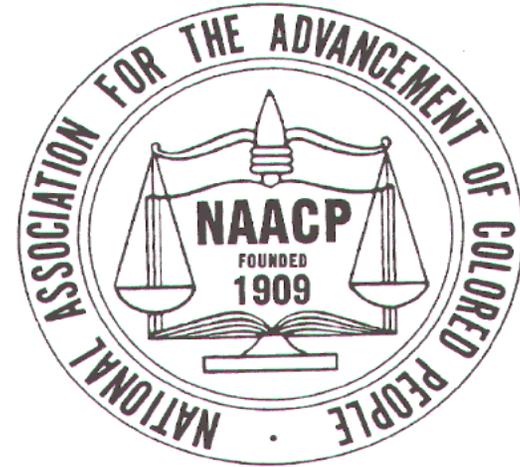
100 Black Men of America

For more than three decades, 100 Black Men chapters across the nation have touched the lives of more than 60,000 young people. Between now and 2005, more than half of all new entrants into the work force will be minorities. At the same time, one half of all jobs will require a more educated work-force. If America falls behind in producing more young minority men and women for the work-force in the coming decades, America's economic ability compete in the global marketplace will be severely compromised.



A Guide to the Voter Action Center was produced by LeVar Johnson. Mr. Johnson is a summer associate with the Center for Voting and Democracy. Currently he is a fourth-year senior attending Duke University. LeVar will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy in the Spring of 2001.

For more information, contact the Center for Voting and Democracy at cvdusa@aol.com or 301-270-4616. Please visit our website at www.fairvote.org.



A Guide to the Voter Action Center

July 2000 National NAACP Convention

Produced by the
Center for Voting and Democracy

Advancement Project

The Advancement Project is a racial justice advocacy and resource organization which strives to ignite the national imagination with a vision of justice that produces a broad based mandate for unity and real equity. The initial subject focus is on improving K-12 public education for minority and low-income students, facilitating democratic participation, and reforming law enforcement practices. Their method of operation is to bring community-focused lawyering skills, sophisticated public education capacities and the best scholarly research and analysis to support promising local activity which has the potential of advancing justice.

Contact info:202-728-9557/www.geocities.com/advanceproject

A. Philip Randolph Institute

APRI's mission, from our founding to the present, has been to fight for racial equality and economic justice. Our role is unique we work with black trade unionists, the people best suited to serve as a bridge between labor and the black community. APRI spearheads what we term the "Black-Labor Alliance." We build black community support for the trade union movement, and convey to labor the needs and concerns of black Americans. With more than 150 chapters in 36 states, APRI members are involved in political and community education, lobbying, legislative action and labor support activities.

Contact info:410-358-6600/ www.aprihq.org

Blacks in Government

Blacks in government was organized in 1975 and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976. BIG functions as a knowledgeable, problem-identifying and solving organization for Black civil servants. It is dedicated to: (1) establishing and operating socio-economic, political, and cultural programs which enhance the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for Blacks; (2) eliminating institutionalized racism which oppresses Blacks and creates barriers to full and equal citizenship for Blacks; (3) encouraging pride and motivation in Blacks so as to promote achievement of full potential and recognition of societal contributions; (4) acting as an advocate for equal employment opportunities and conditions which affect Blacks. This shall include, but not be limited to, administrative

issue, international membership organization founded by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. We're working to move the nation and the world toward social, racial and economic justice. From our national headquarters in Chicago and a bureau in Washington, D.C., we're uniting people of diverse ethnic, religious, economic and political backgrounds to make America's promise of "liberty and justice for all" a reality. The Rainbow/Push Coalition is a progressive organization fighting for social change. As a mighty coalition of conscience, workers, women and people of color have the power to make the American Dream a Reality!

Sentencing Project

The Sentencing Project, incorporated in 1986, has become a national leader in the development of alternative sentencing programs and in the reform of criminal justice policy. The Sentencing Project has provided technical assistance and helped to establish alternative sentencing programs in more than 20 states. These programs provide judges with a broad range of sentencing options that have resulted in the diversion of offenders from incarceration by making effective use of community resources and supervision.

Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.

Sony Corporation of America, based in New York City, is the U.S. subsidiary of Sony Corporation headquartered in Tokyo. Sony Corporation is a leading manufacturer of audio, video, communications and information technology products for the consumer and professional markets. Its music, motion pictures, television production, computer entertainment operations and online businesses make Sony one of the most comprehensive entertainment companies in the world.

