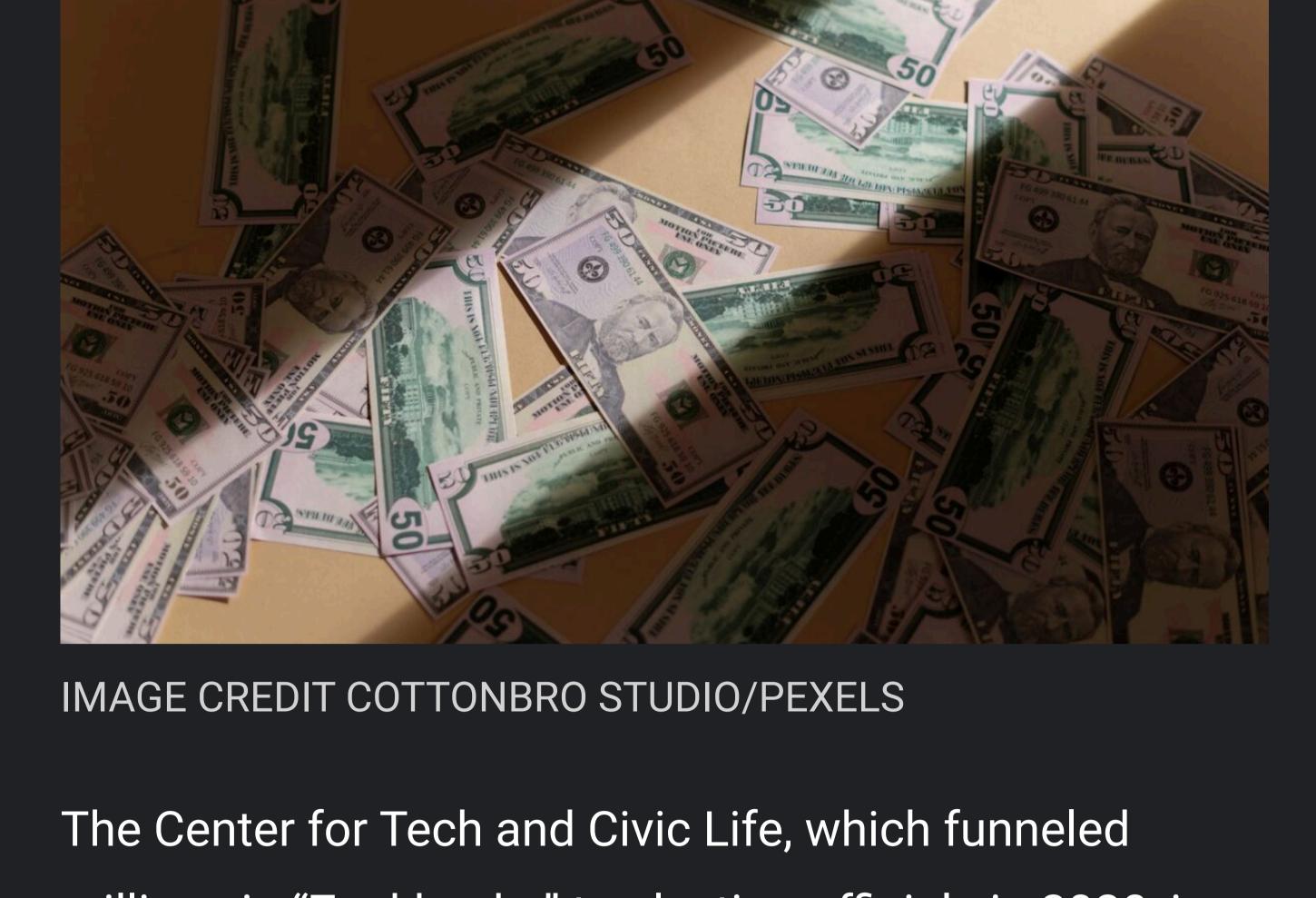
'Zuckbucks' Org Promotes \$6M Dark Money Election Grant



millions in "Zuckbucks" to election officials in 2020, is promoting a \$6 million election grant program from a

email obtained by The Federalist.

the email said.

left-wing dark money group with which it shares close ties.

"We wanted you to be aware that the Institute for Responsive Government (IRG) launched A More Responsive Government 2024 Grant Program, a new,

nonpartisan \$6 million grant program that aims to

the funding is "not a CTCL grant program." CTCL

support local election offices," said an Aug. 21 CTCL

The email, apparently directed to election officials, noted

funneled \$328 million from Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg to public election agencies in 2020, using "Zuckbucks" to target areas with likely left-leaning voting blocs and boost Democratic turnout.

"We are sharing this program information with you, as we commonly do with other nonpartisan resources and funding opportunities that can help you do your work,"

The email bore CTCL's logo, and that of a network the

group launched in 2022 - the U.S. Alliance for Election

administration. The Federalist reported earlier this year

Excellence. The alliance brings together key election

influencers from 2020 to intervene in election

that the group "skirted" Arizona's ban on private election funding.

CTCL referred recipients of its email to the grantor —the Institute for Responsive Government — for more information.

The grants <u>range</u> from \$6,000 to \$1.35 million,

potentially <u>fund</u> officials in states the IRG views as having "responsive and user-friendly" election laws – specifically Colorado, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nevada, and Washington, D.C.

"Election officials are still tasked with running a high-

reads. "Many local jurisdictions simply do not have

with running elections."

cost, high-turnout federal election," the group's website

enough money allocated to fund every need that comes

The IRG claimed these grants are "nonpartisan," and to

be used for "secure, efficient, and accessible election

depending on a jurisdiction's number of voting-age

citizens, according to IRG's website. The money will

administration" from June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025.

The application deadline is Sept. 13. The IRG <u>application</u> asks officials to provide data like the number of active registered voters, how many election staff, and a copy of the jurisdiction's election budget.

For guidelines on how election offices can use these

grants, the group referred to the same document as did

CTCL for its latest round of grants – the 2020 "Election

Infrastructure Subsector Specific Plan" by CISA, the

Ned Jones, director of the Citizens Election Research

Center, said he thinks the program is a partisan ploy.

Government 2024 Grant Program,' is just the latest

scheme by the left-wing, nonprofit network to use

election offices, implement the left-wing election

said to The Federalist in an email. "These activities

should be banned, like they have been in 28 states, in

progressive activist billionaires' funding to influence

administration agenda, and impact the outcome," Jones

federal government's online censorship agency.

"This new 'grant' program, 'A More Responsive

every state."

Twenty-eight states have <u>banned</u> private funding of elections due to integrity concerns since 2020, when

CTCL and the Center for Election Innovation and

Research <u>funneled</u> close to \$400 million total in

administration and boosting Democrat turnout.

Partisan Ties

"Zuckbucks" to local election agencies, influencing

While the IRG labels itself nonpartisan, it is a <u>project</u> of the New Venture Fund, which is managed by the leftist dark money giant Arabella Advisors, according to InfluenceWatch. IRG advocates policies to "<u>radically</u>

redesign" government services, according to its

website. This includes elections, where it supports

The group's director is Sam Oliker-Friedland, chief

measures like automated and online voter registration.

counsel for the Center for Secure and Modern Elections.

Like IRG, CSME advocates automatic voter registration

and is a project of the New Venture Fund, according to

Oliker-Friedland was the <u>spokesman</u> for Cities Forward,

Milwaukee \$800,000 in private election funding. This

happened in March, just before Wisconsin banned

InfluenceWatch. CSME shares close ties with CTCL.

another Arabella pop-up group, when it granted

Oliker-Friedland also worked as <u>deputy director</u> of data and technology for the New Organizing Institute (NOI), which The Washington Post <u>called</u> the "Democratic Party's Hogwarts for Digital Wizardry." According to InfluenceWatch, the group <u>trained</u> 30,000 activists in 10 years.

The IRG "<u>team</u>" includes two of CTCL's <u>co-founders</u>,

Government Services Whitney May. Prior to their work at

IRG Fellow Whitney Quesenbery is director of the Center

advocates <u>automatic</u> voter registration, according to

InfluenceWatch. It has <u>partnered</u> with leftist groups

Brennan Center for Justice, CTCL, Democracy Fund, and

CTCL, the two worked at the NOI — Epps-Johnson as

director of election administration, and May as that

for Civic Design. The group, like IRG and CSME,

Director Tiana Epps-Johnson and Director of

department's government <u>liaison</u>.

the League of Women Voters.

IRG's advisory board includes Noah Praetz and Jennifer Morrell, co-founders of The Elections Group. The Elections Group gives officials "guidance" on absentee ballot processing, drop boxes, and mail-in ballots, and it partners with the Center for Civic Design and CTCL. Morrell is also a "subject matter expert" for CISA.

The Federalist asked IRG about its ties to other election

groups, and whether it will provide training or ballot

curing guidance to officials that receive its grants. The

Logan Washburn is a staff writer covering election integrity. He graduated from Hillsdale College, served as Christopher Rufo's editorial assistant, and has bylines in The Wall Street Journal, The Tennessean, and The Daily Caller. Logan is originally from Central Oregon but now lives in rural Michigan.