



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

PRESS FORWARD MN HOST COMMITTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

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.

HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The Press Forward MN host committee is inclusive of practitioners and funders that will provide directional guidance and help set priorities and strategies for Press Forward MN. The host committee will consist of 8-10 people.

The host committee will not be doing grant review or making grant decisions, nor will the host committee or any of its members have any advisory privileges with respect to the distribution or investment of amounts held in the Press Forward Minnesota Pooled Fund. Press Forward MN will have a separate grantmaking committee tasked with reviewing grant proposals and funding recommendations.

The host committee will be staffed by the Minnesota Council on Foundations, along with an expert media consultant. McKnight Foundation will chair the host committee, with the potential for an additional co-chair to be selected from the membership.

IDEAL CANDIDATES:

Ideal candidates for the Press Forward MN host 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 problem solve and advance community-informed solutions.

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

Host 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.](#)

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME COMMITMENT:

Host committee members will commit to a 24-month term (July 2024 – June 2026). The time commitment will include an in-person kickoff meeting in Summer 2024 with regular virtual meetings thereafter and occasional in-person convenings. During the first six months, the committee can expect to meet monthly to establish a strong foundation and the successful launch of Press Forward MN. After the initial six months, the committee will meet every two to three months through June 2026.

Host committee meetings are meant to provide high-level strategy guidance to Press Forward MN, with a focus on goal setting, strategy development around grantmaking and public policy, and considering other tools and resources that will support deep learning and strong collaboration to maximize impact for Minnesota's local news ecosystem.

The host committee will bring the results of their shared work to the broader field and beyond.

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

GOALS AND POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF PRESS FORWARD MN:

- Create a pooled grantmaking fund dedicated to strengthening the local news infrastructure across Minnesota.
- Provide learning opportunities and facilitate connections between communities, the local news field, and the charitable sector, and private sector.
- Optimize philanthropy's role in supporting the local news ecosystem.
- Explore long-term strategies to sustain and enhance Minnesota's local news ecosystem, such as through public policy, increased collaboration, and structural enhancements.

These goals and potential outcomes serve as a starting point for the host committee. The collective wisdom of committee members will refine and expand these outcomes in collaboration with a skilled consultant, Minnesota Council on Foundations staff, and support from Press Forward's national team.

To apply to serve on the Press Forward Host Committee:

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

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