United Food and Commercial Workers International

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union is North America's largest and strongest private sector union. The UFCW is made up of 1.4 million members--people working together to improve their lives and their future. UFCW members are employed in many different industries, but concentrated in retail food, meatpacking, poultry, and other food processing industries. Whenever American families sit down to share a meal, chances are most of what they'll eat has passed through the hands of the more than one million UFCW members who work in these industries. Thousands of other UFCW members work in the health care industry, for insurance companies, in department stores, and in the garment manufacturing, distillery and winery, chemical, and

Coalition, the black electorate, and links and facts important to both. In addition, you can find information on the National Coalition's three broad and interrelated program areas.

National Medical Association

The National Medical Association is the collective voice of African American physicians and the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of disparities in health. Established in 1895, the collective body is committed to preventing the diseases, disabilities and adverse health conditions that disproportionately or differentially impact African American and undeserved populations, supporting efforts that improve the quality and availability of health care to poor and undeserved populations, and increasing the representation and contribution of African Americans in medicine.

National Urban League

Founded in 1910, the National Urban League is the premier social service and civil rights organization in America. The League is a nonprofit, community-based organization headquartered in New York City, with 115 affiliates in 34 states and the District of Columbia. The mission of the National Urban League is to assist African Americans in the achievement of social and economic equality. The Board of Trustees of the National Urban League and all of its affiliates reflect a diverse body of community, government, and corporate leaders. The League implements its mission through advocacy, bridge building, program services and research.

Ofield Dukes and Associates

Those in the know understand that quality public relations is not related to firm size. Based on professional excellence, knowledge, and service, Ofield Dukes is among the most successful public relations executives in the Washington area. His small firm has developed a solid reputation on performance and accomplishments since Dukes opened his public relations firm in April 1969 with a part-time secretary and an office in the National Press Building. Ofield Dukes and Associates is among the most successful public relations firms in the Nation's Capital, with specialized expertise in African-American affairs. The firm has established an impressive reputation for excellence and achievement during its 30-year existence.

Rainbow/Push Coalition

The National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition (RPC) is a multiracial, multi-

and personnel selections, recruitments, placements, promotions, upward mobilities, and other similar areas.

Contact info:703-681-1260/www.bignet.org

Center for Voting and Democracy

The Center for Voting and Democracy researches how voting systems affect participation, representation and governance and disseminates its findings to civic organizations, elected officials, journalists and the general public. We focus in particular on: 1) redistricting alternatives; 2) the range of proportional representation and semi-proportional voting systems for legislative elections; and 3) the option of instant runoff voting for elections with a single winner (like president, mayor and district representative). We believe voting system reforms often will help reinvigorate American politics, decrease the impact of money in elections, boost participation and more fairly represent political minorities, women and racial minorities.

Contact info: 301-270-4616/www.fairvote.org

Fannie Lou Hamer Project

The Fannie Lou Hamer Project, founded in 1999, aims to create a national grassroots movement to redefine campaign financing as a civil rights issue. We will connect the history of earlier voting and civil rights struggles to the ongoing struggle for human rights, and we will create an intergenerational movement that promotes the inclusion of communities of color to engage in campaign finance reform initiatives. We will raise people's consciousness as to how the current campaign finance system restricts civic and political participation based on socioeconomic status, and therefore results in a disparate impact on communities of color. The Fannie Lou Hamer Project believes that fundamental reform of our campaign finance system is imperative in order to address fundamental issues in the areas of political, economic, and social justice.

Contact info:404-624-0092/ www.flhp.org

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

National League activities are coordinated and staffed by two distinct but complementary organizations. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is the political advocacy and membership organization. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), established in 1957, is the citizen education and research organization. Contact info:202-429-1965/www.lwv.org

National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (formally the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation) was founded in 1976 on the principles of the yet unfulfilled realization of a full democracy. Building upon its rich history and strong relationships, the National Coalition serves as an effective facilitator and convener at the local, state, and national level. For the past 24 years, the National Coalition, through its 80 member organizations, has proven itself uniquely qualified to address the disenfranchisement of African American voters. The current programs of the organization include Operation Big Vote!, Black Youth Vote!, Black Women's Roundtable, Voices of the Electorate and the Information Resource Center. Contact info:301-270-4133/ www.bigvote.org

National Council of Negro Women

What began as an idea of Mary McLeod Bethune to unite women to secure justice has grown into a multi-faceted, non-profit organization that works at national, state, local and international level. In pursuit of the goal to "leave no one behind" and improve quality of life for women, children and families, the early leaders of NCNW recognized that besides a "national organization of national organizations," they would need to build coalitions at the grassroots level. NCNW consists of 38 affiliated national organizations, 250 community-based Sections chartered in 42 states, 20 college-based Sections and 60,000 individual members..

