

December 2008

To: Potential Applicant

From: AOP Steering Committee

Re: Applying for the 2009-2010 Grassroots Leadership Development (GLD) Program

The Alabama Organizing Project (AOP) is a collaboration of five organizations working to assist low-income people with addressing critical issues facing most of our communities today. The collaborating organizations are Alabama Coalition Against Hunger, Arise Citizens' Policy Project, Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL), Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and Greater Birmingham Ministries. The primary goal of AOP is to bring justice for poor people in the state by organizing and educating people about policy changes and strategies to shift the balance of power towards the poor. The AOP policy priorities include revising our state constitution and creating a balanced, fair state tax system.

The **Grassroots Leadership Development (GLD) Program** is a leadership training program designed by AOP to help individuals become better, more effective leaders in their communities. Participants come from across the state. This program is an opportunity for individuals to enhance their leadership skills, to learn new skills, and to apply their skills in their communities and organizations back home.

The GLD Program involves ten days of trainings held over a one year period followed by a six-month practicum. **The total cost of the program for each participant is \$1,000.00.** The program costs include lodging, food and travel expenses for participants. AOP also offers children's activities for participants who need to bring their children. AOP works hard to secure funding to allow us to offer full and partial scholarships to those applicants in need. In order to help cover some of the expenses, we ask *all applicants who are accepted to pay a \$25.00 registration fee.* We also ask participants to contribute in other ways as described in the attached GLD Program Policy. It is AOP's desire to make this program a valuable resource and a meaningful experience.

As you consider applying to the 2009-2010 GLD Program, please note the following training dates:

- Orientation: **January 30-31** – Friday/Saturday in Montgomery
- Internalized Oppression: **April 24-25** - Friday/Saturday in Epes
- Power Analysis: **June 6-7** - Saturday/Sunday in Birmingham
- Media Training: **August 29** - Saturday in Montgomery
- Popular Education: **October 17-18** - Saturday/Sunday in Mobile
- Practicum Training: **January 2010** in Auburn

Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2008 and those applicants who are accepted into the program will be notified by January 15, 2009.

Thank you for your interest.