

# 2021 Colorado Media Project Water Journalism Fellowship

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*Rose Community Foundation*

## *Instructions*

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Welcome to the grant application for Colorado Media Project's 2021 Water Journalism Fellowship.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please join an informational lunch-and-learn with Colorado Media Project from Noon to 12:45 p.m. MT on Thursday, June 10, 2021. To join, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-fellowship-application-information-session-tickets-157882052469>

For more details on this opportunity, visit: <https://coloradomediaproject.com/latest-news/2021/6/1/water-journalism-fellowship>

### **Goals:**

- To build individual journalist capacity and a cohort/network to support water reporting at newsrooms across the state.
- To increase the amount and reach of solutions-focused journalism about timely water issues facing Coloradans, including drought, climate change, forest health and wildfires, demand management, agricultural water innovations, and more.

### **Grant Structure:**

Applications must be submitted by a Colorado newsroom with detailed information about the journalist who would be participating in the fellowship. It is strongly recommended that the journalist completes the application on behalf of the newsroom. The application has been structured with the intent of minimizing the burden on the staff of the newsroom.

If the application is approved, grant funds will be provided directly to the newsroom and the newsroom will be responsible for ensuring the final report is submitted.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Colorado news outlets that are regularly producing original, locally focused, nonpartisan journalism. Both nonprofit and for-profit newsrooms are eligible to apply. Approved grants will be made directly to the newsroom on behalf of:

- A journalist working directly for the applicant Colorado news outlet.

- A freelance journalist or mediamaker with a letter of support from a Colorado news outlet or distribution partner that states your work will be distributed via that outlet or partner.
- A journalist who has a passion and curiosity for water issues facing our state, and a dedication to reaching Colorado audiences with important stories that help them understand the world around them. Prior experience covering water issues is welcomed, but not required. Mostly, it should be a goal to do more water coverage in the future.

Please note that approved grant funds will be provided to the newsroom, not directly to the individual journalist. A stipend may be provided as additional compensation to the fellow or utilized by the sponsoring news outlet to cover costs related to the fellowship. The newsroom will be responsible for providing the final report detailing the use of funds.

Based on the questions in this application, we strongly recommend that the individual journalist fill out the application on behalf of the newsroom.

#### **Fellows Receive:**

- Four virtual “Water Fluency for Journalists” workshops organized and convened by the Colorado News Collaborative, with content delivered by Fresh Water News and Water Education Colorado, the leading nonprofit organization for informing and engaging Coloradans on water issues. Topics will provide fellows with a firm grounding in how to do sophisticated, in-depth reporting on one of the most important issues in our state. You will find out why water is not a dry topic.
- Fact sheets, source lists and “tips and tricks” for reporting on water in Colorado and the West. Fellows will gain access to expert guest speakers, as well as “do’s and don’ts” and best practices for reporting on various water topics.
- Personalized coaching and support for covering water issues for their publication. Each fellow will have access to one-on-one coaching from expert water journalists Jerd Smith (Fresh Water News) and Susan Greene (COLab), who can help with story ideation, source generation, story editing, and more.
- Facilitated networking, peer learning, and support to develop a collaborative project focused on water. Each fellow will contribute uniquely to a collaborative reporting project and will see their work, and that of the group, published in their local newsroom and by other outlets in the COLab network, The Water Desk, Water Education Colorado and Fresh Water News channels, increasing exposure and reach.
- Access to a shared pool of funds for water reporting, which the fellows will manage to support their graphic design, photography, videography, or multimedia needs related to their reporting projects.

- A \$1,000 grant to the applicant newsroom from Colorado Media Project, with support from Gates Family Foundation, to recognize the fellow's dedication to participation in the cohort. A stipend may be provided as additional compensation to the fellow or utilized by the sponsoring news outlet to cover costs related to the fellowship.

**Fellow Commitments:** Fellows agree to:

- **Attend four cohort “Water Fluency for Journalists” workshops**, scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays: July 29, August 12, August 26, and September 23. The five-month fellowship experience runs from July 15 through December 15, 2021.
- **Produce at least one article or piece of multimedia content on water issues** for your publication during the course of the fellowship. These can be on topics of your choice, and driven by the specific water-related issues facing your community.
- **Contribute at least one article or piece of multimedia content** to the collaborative project produced by the cohort.
- **Partner with Fresh Water News, the Colorado News Collaborative and Colorado Media Project** by sharing stories produced with fellows and COLab partners via AP StoryShare, and sharing lessons learned through a fellowship impact assessment.

