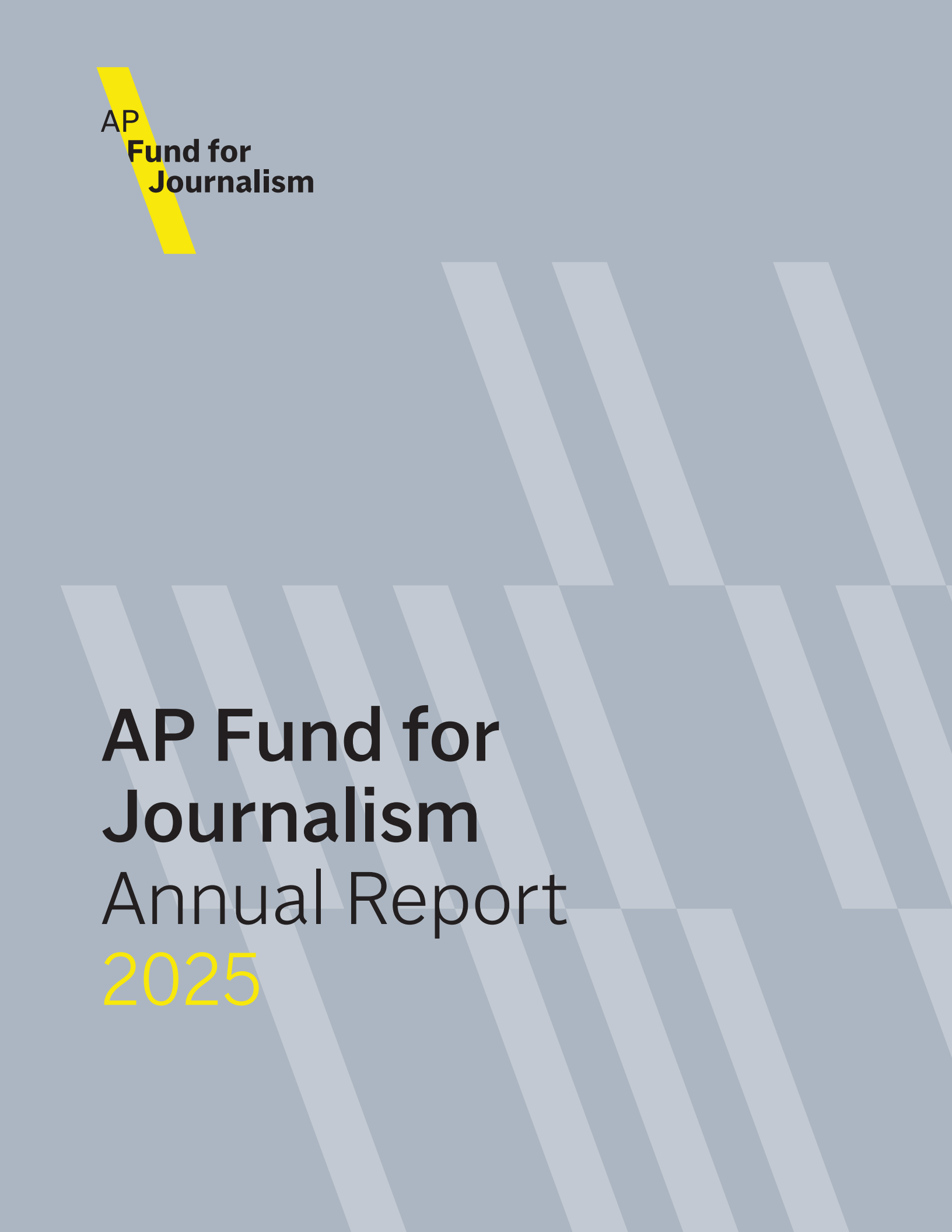




AP
**Fund for
Journalism**



**AP Fund for
Journalism**
Annual Report
2025

Every community deserves reporting that informs, connects and empowers its people. Founded in 2024, AP Fund for Journalism works to bring trusted resources and expertise together with talented reporters, partners and philanthropists to strengthen local news across America.

We believe reliable reporting is not a luxury but a cornerstone of civic life, and we are committed to making it accessible to all.

\ A letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

Across America, a powerful renewal and transformation of local news is underway, and we're proud to be playing a critical role.

When we created the AP Fund for Journalism, we saw an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen local newsrooms to help them better serve and support the communities they serve. This report celebrates our first year of innovation, partnership and remarkable progress.

What started as a bold idea has become a landmark success story. With visionary support from institutions and individuals like you, we launched a pilot program in April 2025 that has supported 50 newsrooms and counting across the country. These partners have gained access to world-class AP content including photos and video, along with personalized newsroom services that help them deliver timely, relevant local news to their audiences.



