



Consortium grants to date

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- [Beyond Expectations, \(Burlington County\)](#) - 2021, 2022 (\$93,876), to launch and develop “be.tv eStudios,” an initiative teaching Burlington County students and young adults, ages 14-24, storytelling and media production skills with an emphasis on conducting interviews with professionals, business leaders, educators, etc., and using online gaming techniques for capturing and promoting interview highlights. It also teaches media and business skills and has involved students in organizing and staging esports tournaments and programs.
- [Blairstown Enhancement Committee \(Ridge View Echo\), \(Warren County\)](#) 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$295,000), to address the loss of local-news outlets by launching the Greater Blairstown News Project online publication, the Ridge View Echo, reporting on Blairstown, Frelinghuysen, Hardwick and Knowlton, all Warren County communities with no other dedicated local news sources. This effort provides residents with vital and timely government announcements about public health and safety, and foster greater connection to and awareness of local issues across northwest New Jersey.
- [The Jersey Bee, \(Essex County\)](#) formerly known as Bloomfield Information Project, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$300,000) to launch a community-reporter corps pilot program that trains residents in news gathering, writing, and production and provides paid reporting assignments that prioritize the information needs of underserved populations in the surrounding community, inspire civic participation, and build narrative power.
- [Movimiento Cosecha, \(Union County\)](#) 2021, 2022, 2023 (\$185,000), to work with Rutgers University to establish *Radio Cosecha*, a twice-weekly Spanish-language internet-radio program for the state’s Spanish-speaking immigrant community, telling the stories of seasonal agricultural workers in South Jersey. Cosecha researches and delivers important local, national, and international news in an accessible format, in order to achieve greater civic participation within New Jersey’s immigrant community.
- [The Conservatory of Music and Performing Arts Society, \(Mercer County\)](#) (\$35,000) to support Let My People Learn-HistorVic Education, a project that helps young people learn more about the workings of local governments and how policies and laws impact their communities.

- [Hammonton Gazette](#), (**Atlantic County**) 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$144,043), to launch its Spanish publication, “Noticias”, making its news coverage more representative of Hammonton’s southern New Jersey community. The paper offers news articles in Spanish and initiates outreach to seasonal agricultural workers and more permanent members of the local Spanish-speaking community. It also funds freelance reporters to cover municipal meetings in news deserts in Atlantic County and Camden County. Noticias was the first local newspaper to offer news articles in Spanish (Mexican Dialect).
- [Hopeloft, Inc.](#), (**Bridgeton/Cumberland County**), 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$254,690), to develop and implement each year a 15-week training and internship program for youth/citizens in foster care and for children of incarcerated people to tell the stories of their peers for Hopeloft’s local news site, Follow South Jersey. This grant was funded in part in the first year by support from New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI), a statewide grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- [If I Can, You Can Inc.](#), (**Salem County**) 2021 (\$35,000) **[GRANTEE DECLINED GRANT AFTER AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT]**, to help revitalize the online neighborhood news franchise TAPinto.net in Salem County, with the goal of sharing news articles across New Jersey towns to create a more sustainable information ecosystem.
- [Newark News and Story Collaborative](#), (**Essex County**) 2021, 2022, 2023, (\$210,000), to train residents, local reporters, and mediamakers to respond to Newark residents’ information needs and concerns that capture the true essence of the city. Its lab comprises resident-reporters that produce unique coverage of issues impacting diverse communities in Newark that lack traditional media coverage and are not covered by traditional media.
- [Newark Water Coalition](#), (**Essex County**) 2021, 2022, 2023 (\$134,930) to create Newark Community Voices, a digital-media and community-organizing training program for Newark youth. The program produces and distributes multimedia health and environment stories that center Newark community-information needs, with a focus on an oral history of the advocates who worked to clean up Newark’s drinking water.
- [Old Bridge NJ Resident](#), (**Middlesex County**) 2021 (\$35,000), to create a comprehensive and searchable archive of local-government activity spanning more than two decades. The project was completed and the tool made available to area residents and journalists.
- [Paterson Alliance](#), (**Passaic County**) 2021 (\$33,000), to manage the library-based Paterson Information Hub to provide the community with training in

citizen journalism and news-production technology. The alliance also aimed to convene local events to assess community-information needs.