**Timeline:**

- Application information session: Thursday, June 10 from Noon to 12:45 p.m. MT. The webinar will be recorded and posted, along with an FAQ document, for future viewing.
- Proposal deadline: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 by 5 p.m. MT
- Applicant notification (via email): By Friday, July 2, 2021
- Fellowship period: July 15, 2021 through December 15, 2021
- Grant payment: Week of July 12, pending signed contract
- Final report due: January 15, 2022

**Completing This Application**

It is best to complete the sections of this application in order, from top to bottom, as the questions you are presented with later in the application may change based on your answers to previous questions.

For text fields, you must limit your responses to the character counts provided for each question in order to submit. Character counts *do include* spaces.

## *Basic Information*

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### **Project Name\***

Name of Project.

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Name of Executive Director/Editor/Publisher\***

Please list the person who has the authority to sign a grant contract.

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Newsroom Type\***

#### **Choices**

501(c)(3) nonprofit  
Public Benefit Corporation  
LLC  
Other

### **Newsroom Type (other)**

If you chose "other" in the previous question, please describe here.

*Character Limit: 250*

### **Primary Distribution Method\***

Please choose the primary way most people access the content that you produce.

#### **Choices**

Print – Daily  
Print – Weekly  
Print – Monthly  
Radio  
Television

### **Fiscal Sponsor\***

Is there a fiscal sponsor organization for this this project that is different from the applicant organization listed on this application?

#### **Choices**

Yes  
No

## *Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information*

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### **Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information\***

Please provide the legal organization name and full contact information (name, title email, address and phone number) for your primary point of contact with the fiscal sponsor for this project.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## *Journalist Information*

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For this section, please reference the individual journalist who would be participating in the fellowship if the grant is approved. We strongly recommend that the journalist complete this application on behalf of the newsroom.

### **Journalist Name\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Journalist Title\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Journalist Email Address\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Journalist Phone\***

*Character Limit: 20*

### **Newsroom Association\***

How is the individual journalist associated with the news organization applying for the 2021 Water Journalism Fellowship?

#### **Choices**

- Full-time employee
- Part-time employee
- Freelancer or contractor

### **Letter of Support\***

Please click [here](#) to download the Newsroom Agreement. The completed form must be signed by a leader of the applicant newsroom, which states that work created by the journalist will be distributed via that outlet or partner, and is covered by the organization's libel insurance.

Please upload the completed form here.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB*

### **Journalism Experience\***

Please upload a resume or CV listing the relevant journalism experience and professional affiliations of the journalist.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB*

## Examples of Work\*

Please provide links to three pieces of work the journalist is most proud of. We are especially eager to see any examples that helped explain or illustrate a complex topic in ways that connected with their audience/s.

*Character Limit: 2500*

## Water-Related Issues\*

What important water-related issues are facing your community? What are the most important water-related issues facing Colorado and the West?

*Character Limit: 2500*

## Interest and Aspirations\*

Why is the journalist interested in the 2021 Water Journalism Fellowship? What is most exciting about this opportunity? What do they hope to learn or gain?

*Character Limit: 2500*

## Contributions\*

What skills, superpowers, diverse perspectives, or special knowledge does the journalist hope to bring to the cohort of fellows participating in this project?

*Character Limit: 2500*

## Commitment\*

Fellows agree to:

- **Attend four cohort “Water Fluency for Journalists” workshops**, scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays: July 29, August 12, August 26, and September 23. The five-month fellowship experience runs from July 15 through December 15, 2021.
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## Choices

The journalist has affirmed that they are able to fulfill the commitments of this fellowship.

## Accommodations\*

Are there any elements of the five-month commitment that the journalist foresees as being difficult to fulfill, or accommodations they would need to participate? Letting us know about these in advance will not negatively impact your application, but will help us plan ahead to ensure we have an inclusive cohort where all members are able to fully participate.

*Character Limit: 2500*

### **Grantee Cohort/COlab Participation\***

Please indicate any specific services that your newsroom is positioned/willing to provide to other fellows and/or journalism partners of the Colorado News Collaborative.

#### **Choices**

Professional journalism about highly impacted communities from my newsroom in English  
Professional journalism about highly impacted communities from my newsroom in another language  
Distribution of partner content to the unique audience my news organization serves  
Peer-to-peer discussions on covering highly impacted communities  
Introductions to individuals and organizations from highly impacted communities  
Translation services

### **Final Questions**

Do you have any questions about this opportunity that we have not covered, or things you want us to know that we did not ask?

*Character Limit: 2500*

## *Additional Information - For-Profit Organizations Only*

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### **Date organization was founded\***

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Mission Statement\***

Please provide a mission statement for your news organization.

*Character Limit: 1000*

## *Next Steps*

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### **Submission Confirmation**

Once you have submitted your grant application, you will receive an email confirmation that it has been successfully submitted. If you wish to view your application after submission or apply for another grant in the future, access the login link at [rcfdenver.org/grantsapply](https://rcfdenver.org/grantsapply).