



PURPOSE:

Press Forward MN is a statewide movement to re-center local journalism as a force for community cohesion, civic participation, and government accountability, with a focus on racial equity. Press Forward MN is a five-year initiative with the goal of raising up to \$10 million dollars to reinvest in Minnesota's local news ecosystem. Press Forward MN is one of the many and growing number of [Press Forward Local chapters](#) around the country.

GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The Press Forward grantmaking committee is composed of people with relevant experience, including but not limited to local journalism knowledge, grantmaking experience, etc. MCF will engage the grantmaking committee to review grant proposals and recommend grant decisions. The grantmaking committee will consist of up to 5 people.

The grantmaking committee will not include any donor to the Press Forward Minnesota Pooled Fund or any person appointed or designated by such a donor. The Press Forward MN leadership team will select the members of the grantmaking committee. The grantmaking committee will be staffed by MCF.

Press Forward MN strategic priorities and initiatives will be developed by the Press Forward MN host committee, MCF, and an expert media consultant.

IDEAL CANDIDATES:

Ideal candidates for the Press Forward MN grantmaking committee have a vested interest and desire to help shape the vision for a vibrant, sustainable, local news ecosystem in Minnesota. They understand the critical role local news and information play in educating our communities on the issues Minnesotans care about. Ideal candidates bring a collaborative spirit to working with a cross-sector team to ensure a fair and thoughtful decision-making process for grant awards.

Press Forward MN seeks membership from a diverse set of backgrounds including philanthropy, local media, journalism, community leaders, news connoisseurs, grassroots organizers, and more.

Grantmaking committee members agree to center the values of Press Forward National: prioritize transformation, center community needs, enable growth with equity and diversity of thought, ensure accessibility, and independence and interdependence. [Learn more about each of these values.](#)

TIME COMMITMENT:

Grantmaking committee members will commit to a 18-month term (July 2024 – December 2025). The time commitment will include a kickoff meeting in Summer 2024 with regular virtual meetings thereafter and the potential for in-person convenings.

During the first 3-6 months, the committee can expect to meet approximately monthly to establish a strong foundation and the successful launch of Press Forward MN's first grant round in Fall 2024.

In general, the committee can expect to meet approximately monthly when there is an active grant round, and meetings will be less frequent when there is not an active grant round. We anticipate having one to two grant rounds/year for Press Forward MN.

Reading and scoring grant applications is a significant time commitment, above and beyond committee meeting time.

This is an inaugural grantmaking committee. There will be a grantmaking committee for the entirety of Press Forward MN's five-year initiative.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Participate in training to understand Press Forward MN pooled fund goals, evaluation criteria, timeline, and grant review process.
- Attend committee meetings to discuss grant review best practices and how the committee wants to operationalize these practices.
- Read and score grant applications.
- Participate in committee meetings to make funding recommendations based on evaluation criteria.
- Maintain confidentiality of grant applications
- Adhere to Press Forward MN conflict of interest policy.

COMPENSATION:

The Minnesota Council on Foundations will provide a \$1000 stipend to each committee member per grant round in recognition of their service and time commitment. We anticipate having one to two grant rounds/year for Press Forward MN.

APPLICATION

To apply to serve on the Press Forward Grantmaking Committee:

- [View and submit an application](#) . Applications will be accepted through June 7, 2024.

For questions, contact May Yang at myang@mcf.org