COVID-19 Funders Briefing Series II: The Vital Role of NJ Local News and Information Ecosystems

October 13, 2020

CNJG
COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS

Harnessing Philanthropy’s Potential
Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Speaker Presentations
  - Lea Trusty, Program Associate, Democracy Fund
  - Meghan Van Dyk, Informed Communities Program Officer, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Advisory Board, New Jersey Local News Fund
  - Stefanie Murray, Director, Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University
  - Lee Whack, Senior Development Director, Chalkbeat
- Q & A
- Conclusion

*Please submit questions using the Q & A feature at the bottom of your screen.*
Supporting Media Equity During COVID-19
CNJG COVID-19 Funders Briefing Series II
The Challenge

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the health and livelihoods of Black, Latinx, and Native American communities. Their information needs are rarely met by traditional media, and newsrooms led by and serving these communities have been historically underinvested in by traditional philanthropy.
The Opportunity

Newsrooms led by and serving communities of color continue to grow and innovate, while funding for racial equity has increased in the wake of COVID-19. These philanthropic investments must be met with new systems and processes that put equity at the center.
Examples of Our Investments

Racial Equity in Journalism Fund
New Jersey Local News Lab Fund
And She Could Be Next
D4BL
TROLLBUSTERS
Outlier Media
Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Center for Cooperative Media
Our Goals

- Center equity in our definitions and funding of innovation
- Invest in leadership and emerging talent within communities of color
- Apply data with an intentional equity lens
- Equalize the funder-grantee relationship
- Map and then move decision-making power to affected communities
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Meghan Van Dyk
Communications director,
Informed Communities program officer
(she/hers)

@meghanvandyk
Local News Ecosystem

Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State
Local Journalism Organizing

Free Press News Voices New Jersey
Theory of Change

Stories of Atlantic City
Heirarchy of needs

- Self actualization
- Esteem needs
- Social needs
- Safety needs
- Basic needs
COVID info needs
New Jersey's news ecosystem
Center for Cooperative Media

Grant-funded program based at the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University.

Support for the journalists and the news and information ecosystem in New Jersey

NJ News Commons

Daily newsletter (montclair.edu/njnewsletter)

National focus on collaboration
New Jersey’s local news ecosystem

There are 780 news and information outlets, including radio, TV, digital, print.

More than 120 of those are ethnic media organizations.
Search below for local news originators by municipality. Local news originators include newspapers, “digital-first” outlets (online newspapers and digital-native outlets), and a handful of public media who have robust local newsrooms. For broadcast outlets, the municipalities listed are within listener or viewer coverage area; text-based outlets are listed according to those towns the outlets say they serve.

There may be an outlet that serves your community that could not be mapped because its coverage area was either too diffuse or not geographically contiguous (e.g. the outlet serves small pockets of ethnic communities throughout the tristate area or is topic-based). This list of outlets, along with their websites, is at the bottom of the page.
New Jersey’s local news ecosystem

There are 780 news and information outlets, including radio, TV, digital, print.

More than 120 of those are ethnic media organizations.

Most of the 780 are small.

Many are struggling.
Current challenges

Among the news ecosystem’s current challenges:

- Business models and financing
- COVID impacts
- Safety issues
- Reckoning with systemic racism and harm caused by media
- Changes in the way journalists and communities interact
- Reimagining of journalism
How we are responding
How we are responding

Some current initiatives

Census work

COVID: Translation, equipment grants, fellows, daily content-sharing

Collaborative efforts with Loved and Lost, information needs assessments in Newark, Atlantic City, Camden

Election: Translation, fellows, collaboration, training, disaster planning, Vote Beat content sharing
Stefanie Murray
Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University
murrayst@montclair.edu
www.centerforcooperativemedia.org
- Election Day & Votebeat.org
- The Problem, The Need & The Solution
- Why New Jersey?
- Partners
- How you can help

- School Year
- Local News, education, democracy
- Schools during Covid-19
- Understaffed
- My Story
Questions?
Thank You!

Please take the survey e-mailed to you after this briefing

Register now for our next COVID-19 Funders Briefing on Monday, October 26 from 4 – 5 pm

www.cnjg.org/events