



2025 Annual Report

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About the Consortium

Mission

The Consortium provides financial resources to support and grow trustworthy, community-based news and information sources throughout New Jersey.

Vision

The Consortium envisions a future in which every person in NJ has access to thriving, representative local news and information that enhances their lives and communities.

Values

Equity, accessibility, and justice are essential to effective grantmaking.

Everyone deserves trustworthy, representative sources of news and information.

Trusted, accurate, and representative news and information is empowering and critical to a multi-racial democracy.

Collaboration, transparency, and sustained funding are key to building thriving news outlets and lead to a more informed and civically engaged New Jersey.

Letter from our Board Chair

Dear supporters and advocates of quality local news and information,

As we look back on the past year, I want to express my gratitude to the State of NJ and our foundation funders for supporting the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium in our work to address the public media crisis threatening community dialogue, cohesion, and trust.

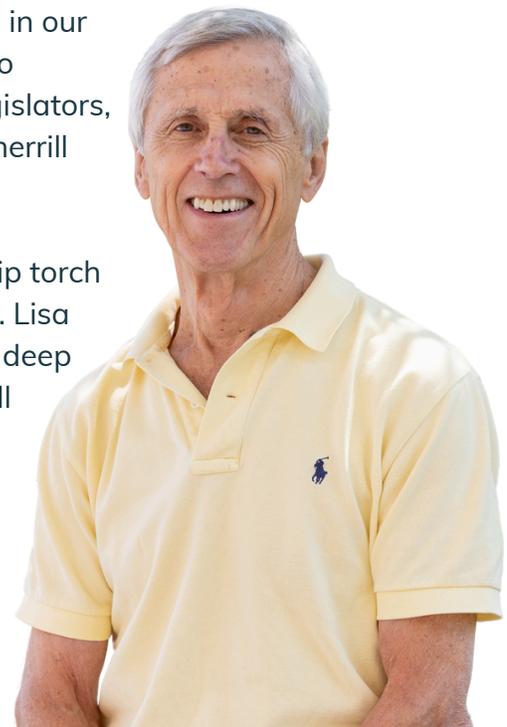
Thanks to your investment, we have made meaningful and measurable progress. To date, the Consortium has awarded 135 grants totalling over \$12M across 19 of New Jersey's 21 counties. Nearly half (48%) of those grants support BIPOC-led organizations. While we are proud of this progress, we know this work is only just beginning.

As we enter the new year, New Jersey faces another pivotal moment for public media with the upcoming end of the NJTV programming services contract long held by WNET in New York. However, rather than seeing this as a potential crisis, we see this as an opportunity to develop and provide a more expansive, broad-based, inclusive, and interconnected statewide public media enterprise that for the first time will not be under the shadows and control of New York City and Philadelphia.

We envision a stronger future for local news and information in our state and hope to serve as a model for other states seeking to reinvigorate local news. We look forward to working with legislators, media professionals, policymakers, residents, and the new Sherrill administration in realizing this vision.

Finally, I'm pleased to formally pass the operational leadership torch to Lisa Sahulka, our new and very capable executive director. Lisa brings a wealth of nonprofit experience to the position and a deep commitment to the Consortium's work. I am confident she will lead this work with clarity and care in the years ahead.

Chris Daggett
Board Chair



Letter from our Executive Director

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to build on the strong foundation laid by the staff, board members, volunteers, partners, and supporters who have carried this mission forward with care and conviction.

I'm especially thankful to our board chair, Chris Daggett, for his steady support during my first months in this role, and I am grateful that his guidance will continue as we move ahead.

My career has always been rooted in the nonprofit sector, social justice and public media. The Consortium's mission — to address the public media crisis in New Jersey and model a first-in-the-nation approach to rebuilding local news — feels both urgent and deeply personal to me. Strong, trusted local information is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect democracy, combat misinformation, and strengthen civic engagement.

As we look ahead, I am energized by the opportunities before us. In the coming year, we will expand our grant making, welcome new partners, strengthen our journalism pipeline, and deepen civic engagement efforts across the state.

We are especially committed to ensuring that every New Jersey community — across all regions and back-grounds — experience a meaningful increase in reliable local news and information.

It is an honor to serve as executive director of this important organization, and I am dedicated to helping the Consortium grow its impact and reach in the years ahead.

Lisa A. Sahulka
Executive Director



Impact to date

\$12M⁺

Invested in civic
information
across the state

13,407

Total stories
published

5,900⁺

BIPOC-focused
news stories

1,300

Student & trainee
produced stories

16,694

News briefs
published

1,601

Storytellers
trained

689

Tips, pitches, and
community write-
ins

109

Journalism
careers launched

220

Journalism jobs
funded by NJCIC

Data collected
from 33 grantees

Grantmaking

In 2025, the New Jersey Civic Information Consortium invested in a diverse and geographically expansive portfolio of community-driven news projects designed to meet New Jersey communities where they are. Our grant making reflects the breadth of New Jersey's media landscape and a deep commitment to ensuring residents - particularly those historically underserved - have access to trustworthy, relevant information.