The results are inspiring. Our pilot program demonstrated measurable gains in audience growth and engagement for participating outlets. Newsrooms are responding faster to breaking news, reaching wider audiences and engaging their communities more deeply. These aren't just statistics. They're proof that when we invest in local reporting, communities benefit.

In the pages ahead, you'll hear directly from our partner newsrooms about the impact this program has delivered for them and their communities. Content provided through these partnerships has brought new readership to Spotlight PA and helped strengthen Mississippi Today's mission to provide coverage that holds public officials accountable. Their stories showcase what's possible when we champion and support local news.

Looking forward, our ambition is clear and achievable. In 2026, we'll welcome 100 additional newsrooms into our program, with a goal of supporting 300+ newsrooms by 2028. Each new partner represents communities gaining better access to accurate, trustworthy news and information — the foundation of vibrant civic life.

We're not just supporting local news with content and services. We're also building the civic infrastructure that will help sustain public service reporting for generations to come, ensuring that reliable, fact-based reporting remains accessible to all Americans, no matter where they live.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for championing reporting that serves the public good. Together, we're creating a brighter future.

Sincerely,



Rachel White
Chief Executive Officer
AP Fund for Journalism



Local newsroom testimonials

This AP partnership has given us the tools and support to localize state and national stories to show what the impact will or potentially be in Bucks County, for topics ranging from federal cuts to Head Start to Medicaid to library services to public radio, etc.

Cyril Mychalejko, editor-in-chief
Bucks County Beacon (Pennsylvania)

This partnership has allowed Spotlight PA to broaden its Pennsylvania-focused story offerings without pulling our reporters from their core coverage areas. Publishing AP stories has also brought new readers to Spotlight PA's website, exposing our original work to new audiences.

Sarah Anne Hughes, deputy editor
Spotlight PA

Their trusted journalism expands our reach, particularly in areas like crime and court reporting where we don't currently have a dedicated reporter. We also rely on their consistently high-quality photography, which brings visual depth to our stories and reduces our reliance on generic stock images.

AJ Jones, technology and production director
Bridge Michigan

Having access to AP's photos ... has been a game changer for our imagery.

Sarah Stierch, reporter and columnist
The Mendocino Voice (California)

These resources — which our newsroom would otherwise not be able to afford — have significantly elevated the quality, credibility and impact of our reporting.

