



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

PRESS FORWARD MN GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE:

Press Forward Minnesota 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 Minnesota is one of a growing number of [Press Forward local chapters](#) across the country.

GRANTMAKING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The Press Forward Minnesota grantmaking committee brings together people with relevant experience, including local journalism knowledge, grantmaking expertise, and more. Press Forward Minnesota and Minnesota Council on Foundations staff will engage the committee to review grant proposals and recommend grant decisions. The committee will consist of up to five members.

To ensure independence, the committee will not include any donor to the Press Forward Minnesota Pooled Fund, nor any person appointed or designated by such a donor. The Press Forward Minnesota leadership team will select committee members, and the Press Forward Minnesota team will staff the committee.

IDEAL CANDIDATES:

Ideal candidates for the Press Forward Minnesota grantmaking committee have a vested interest in 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 keeping communities informed on the issues Minnesotans care about, and they bring a collaborative spirit to working with a cross-sector team to ensure a fair and thoughtful grant decision-making process.

Press Forward Minnesota seeks members from a diverse range of backgrounds, including philanthropy, local media, journalism, community leadership, grassroots organizing, and beyond.

All grantmaking committee members commit to centering the values of Press Forward National: prioritizing transformation, centering community needs, enabling growth with equity and diversity of thought, and ensuring accessibility, independence, and interdependence. [Learn more about each of these values.](#)

TIME COMMITMENT:

Grantmaking committee members commit to an 18-month term running from August 2026 through March 2028. The term begins with a kickoff meeting in Summer 2026, followed by regular virtual meetings and potential in-person convenings.

During the first three to six months, the committee will meet approximately monthly to build a strong foundation and support the successful launch of Press Forward Minnesota's third grant round in Fall 2026. When a grant round is active, monthly meetings will continue; between rounds, meetings will be less frequent. Press Forward Minnesota anticipates one to two grant rounds per year.

Note that reading and scoring grant applications requires a significant time commitment beyond scheduled committee meetings.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Participate in onboarding and training to understand Press Forward Minnesota's pooled fund goals, evaluation criteria, timeline, and grant review process.
- Attend committee meetings to discuss grant review best practices and how the committee will put those practices into action.
- Read and score grant applications.
- Participate in funding recommendation discussions based on established evaluation criteria.
- Maintain confidentiality of all grant applications.
- Adhere to the Press Forward Minnesota conflict of interest policy.

COMPENSATION:

In recognition of members' service and time commitment, the Minnesota Council on Foundations will provide each committee member a \$1,000 stipend per grant round. Press Forward Minnesota anticipates one to two grant rounds per year.

APPLICATION

To apply to serve on the Press Forward Minnesota grantmaking committee:

- [View and submit an application](#). Applications will be accepted through July 13, 2026.

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