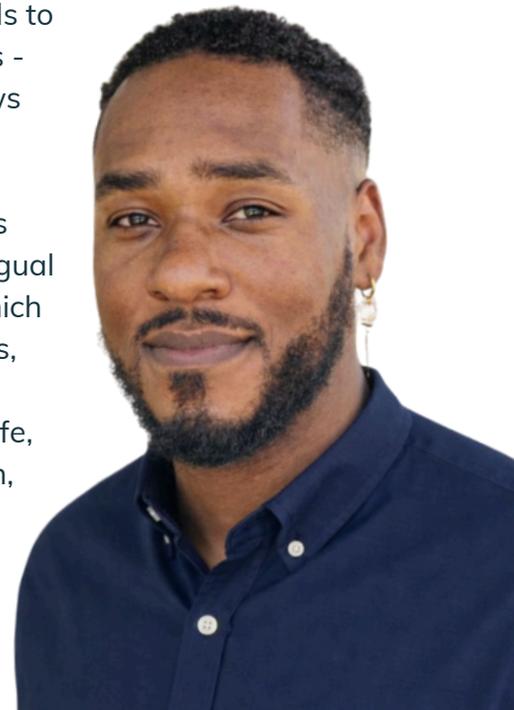
A significant portion of our funding supports BIPOC-led organizations and projects, reinforcing our belief that communities are best served when journalism reflects lived experience and local context. This year's new investments expanded coverage of critical beats including statewide health reporting, climate journalism, local government accountability, and journalism pipeline initiatives that create accessible pathways into the field.

Through our civic news and information grants, we supported original, fact-based reporting that residents can use in real time - whether to understand public school board decisions, follow local government actions, or stay informed in communities where sustained journalism has long been under-resourced. These efforts span the state, from rural towns in North Jersey to urban centers in South Jersey communities, strengthening accountability and public trust.

The Consortium also continued to invest in the future of journalism by supporting pipeline programs that engage all age groups and experience levels. From youth-focused initiatives to adult training programs and community college partnerships, these efforts are designed to equip NJ residents with the skills to document and share what is happening in their communities - while also contributing meaningful reporting to the local news ecosystem.

Civic engagement remains central to our approach. Grantees host listening sessions, community reporting events, multilingual information campaigns, and programs like Documenters, which train and pay community members to attend public meetings, take notes, and publish them. Together, these investments reinforce the idea that journalism is not separate from civic life, but essential to it - strengthening transparency, participation, and community connection across New Jersey.

Ayinde Merrill
Program Officer



2025

Grantmaking Impact

\$4.3M⁺

in grants
awarded in 2025

4,200⁺

Stories
published

\$43k

invested in NJCIC
paid internship
program

19/21

New Jersey
counties reached

100⁺

Documenters
trained

45

Projects
funded

42%

BIPOC-led
projects funded
in 2025

11

New projects
launched
in 2025

2,200⁺

News briefs
published

Financials

In 2025, the Consortium deepened its investment in local news and information across the state, increasing total grantmaking from \$3.3 million in 2024 to more than \$4.3 million in 2025 - a nearly 32% increase. This growth reflects both the rising demand for reliable, community-based journalism and the Consortium's commitment to getting more resources directly into the hands of the newsrooms and organizations serving New Jersey communities.

The Consortium is publicly funded and strengthened by foundation partners. This blended model allows us to direct most state dollars straight to grant making while philanthropy supports our operations. As a result, we maximize public dollars for public good - investing in reporting, expanding access to information, strengthening the journalism workforce, and ensuring communities across the state have coverage that is responsive to their needs. Our lean operations and investment-focused approach allows us to move resources quickly and strategically where they will have the greatest impact.

The Consortium operates at the intersection of public and private support, advocating for sustained state investment while also building partnerships with philanthropy and other funders to extend the reach of every dollar. This blended funding approach positions the NJCIC as one of the first organizations in the nation to demonstrate a true public-private model for local news sustainability. While we are making meaningful progress toward a more durable and diversified funding base, continued public investment remains essential. Community-driven news is a public good - and it requires public commitment. We are proud to help lead this work in New Jersey and hope our model can serve as a blueprint for other states seeking to strengthen local journalism for the long term.

Gross Revenue

\$5,647,540



Grants Awarded

\$4,354,497



Personnel Expenses

\$318,261



Professional Fees & Operational Expenses

\$620,917



→ [Click here to explore our full Statement of Activity](#)

Note: These figures are preliminary & unaudited.



Consortium partners



REBUILD LOCAL NEWS



Additional resources

[Grantee Map](#)

[Grants to date](#)

[Staff + Board](#)

[Impact Dashboard](#)

[2025 Impact Report](#)



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CIVIC INFORMATION
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