Maritza L. Félix, founder and director
Conecta Arizona

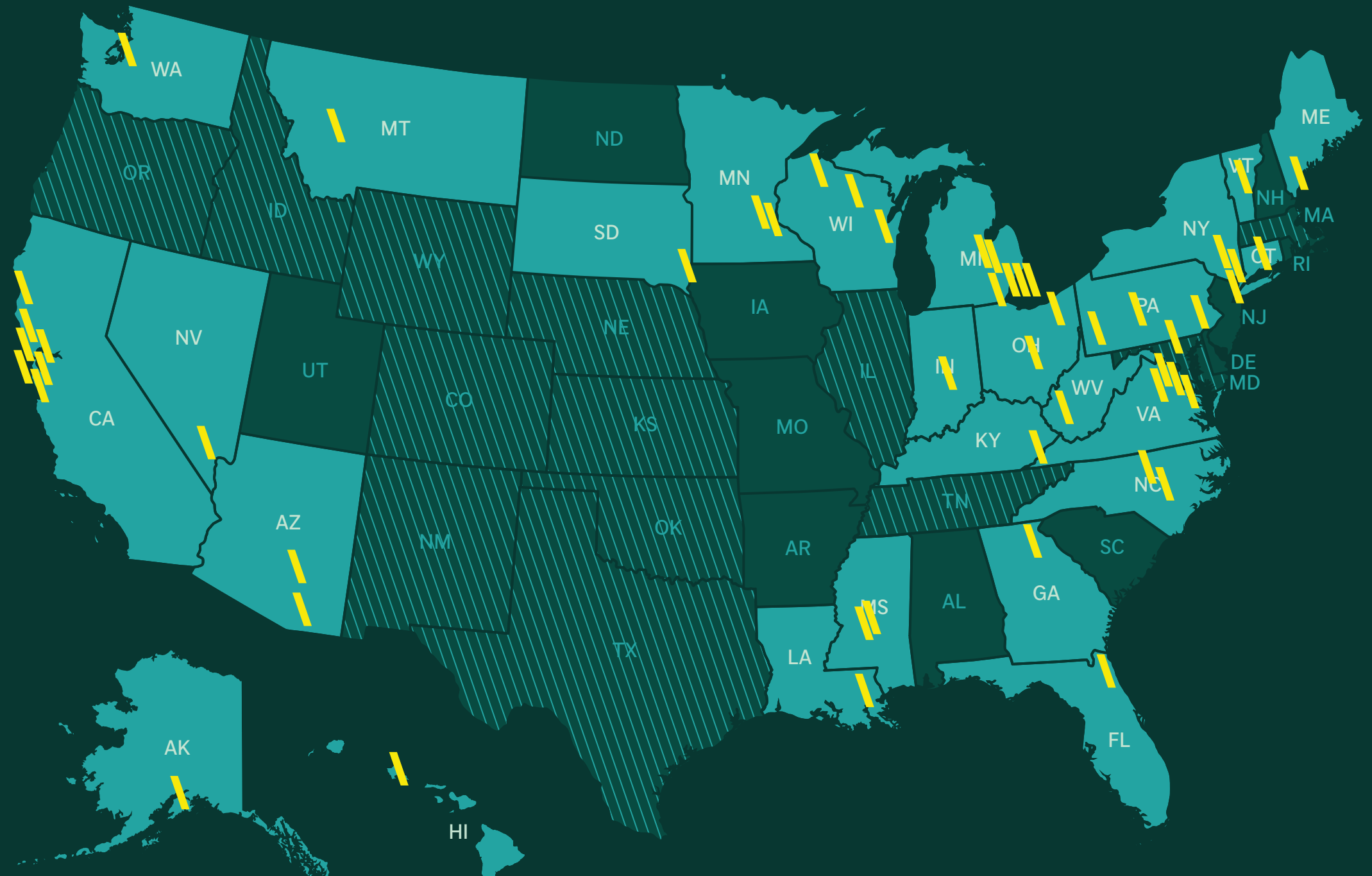
Participating newsrooms

AP content is helping local news outlets respond faster, reach wider and engage audiences more deeply — setting the stage for long-term sustainability.

PARTICIPATION
50+ local newsrooms

SUPPORT
Photos, text, video, content-sharing and training

APPROACH
Personalized service, iterative feedback, testing and adaptation



- AK:** Alaska Public Media \ **AZ:** Arizona Luminaria, Conecta Arizona \ **CA:** Oaklandside, Berkeleyside, Richmondside, Local News Matters, The Mendocino Voice, Mongabay, San Jose Spotlight \
- CT:** CT Mirror \ **FL:** Jacksonville Today \ **GA:** Now Georgia \ **HI:** Honolulu Civil Beat \ **IN:** Mirror Indy \
- KY:** The Daily Yonder \ **LA:** Verite News \
- ME:** The Maine Monitor \ **MI:** Black Like Us, Bridge Michigan, Bridge Detroit, Flint Beat, Outlier Media, Planet Detroit \ **MN:** MinnPost, Sahan Journal \
- MS:** Mississippi Free Press, Mississippi Today \
- MT:** Montana Free Press \ **NC:** Duke Chronicle, Enlace Latino NC \ **NV:** The Nevada Independent \
- NY:** The Daily Catch, The Haitian Times, The Highlands Current \ **OH:** The Land CLE, The Reporting Project \ **PA:** Bucks County Beacon, PublicSource, Spotlight PA, StateCollege.com \
- SD:** South Dakota News Watch \ **VA:** Broadband Breakfast, ARL Now, ALX Now, FFX Now \
- VT:** VTDigger \ **WA:** InvestigateWest \ **WI:** Eye On Dunn County, Racine County Eye, Vernon Reporter \
- WV:** Mountain State Spotlight

2025 cohort

2026 Invitees

From pilot to program

We are transforming our pilot into a scalable national program that extends AP's reach, deepens newsroom collaboration and strengthens the impact of public service journalism. Building on proven partnerships, this expansion broadens our geographic reach nationwide while testing, refining and scaling the most effective models.

2026 GOALS

Expand to 150 newsrooms

Prioritize diverse, local and mission-driven outlets.

Innovate with storytelling and tools

Test new storytelling approaches and tools to improve efficiency in reporting and production.

Reach all 50 states

Ensure communities nationwide, especially underserved audiences, have access to trusted, fact-based journalism.

To accelerate innovation and better understand what works across different contexts, the program will include three focused sub-cohorts:

College media

Partnering with student-run news organizations to build capacity, support the next generation of journalists, and expand coverage in campus and surrounding communities.

Spanish-language media

Collaborating with Spanish-language outlets to increase access to culturally relevant, trusted journalism for Hispanic audiences, while strengthening bilingual and multilingual storytelling approaches.

Southwest news organizations

Engaging newsrooms in the Southwest with a focus on regional issues, supporting nuanced, community-informed reporting on topics of national significance.

Our supporters

We rely on foundations, individuals and corporations to drive our mission to strengthen and sustain local public service journalism nationwide. We maintain the highest standards of transparency in financial disclosure. Partners and grantees retain full editorial independence and APFJ is not involved in editorial or publishing decisions.

To make a donation or to view a list of our supporters, visit apfj.org





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