- [Mental Health Association of New Jersey \(Statewide\)](#) 2022 (\$75,000), to conduct a research project assessing how community college students receive information on mental health services, key topics that resonate with them, and preferences on how they receive that information, and to identify the most effective ways to access services and stigma-breaking concepts.
- [Stories of Atlantic City, \(Atlantic County\)](#) 2021, 2022 (\$99,892), to pilot an initiative to train and pay community members as reporters covering the local city council, planning board, board of education, and casino reinvestment authority meetings, and to develop new ways to engage community members in the decision-making processes that impact their lives. Traditional journalism methods are not meeting the larger Atlantic City community's information needs.
- [Trenton Journal, \(Mercer County\)](#) 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$290,000), to train local contributors to increase the frequency of Trenton Journal's editorial output, help change the narrative, bridge information gaps, and connect communities in Trenton. The Trenton Journal focuses on addressing the disparities faced by the Black and Brown community in Trenton using solutions-based journalism via a newsletter, video, and audio stories.
- [VaccinateNJ.com, \(Statewide\)](#) 2021 (\$35,000) will add more features to its health information website to help residents statewide — including native Spanish speakers and others in underserved communities — get real-time information about vaccination appointment locations and vaccine availability.
- [Asbury Park Media Collective \(Asbury Park/Monmouth County\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$112,600), to create an incubator for emerging community reporters and local media makers. The work the community reporters produce over the course of the training sessions — including news articles, news broadcasts for radio, news videos and documentary short subjects, podcasts, and social media posts — is published and disseminated through a website and a network of local media partners. The project has focused on live streaming city council and board of education meetings in Asbury Park.
- [Black in Jersey \(Statewide\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$260,000), to support the launch of Black in Jersey as a reliable news and information hub serving New Jersey's Black communities, and also to provide support for the organization's first statehouse and local government reporting cohort, and to launch its incubator program featuring Millennial and Generation Z-led news services — including the Hotspot Podcast.
- [Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University \(Montclair/Essex County\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$175,000), to launch the NJ News Commons Spanish

Translation Service, partnering with the largest Spanish-language and mainstream media outlets in the state to translate statewide news — especially elections-related content and voter information — into Spanish. This project builds on previous pilot work around translating pandemic coverage.

- [Cranford High School \(Cranford/Union County\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$86,497.75), to grow the content, readership, and capacity of a fledgling digital journalism program and school-wide digital news source by integrating curriculum from varied elective courses and leveraging the expertise of a local college or university.
- [Front Runner New Jersey \(South Jersey\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$285,000), to support Front Runner New Jersey, a new site led by a veteran journalist who seeks to maintain and expand its coverage and bring a new perspective on the people, events, and issues making an impact on the African American and Latino communities in Atlantic City and South Jersey. Front Runner brings a restorative perspective to news and information reporting.
- [Lens 15 Media \(Statewide\)](#), 2022 (\$50,000), to launch a news agency that produces accessible, multimedia reports for and about people with disabilities in New Jersey. This grant was funded in part by support from New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI), a statewide grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- [New Brunswick Today \(New Brunswick/Middlesex County\)](#), 2021 (\$40,000) [Grant recalled due to potential conflict post-award], to launch an investigative project on the census, focusing on the immigrant and non-English speaking communities in New Brunswick. New Brunswick Today proposed to examine the extent to which those communities may have been undercounted in the most recent census and any resulting implications. The project intended to analyze the past three census counts to examine the effects of gentrification in the city.
- [New Jersey Center for Investigative Reporting \(The Jersey Vindicator\) \(Statewide\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$295,000), to build The Jersey Vindicator — the “ProPublica of New Jersey” — with the goal of engaging and empowering the public through investigative journalism at the local, county, and state level in its publication, ultimately ensuring that residents — particularly those in underserved communities — are better informed about government, business, education, transportation, criminal justice reform, and the environment.
- [New Jersey YMCA State Alliance \(Statewide\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$135,000), to support an ongoing statewide storytelling project focused on documenting resident perspectives about COVID-19 vaccination. Insights have been incorporated into a digital and print “feature” for local dissemination with resident experiences, recommendations, and best practices for communicating about the

vaccine in a community-centered, culturally relevant way that enhances access to documented stories, promotes information-sharing, and strengthens communities.