Contact info:202-737-0120/ www.ncnw.com

National Voting Rights Institute

Founded in 1994, the National Voting Rights Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to challenging the constitutionality of the current campaign finance system at the federal and state levels. The Insti-

intercourse among the members of the bar, and protect the civil and political rights of all citizens of the several states of the United States." When the NBA was organized in 1925, there were fewer than 1,000 African American lawyers in the nation, and less than 120 belonged to the Association. By 1945, there were nearly 250 members representing 25% of the African American members of the bar. Over the past 72 years, the NBA has grown enormously in size and influence. At present, the NBA is the nation's oldest and largest national association of predominately African American lawyers and judges. It has 87 affiliate chapters throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Africa and the Caribbean and represents a professional network of over 17,000 lawyers, judges, educators and law students.

National Black Caucus of State Legislators

The primary mission of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators is to develop, conduct and promote educational, research and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of its members, as they consider legislation and issues of public policy which impact, either directly or indirectly upon "the general welfare" of African American constituents within their respective jurisdictions.

National Coalition for the Homeless

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national advocacy network of homeless persons, activists, service providers, and others committed for to ending homelessness through public education, policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, and technical assistance. NCH has contributed to the development of dozens of state and local coalitions, and works with them on efforts such as National Homeless Person's Memorial Day (Dec. 21), the "You Don't Need a Home to Vote" campaign, National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, and other activities.

National Coalition on Black Voter Participation

The National Coalition on Black Voter Participation, Inc. is a leader in the nationwide effort to increase black voter registration and turnout and to eradicate the barriers to full political participation for African Americans and other minorities. The National Coalition's online presence is the latest in a series of efforts to meet its goals. Here, you can find information on the National

LDF is committed to staying on the cutting edge of the movement for racial justice. LDF fights for equality and empowerment for African Americans and other disenfranchised groups in the areas of education, employment, criminal justice, voting rights, housing, health care, and environmental justice.

National Alliance of Black School Educators

NABSE, a 5,000 plus member, nonprofit organization founded in 1970 by Dr. Charles D. Moody, Sr. and other prominent educators, is the nation's largest network of African American educators. NABSE is dedicated to improving the educational accomplishments of African American youth through the development and deployment of instructional and motivational methods that increase levels of inspiration, attendance and overall achievement. To that end, NABSE seeks to: Promote and facilitate the education of all students, especially those of African descent; establish a coalition of African American educators and others directly and indirectly involved in the educational process; create a forum for the exchange of ideas and strategies to improve opportunities for people of African descent; identify and develop African American professionals who will assume leadership positions in education; and influence public policy concerning the education of African Americans.

National Bankers Association

The National Bankers Association was founded in 1927 to serve as an advocate for the nation's minority and women owned banks on legislative and regulatory matters concerning and affecting our members and the communities they serve. Also, it was established to maintain an information flow to our member banks relating to the sound and profitable operation of their banks, to provide a forum for personal interaction between banks with similar problems and marketing opportunities, and to provide quality service at reasonable costs to our member banks. To be eligible for membership a bank must share the common interest and concerns of the NBA and its members. Currently there are 50 member banks. Dues are based on total assets as of the end of the second calendar quarter of each year. Majority banks and members of their staff can join as "affiliate" members.

National Bar Association

The purpose of the National Bar Association is "...to advance the science of jurisprudence, uphold the honor of the legal profession, promote social

tute's goals are: (1) to litigate voting rights cases which challenge the current campaign finance system on Equal Protection and First Amendment grounds; (2) to overturn the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Buckley v. Valeo, which struck down mandatory campaign expenditure limits on constitutional grounds, equating money with free speech; (3) to defend viable campaign finance reform legislation and initiatives against legal challenges; (4) to educate the public at large about the ability to ground campaign finance issues in the U.S. Constitution; and, (5) to serve as a legal arm for the growing grassroots movement for change in the way we finance our elections.

