



MEDIA & STORYTELLING

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of organizations can apply for a grant?

A: Chicago nonprofit and for-profit news, media and storytelling outlets, African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) community-based organizations, and nonprofit organizations and associations that support and advance journalism and storytelling are welcome to apply.

To learn more about the requirements for for-profit entities click [here](#).

Q: How is storytelling different from journalism?

A: Storytelling refers to content produced by non-traditional or non-journalism organizations that is fact-based, across platforms and offers perspectives that can change hearts, minds and potentially policy around pressing issues. Journalism is “the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information,” according to the American Press Institute.

Q: Can Media & Storytelling funds be used by organizations for public service announcements or narratives chronicling their own efforts?

A: While our hope is that Media & Storytelling funds will also serve to highlight the efforts and impact of organizations, particularly those led and within ALAANA communities, the intent is to tell stories in a broad way that helps reshape media coverage in the Chicagoland area. We encourage applicants to consider the reach, news worthiness and ultimate impact/platform of their ideas and consider how they can be thought leaders while not focusing proposal on particular organizations.

Q: Do documentaries/mini-docs qualify for Media & Storytelling funding?

A: Yes, the Foundation is open to a wide array of ideas and platforms. Please consider the goals of the Media & Storytelling program as well as those in our Justice and Art program areas before requesting support.

Q: Can organizations that are not ALAANA led apply for grants?

A: Yes. Non-ALAANA organizations that meet the Field Foundation’s eligibility criteria may apply in partnership with ALAANA organizations.

Q: What is an ALAANA organization?

A: To learn more about ALAANA organizations, please follow this [link](#).

Q: Can individuals apply for grants?

A: No. Grants are only awarded to organizations.

Q: Do I have to be a nonprofit to be eligible for a grant?

A: No. Qualified 501(c) (3) organizations are preferred, however, in [Media & Storytelling for-profits](#) may be eligible if grants are used for charitable or educational purposes that further the underlying issues addressed by Field's Media and Storytelling grantmaking. An organization may also partner with a 501 (c) (3) as its fiscal agent. Please contact the Field Foundation to clarify and confirm eligibility.

Q: What is the average size grant awarded?

A: Grant requests are typically in the range of \$15,000 to \$50,000. For grant requests greater than that amount, contact the Media and Storytelling program officer.

Q: How can grants be used?

A: Grants for Media and Storytelling are available in five areas: partnerships and collaborations, content creation, capacity building, training and leadership investment and rapid response funding. See program criteria for a definition of each area.

Q: Can schools (K-12) apply for support through this program?

A: No, schools are not eligible for support. Additionally, efforts/programs/activities that work with K-12 students during the school day are not eligible to apply.

Q: What if an organization has previously received grants under a different Field portfolio (Arts, Justice)? Can/should that organization apply in both areas in case it could be a fit in more than one area?

A: No, the Field Foundation will only accept one application or LOI at a time. We ask that you choose the best program area for your request. If you need assistance, please contact a Program Officer for guidance.

Q: Does a project have to air or publish in Chicago in order to qualify for Media & Storytelling funding? Or is grant receipt dependent upon whether the organization itself is based in Chicago?

A: The Field Foundation is focused on Chicago and all requests should have a Chicago focus. Organizations applying for support should have their headquarters in Chicago and their primary efforts should address Chicago stories.

Q: Can organizations with operations outside of Chicago, but with a Chicago-based storytelling arm, qualify for this grant?

A: Possibly. We would encourage organizations read and understand the Field Foundation's goals for the Media & Storytelling program as well as the Foundation's general guidelines prior to considering a request. We strongly encourage speaking to the Media & Storytelling Program Officer prior to submitting an LOI.

Q: How much grant money is awarded annually?

A: The Field Foundation will dedicate \$1 million annually for Media and Storytelling activities between 2019 and 2021.

Q: When will the grants be awarded?

A: The first grants for the program will be awarded in September 2019. Details on the selection process, including requirements, deadline information and application are available at <https://fieldfoundation.org/how-to-apply/program-grants/>.