- [Radio Rouj & Ble \(East Orange/Essex County\)](#), 2022 (\$40,000), to enable this online Haitian community radio organization to develop its own website, app, and weekly public service announcements, relevant to the more than 23,000 members of the Haitian community in Essex County. The project aim is to focus on translating and disseminating reliable information on civics, health, relevant news, and education and to create a platform where community members can address concerns and share experiences.
- [Saint Peter's University \(Slice of Culture\) \(Hudson County\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$260,000), to support Slice of Culture, a group of young BIPOC storytellers who are bringing civic engagement to Jersey City and Hudson County through a series of how-to projects and informational stories targeted to immigrant families and communities of color. It is opening doors to aspiring journalists who are committed to strong, local journalism and stories that matter to the community.
- [Unidad Latina en Acción NJ \(Statewide\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$270,000), to support the Radio Jornalera NJ Communication Project, which brings together the development, production and dissemination of public service announcements from the Jornalero and Domestic Laborer Communicators throughout the state. The Public Service Announcements are on topics that affect daily life, such as housing rights, workers' rights, wage theft, health and safety at work, healthy lifestyle, and/or climate change.
- [WNET/NJ Spotlight News \(Statewide\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$150,000), to support a new Report for America corps member to expand health coverage by focusing on mental health in underserved communities, at the intersection of the COVID-19 pandemic, health inequity, and rural New Jersey. The 2022 grant was funded in part by support from New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI), a statewide grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- [Center for Cooperative Media \(statewide\)](#), 2022, 2024 (\$271,993), to fund a researcher at the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University to conduct research on the New Jersey local news ecosystem. The researcher will also conduct learning and impact evaluation for the Consortium. Two-year grant.
- [Clinton Hill Community Action \(Newark/Essex County\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$225,000), to fund journalism training for neighborhood residents to learn how to use storytelling as an advocacy strategy. This includes oral histories, podcasts, video reports and documentaries. The funding also is being used to establish a new media training, production, and webcast center through Clinton Hill's Citizen Journalism Program.

- [coLab Arts \(New Brunswick/Middlesex County\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$140,000), to fund a program in collaboration with New Brunswick Tomorrow to create a community-based memory and story-telling project, Teatro Esperanza, in the Esperanza and Unity Square neighborhoods of New Brunswick.
- [Intersystemz \(Trenton/Mercer County\)](#), 2022 (\$35,000), to fund the creation of a new community centered news platform covering Trenton, in partnership with COMPAS, Pod City Trenton, Kean University and The College of New Jersey.
- [New Jersey Council for the Humanities and Journalism + Design \(statewide\)](#), 2022, 2024 (\$459,000), to fund the development of a statewide journalism training program in partnership with four New Jersey community colleges that equips citizens with skills to tell the stories of their communities. Journalism + Design and NJCH piloted a similar program in South Jersey in spring 2022. 18-month grant
- [Morristown Green \(Morristown/Morris County\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2025 (\$220,000), to fund a paid internship program for this hyperlocal news site covering a robust range of topics in Morristown that include local government, arts and entertainment, crime, and sports.
- [Public Square Amplified \(Newark/Essex County\)](#), 2022, 2023, 2024 (\$290,000), to fund a program to recruit, train, and promote community reporters and journalism students and provide an outlet for their work in Caribbean, African, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities.
- [South Jersey Climate News Project \(South Jersey\)](#), 2022, 2023 (\$64,270), to fund stipends for student interns providing high quality news coverage of climate change in South Jersey, including the impact on the environment, agriculture, the Pine Barrens, beaches, tourism, and wetlands.
- [NJ Society of Professional Journalists \(statewide\)](#), 2022 (\$35,000), [GRANT RETURNED DUE TO INACTIVITY] to fund a census of student journalists and journalism programs around the state, along with the development of a central database of scholastic journalism websites and publications. The grant will also fund student press identification cards.
- [Atlantic City Focus – \(Atlantic County\)](#), 2023, 2024 (\$200,000), to fund a project to create a Civic Engagement Guide for Atlantic City that provides residents with a comprehensive directory of information on local elections, community resources, and leadership.
- [Camden Parent & Student Union \(CPSU\) – Camden County](#), 2023, 2024 (\$200,000), to train Camden high school students in interviewing and media reporting so they can become community reporters and storytellers. The grant also will fund voter education programs and training.