Contact info:617-368-9100/www.nvri.org

People for the American Way

People For the American Way organizes and mobilizes Americans to fight for fairness, justice, civil rights and the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. PFAW lobbies for progressive legislation and helps to build communities of activists. People For the American Way Foundation is committed to defending democracy and bringing the ideals of community, opportunity, diversity, equality and fairness together to form a strong, united voice. To achieve this, PFAWF conducts research, does legal and education work, as well as monitors and researches the Religious Right movement and its political allies. The organization is a premier source of vital information for policymakers, scholars and activists nationwide.

Contact info:202-467-2382/www.pfaw.org

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, an international organization of college and professional men, was founded in 1914 at Howard University and has as its principles BROTHERHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE. These principles are exhibited in the Fraternity motto, "*Culture for Service and Service for Humanity*". As one of the nine predominately African-American Greek-Lettered organizations, Phi Beta Sigma has a membership of over 110,000 with over 650 chapters throughout the continental United States, Switzerland and Africa. Phi Beta Sigma consists of men dedicated to enhancing and promoting systematic fellowship, African American freedom, justice, equal rights, and service to Amer-

ica's communities.

Contact info:410-962-2931/ www.pbs1914.org

Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy

The Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy (SCSPP) of Clark Atlanta University was created in 1968 as a teaching and community outreach organization. The goal of the SCSPP is to seek ways to improve the relative economic, educational, political and social position of disadvantaged people principally through its programs and research. The future thrust of the SCSPP is to continue evaluation, policy analysis, research and technical assistance on issues that have a major impact on African Americans and low-income people in the southern region of the United States.

Contact info:404-880-8090/ www.scspp.org

Southern Regional Council

The mission of the Southern Regional Council is to promote racial justice, protect democratic rights and broaden civic participation in the Southern United States. For almost 80 years, the SRC has wrestled with the seemingly intractable problems of race and religion, educated and engaged Southern communities on issues of democracy and race, and provided the rationale and leadership for change. They have witnessed progress, such as, organizing to decrease the incidence of lynchings in the 1930s, working to end the all white primaries in the 1940s, improving the portrayal of African Americans in the media in the 1950s, helping keep open the Southern schools in the 1950s, initiating the Voter Registration Project, which registered over 2 million new African American voters in the 1960s, and promoting fair representation and educational equity in the 1970s and 1980s.

Contact info:404-522-8791/ www.src.w1.com

United Auto Workers

The history of the UAW is the story of ordinary working men and women accomplishing extraordinary things through the strength of their solidarity and the power of their collective action. Through the creative use of the collective bargaining process, the UAW consistently leads the union movement in breaking new ground for working families and retirees. The UAW, however, is more than a collective bargaining agent -- we are a social movement committed to dealing with the problems of all people. Our Union's vision always has reached beyond the bargaining

and relationships across racial and ethnic lines to strengthen the nation's pluralistic society.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Under the theme, "Training for Leadership," Kappa Alpha Psi promotes a style of intellectual and aesthetic evaluation for more than 100,000 college men. Rooted in general concern for human development, Kappa Alpha Psi exhorts its members to stretch themselves in all directions while holding fast to a sustaining principle of achievement. Annually more than 1,800 members are initiated into Kappa Alpha Psi. Undergraduate Chapters are located on more than 354 College and University campuses and Alumni Chapters are arrayed in some 334 cities in the United States and five foreign countries. Kappa Alpha Psi's vision is to be the nation's preeminent fraternity, comprised of a cadre of high achievers and leaders, working to advance the social, civic, and economic well-being of their communities, especially the African-American community.

King Center for Nonviolent Social Change

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change is dedicated to promoting the legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through research, education and training in the principles, philosophy and methods of nonviolence. The King Center was established in 1968 by Mrs. Coretta Scott King as a living memorial dedicated to preserving the legacy of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and carrying forward his unfinished work for human rights and peace. The Center promotes the elimination of poverty, racism and war through research, education and training in Kingian nonviolence.

NAACP Legal Defense Fund

LDF was founded in 1940 under the leadership of the late Thurgood Marshall, who later became the first black United States Supreme Court Justice. As LDF's first Director-Counsel, Marshall led the successful campaign to eradicate the "separate but equal" doctrine that formed the legal basis for segregation. One of LDF's most significant early victories was the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which not only outlawed segregation in public schools, but also initiated the dismantling of all forms of government-sanctioned racial discrimination. Today

Communications Workers of America

CWA, the largest telecommunications union in North America, represents 630,000 workers in public and private employment, including 500,000 workers building the "Information Super Highway. More than 1,200 chartered CWA local unions are affiliated. Members live and work in some 10,000 communities in the U.S. and Canada. CWA members are employed in telecommunications, printing and news media, public service, health care, cable television, general manufacturing, electronics, gas and electric utilities, and other fields. CWA holds over 1,000 collective bargaining agreements spelling out wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members. Among major employers of CWA members are AT&T, the Regional Bell telephone companies (RBOC's), GTE, NBC and ABC television networks, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the state of New Jersey, and leading newspapers.

