

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voqal Invests \$280K in Social Equity Efforts Across the Country with New Slate of Grants

August 22, 2017—Voqal is pleased to announce five new grants to organizations working across the country to advance social equity. The grants of \$30,000 to Melange of Appalachia, \$50,000 to Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN), \$75,000 to New Media Ventures, \$75,000 to MHAction and \$50,000 to PICO National Action Fund reflect Voqal's commitment to support progressive movements for social change.

Melange of Appalachia

Melange of Appalachia encourages self-sustainable programs with communities in need through multicultural arts, media and education in Tennessee. Voqal's support will enable Melange to use public education and research to secure the political will, resources and popular support for publicly-accountable broadband in rural East Tennessee.

Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN)

Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN) is a network of community organizations in Massachusetts working for economic and racial justice. Thanks to Voqal's help, MCAN will work to build support for two 2018 ballot initiatives aimed at creating a \$15 an hour minimum wage and a more progressive tax infrastructure in Massachusetts.

New Media Ventures

New Media Ventures finds, supports and finances organizations that are building advocacy movements and catalyzing civic engagement. With support from Voqal, it will expand its thought leadership, branding and communications efforts to ensure it is well-positioned to meet this moment of emerging progressive activism.

MHAction

MHAction is a growing national movement of manufactured home owners who work to protect the affordability and quality of their communities through local and state campaigns. Voqal's grant will enable MHAction to lend its unique voice to social, racial, climate and economic justice campaigns that promote the well-being of manufactured homeowners and their communities and further develop its online infrastructure to deepen the reach of the progressive movement in exurban and rural locales.

PICO National Action Fund

PICO is a national network of community organizations working to create innovative solutions to problems facing urban, suburban and rural communities. Voqal's support will enable PICO to

conduct a campaign to hold prosecutors across the country accountable and bring light to racist biases that have led to disproportionately high incarceration rates in communities of color.

Voqal is a national collaboration of EBS (Educational Broadband Service) licensees that work to advance social equity by creating an educated and informed public. Voqal provides grants and investments for organizations and individuals, affordable mobile internet and wireless spectrum advocacy. Our efforts center around using media and technology to increase access, community and knowledge.