- [DataSourceNJ Inc. \(Statewide\)](#), 2023 (\$50,000), to develop from an operating prototype a repository to collect, clean, host, integrate, analyze, and present data and resulting insights to local investigative journalists, community activists, small businesses, academicians, and students.
- [VietLead, \(Camden County\)](#) 2023 (\$48,000), to hold neighborhood listening sessions in the 2023-2024 growing season through its Jersey Roots Youth Program, in collaboration with its Resilient Roots Farm Project, and to learn about what local issues are top of mind for its Black, Brown, and Southeast Asian neighbors who live, work, and play in East Camden neighborhoods.
- [Camden Fireworks, \(Camden County\)](#), 2023 (\$64,460), to undertake a community-centered storytelling project in Camden documenting the challenges and opportunities of living a long, healthful life amidst environmental injustice by interviewing, facilitating discussions, and documenting the personal narratives of community members.
- [Civic News Company \(Chalkbeat Newark\), \(Essex County\)](#), 2023, 2024 (\$200,000), to foster civic engagement in Newark public schools through: in-depth reporting on school segregation litigation and federal Covid relief spending; adding a state education policy reporting fellow; a texting service to inform the community about school board actions; a 2024 school board election guide; and first person student essays published through Chalkbeat Newark's Student Voices program.
- [Corporation for New Jersey Local Media, \(Morris County\)](#), 2023, 2024 (\$158,315) to fund the continuation of the work of the Northern NJ News Collaborative on its "Stormwater Matters" initiative and will grow community engagement.
- [New Labor, \(Middlesex County\)](#), 2023, 2024 (\$200,000), to fund the "Community-driven Journalism Project" to develop journalists, focusing on Black and Brown workers in low wage jobs across New Jersey.
- [Industry Media Arts, \(Ocean County\)](#), 2023,2024 (\$199,720) to fund a Journalism Mentorship Program that provides high school students with early awareness and readiness training for undergraduate collegiate journalism programs.
- [Montclair State University Foundation, \(Statewide\)](#), 2023 (\$99,070) to fund the making of the 2023 NJ Statewide Voting Guide, which helped encourage civic engagement. Citizens also had an interactive opportunity to vote their choices on statewide and local issues.
- [Center for Cooperative Media, \(South Jersey\)](#), 2023, 2024 (\$130,000), to support the expansion of the South Jersey Information Equity Project (SJEIP) from a cohort of 5 to 10 fellows annually and establish an SJIEP community reporting workshop

series to further engage local storytellers through intergenerational learning and co-creation workshops.

- [Muslim.co](#), (**Statewide**), 2023 (\$175,000), **[RETURNED DUE TO INACTIVITY]**, to fund a media publication centering Muslim news, with coverage affecting the New Jersey Muslim community. New Jersey contains the highest percentage of Muslims to the state population in the United States. The money also is helping Muslim.co expand its coverage of the Palestinian community in New Jersey, particularly in the context of the conflict in Gaza.
- [NJ Coalition to End Homelessness](#), (**Statewide**), 2023 (\$99,200) to support efforts to expand the reach and enhance the impact of Garden State Leaders, a statewide leadership and advocacy training program for New Jersey residents with lived experience of homelessness and poverty. The funds will enable them to formalize their ongoing statewide support and outcome tracking, and to pilot a local leadership program in collaboration with the Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness, for replication in other counties.
- [Wayne Hills High School](#), (**Passaic County**), 2023, 2024 (\$35,991), to fund the creation of a podcasting studio and support the digital journalism program for students in Wayne Township.
- [WNET NJ Spotlight](#), (**Statewide**), 2023, 2024 (\$205,000) to hire a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent to provide regular reporting to NJ Spotlight News and a collaborative network of newsrooms across the state on developments affecting New Jersey.
- [Central Desi](#), (**Mercer County**), 2023, 2024 (\$181,066) to fund a fellowship opportunity that will cultivate college students as future journalists in New Jersey and train them to report, write, and engage with local communities by covering the South Asian American community.
- [NJ Advance Media](#), (**Middlesex County**), 2023 (\$25,000), **[RETURNED DUE TO INACTIVITY]**, to fund the creation of a Journalism Talent Pipeline for aspiring journalists of color or from an underrepresented community. Nationally, journalists of color make up less than 17% of newsrooms and just 13% of newsroom leadership.
- [New Jersey Urban News](#), (**Statewide**), 2024 (\$100,000) New Jersey Urban News is an online news platform dedicated to covering New Jersey's vibrant African American community through informative stories and thorough coverage. NJUN will use this funding to hire a full-time editor and reporter, improving the depth and quality of local reporting for New Jersey's urban communities. This initiative aims to address critical issues, amplify marginalized voices, and foster civic engagement by ensuring residents are well-informed and connected to local resources.

- [New Jersey State House News Service \(Statewide\)](#), 2024 (\$100,000) The News Service is a nonprofit, collaborative effort that trains and develops student journalists by providing professional reporting on government and politics from Trenton's statehouse for use by independent local news outlets across New Jersey. The program offers college level students hands-on experience, with guidance from an experienced, full-time editor.
- [Targum Publishing Company \(Middlesex County\)](#), 2024 (\$60,000) The Daily Targum, Rutgers University's student-run news outlet, aims to expand its digital presence, attract advertisers, and secure a 2025 student fee referendum to restore University funding. As one of New Jersey's largest journalism training grounds, employing over 30 student journalists each year, the Targum aligns with the Consortium's mission by producing civic news and covering the Rutgers communities of New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden.
- [Central New Jersey Network \(Somerset County\)](#), 2024 (\$70,000) The Central New Jersey Network, a non-profit community TV station based in Somerset County, will use Consortium funding to expand its programming and internship opportunities, with a focus on amplifying diverse voices and strengthening community connections. The project will cover local events in underrepresented areas like Trenton and rural Central Jersey while recruiting interns from local colleges, particularly from underrepresented and impoverished communities, to promote diversity in media production.
- [Hammonton Gazette \(Atlantic County\)](#), 2024 (\$40,000) The grant will help the Hammonton Gazette, a hyper-local newspaper and digital site, expand its coverage to neighboring communities in South-Central New Jersey that currently lack local news. It will fund additional staff, including a new position and an expanded freelance budget involving Rowan students, enabling the Gazette to provide weekly coverage of local events, activities, and sports. The project also offers young journalists practical experience, supporting the Gazette's mission to deliver reliable news in an area facing a decline in traditional news sources.
- [Two River Times \(Monmouth County\)](#), 2024 (\$31,879) to support the Two River Times for costs associated with its organization's transition from a for-profit to a non-profit.
- [Garden State Initiative \(Statewide\)](#), 2025 (\$100,000) to support the Garden State Initiative (GSI) in its efforts to leverage expert resources to develop a comprehensive data warehouse and user-friendly reporting system that provides timely analysis of past and current state budgets, as well as the proposed FY 2026 budget, with a particular focus on so-called budget resolutions (more commonly referred to as earmarks). Guided by budget experts and financial journalists, this initiative aims to enhance transparency by making otherwise

opaque public expenditures more accessible and understandable, ensuring that critical fiscal information serves the broader public policy interest. For the current fiscal year, over \$1 billion were allocated to these resolutions.

- [Healthy NewsWorks \(Statewide\)](#), 2025 (\$30,000) to support the expansion of its health literacy programs, HNW is working to engage more students (ages 5-14) and schools in Camden and Southern New Jersey through community health journalism. The organization's programs emphasize journalism skills and media literacy as tools for student development. Participating students select topics for inquiry, interview local and national professionals, and develop stories relevant to their homes and neighborhoods, producing timely and informative content rooted in their experiences. Through this process, student reporters generate accurate and relevant information for communities often overlooked by mainstream media.
- [Montclair Local Nonprofit News \(Essex County\)](#), 2025 (\$80,000) to hire a senior reporter dedicated to covering Essex County and the issues facing its communities, including a wide range of topics such as public spending, county government, housing and development, environmental concerns, transportation, public safety, local institutions, businesses, and arts and culture organizations that shape residents' daily lives.
- [Inside Climate News \(Statewide\)](#), 2025 (\$62,000) to support ICN as it seeks to bolster New Jersey's local environmental reporting ecosystem through on-the-ground freelance reporting, collaborations with local media outlets, and a partnership with the College of New Jersey over the next year. Its aim is to fill gaps in climate and environment coverage and build a reporting presence in communities across the state.

Blue Engine Technology & Sustainability Accelerator grants:

Blue Engine Technology & Sustainability Accelerator cohort members all received a \$10,000 technology grant used to implement new technological solutions for the respective organizations. This includes, but is not limited to, software and hardware updates including website development, subscriptions for cloud-based applications, computer equipment, etc.

- [Atlantic City Focus](#) - \$10,000
- [Black In Jersey](#) - \$10,000
- [coLAB Arts](#) - \$10,000
- [70and73.com](#) - \$10,000
- [Front Runner New Jersey](#) - \$10,000
- [Heady NJ](#) - \$10,000

- [Hopeloft](#) - \$10,000
- [Morristown Green](#) - \$10,000
- [Latino Spirit Media](#) - \$10,000
- [MercerMe](#) - \$10,000
- [Montclair Local Nonprofit News](#) - \$10,000
- [Muslim](#) - \$10,000
- [New Jersey Urban News](#) - \$10,000
- [NJ Pen](#) - \$10,000
- [Public Square Amplified](#) - \$10,000
- [Ridge View Echo](#) - \$10,000
- [TAPinto FairLawn/GlenRock](#) - \$10,000
- [The Daily Targum](#) (Targum Publishing Co.) - \$10,000
- [The Jersey Vindicator](#) - \$10,000
- [Trenton Journal](#) - \$10,000
- [TAPinto Hasbrouck Heights](#) - \$10,000