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

The Congressional Black Caucus is part of an illustrious history and lineage of courage, continuity and African American participation in the electoral process that dates back to 1870, when African Americans were first elected to the Congress of the United States. In the thirty years between 1870 and 1901 -- twenty-two African Americans -- two Senators and 20 Representatives from southern states swelled the ranks of Congress. These gains were nearly reversed in the first fifty years of the twentieth century when only four African Americans held seats in the House of Representatives, and none was elected in the Senate between 1901 and 1955. Currently, there are 38 members of the CBC -- all in the House of Representatives -- 14 women and 24 men. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus represent a variety of districts and constituents from coast to coast -- urban and rural, northern and southern.

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies informs and illuminates the nation's major public policy debates through research, analysis, and information dissemination in order to: improve the socio-economic status of black Americans and other minorities; expand their effective participation in the political and public policy arenas; and pro-

table and the workplace to our role as citizens in a democratic society.
Contact info:313-926-5708/ www.uaw.org

Youth Vote 2000 Coalition

Youth Vote 2000 is the largest non-partisan coalition committed to encouraging civic participation among our nation's young people. Directed by our Board and fueled by the power of our coalition members' extensive national networks, Youth Vote 2000 is demanding accountability by politicians on the issues of importance to young people today. The diverse members of the Youth Vote 2000 Coalition have a long history of mobilizing youth and underrepresented populations to participate in the political process.

Contact info:202-263-0521/ www.youthvote2000.org

The following organizations can be used as further sources of information

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Alpha Kappa Alpha is the oldest Greek-letter organization established in America by Black college women. The record of its origin, growth and development, activities, evolving goals, and accomplishments is more than an interesting chronicle of a colorful bit of college-based Americana. It is, rather, a significant and inspiring reflection of the emergence of a dynamic group in a changing culture.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of Brotherhood among African descendants in this country. The Fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. The Jewel founders and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as: W. E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, and many others.

American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

APWU was founded on July 1, 1971, as the result of a merger of five postal unions: the United Federation of Postal Clerks, the National Postal Union, the National Association of Post Office and General Service Maintenance Employees, the National Federation of Motor Vehicle Employees and the National Association of Special Delivery Messengers. Postal unions, dating back to the nineteenth century, have gone through a number of transitions paralleling the growth of the former Post Office Department and its transformation into the U. S. Postal Service under the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Under the PRA, postal unions first won the right to bargain collectively over wages, hours and working conditions. The American Postal Workers Union, of the AFL-CIO, represents 366,000 employees of the U.S. Postal Service who are clerks, maintenance employees, motor vehicle operators, and non-mail processing professional employees. The world's largest postal union, APWU is also the fifteenth largest union in the AFL-CIO.

Black Leadership Forum

The Black Leadership Forum, Inc. (BLF) promotes creative and coordinated Black Leadership, diverse in membership but clear on its priority, to empower African Americans to improve their own lives and to expand their opportunities to fully participate in American social, economic and political life. It was founded in 1977 in Washington, D.C., as a confederation of civil rights and service organizations, by a nucleus of 11 leaders of organizations which included the National Urban League, National Urban Coalition, NAACP, etc.

Brennan Center for Justice

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law unites thinkers and advocates in pursuit of a vision of inclusive and effective democracy. Our mission is to develop and implement an innovative, nonpartisan agenda of scholarship, public education, and legal action that promotes equality and human dignity, while safeguarding fundamental freedoms. We use scholarship, public education, and legal action to find innovative and practical solutions to intractable problems in the areas of democracy and poverty, and in future years will introduce First Amendment and criminal justice programs. The Center takes its cue not from Brennan opinions written for a past era, but from the singular Brennan spirit of asking the hard questions, transcending conventional wisdom, keeping faith in the power of open and honest discourse, and building unlikely coalitions around practical solutions.

Children's Defense Fund

The mission for the Children's Defense Fund is to leave no child behind and to ensure every child a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. CDF provides a strong, effective voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investment before they get sick or into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown.