



Case for Support: Press Forward Chicago



Local news has never been more important.

Journalism is a public service that strengthens communities, holds power to account, and ensures residents can participate meaningfully in civic life. Yet across the country, newsrooms are under threat and under-resourced. Traditional revenue has declined, leaving many communities without reliable, fact-based coverage. Even in Chicago, often seen as a news oasis, coverage is uneven and organizations struggle to sustain their work.

That's where Press Forward Chicago comes in.

A pooled fund at The Chicago Community Trust, Press Forward Chicago works to strengthen access to trustworthy local news and support sustainable ecosystems. By advancing nonpartisan journalism grounded in facts, we help ensure residents are informed, engaged, and able to shape their communities.

We are part of a growing national movement to sustain local journalism, bringing together more than two dozen funders, including The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Through collaboration and pooled resources, we aim to build a more sustainable, self-sufficient future for local news to ensure communities have the information they need and deserve.

How We Support the Chicago News Ecosystem

Grants

We fund projects that improve the business of news organizations.

Shared Services & Infrastructure

We host programs that train organizations and subsidize the costs of professional services in their top areas of need.

Professional Development

We sponsor events that support learning and connection for local journalists.

Topic-Based Funding

We invite new funders into journalism through the topics they care about most (e.g., immigration, education, climate, health, housing, business, etc.).

Coalition Building and Policy Initiatives

We connect funders, journalists, business and nonprofit leaders, and policymakers to create the conditions for change.



\$14 MILLION

raised toward local news in Chicago



\$1 MILLION

toward shared services and infrastructure



\$3.4 MILLION

in grants to 34 Chicago-area news organizations since 2023



100+

institutional and individual donors

Our Supporters: Institutional Funders

Circle of Service Foundation
Comer Family Foundation
Crown Family Philanthropies
Democracy Fund
Driehaus Foundation
Illinois Immigration Funder Collaborative
IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation
Leading from the Front
Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute
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The Chicago Community Trust
The Field Foundation of Illinois
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
The Joseph Pedott Legacy Fund
The Joyce Foundation
The Miami Foundation
Walder Foundation

Individual Donors

**\$5,000 and up, in alphabetical order. The most up-to-date list can be found on our website.*

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Ken O'Keefe & Jason Stephens
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Contact Tracy Baim, Press Forward Chicago executive director, at tbaim@cct.org or 773-387-2394 with any questions. Visit cct.org/pressforward for updates.

Press Forward Chicago 2026 Governance

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Support local journalism and give to Press Forward Chicago