



REPORT FOR AMERICA

Local Journalism, Public Service

2023

An initiative of **THE** **groundtruth**
PROJECT

Report for America is a national service program that places talented journalists—corps members—into local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities.

Preserving Local News is Critical

Nearly 55 million American have limited or no access to local news, with 206 counties lacking any news source and 1,561 relying on just one. Over 250 of these areas also face high poverty, putting their access to vital information at further risk

The nation lost 127 newspapers — nearly 2.5 per week — in the year ended Sept. 30. That's the same pace as the previous year. The U.S. has lost more than one-third of its newspapers, about 3,300, since 2005

From 2022 to 2023, newsroom jobs — mostly reporters and editors — decreased by almost 2,000 positions while newspaper employment overall shrank by more than 7,000 jobs

**The loss of local news is
a crisis for democracy.**

Strong local news has community impact...

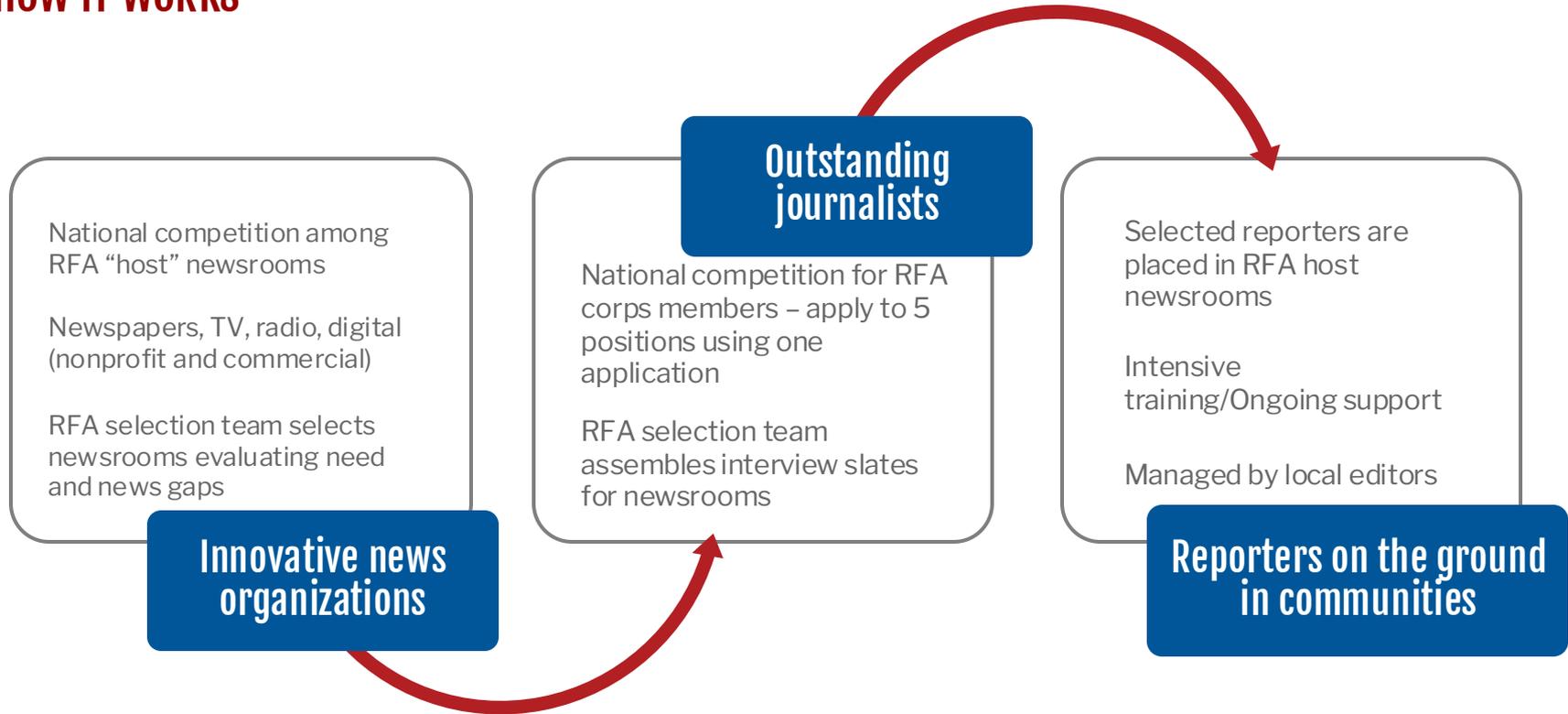
- **builds** social cohesion
- **encourages** political participation
- holds local and state government **accountable**

Fewer reporters means crucial issues and communities are under-covered.

Not covered:

- Environmental issues
- Inadequate Healthcare
- Injustice In Courts
- Corruption At City Hall
- Critical school board issues
- Statehouse government

HOW IT WORKS

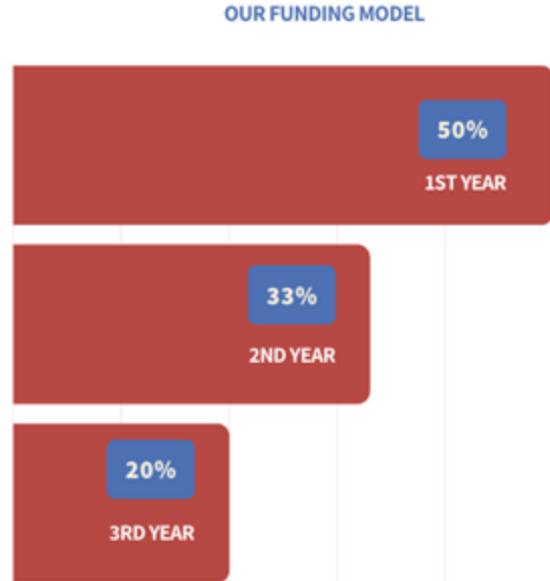


THE FUNDING MODEL

Year 1: Report for America pays **half** of first year corps members' salary. The other **half** is matched by the host newsroom and the local community.

Year 2: Report for America pays **33%** of the salary for the corps member.

Year 3 (optional): Report for America pays **20%** of the salary for the corps member.



Local news helps provide truth-telling at the level where people are most impacted.

REPORT FOR AMERICA CORPS MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA

The Report for America team looks for journalists who will do great work, can overcome challenges, solve problems and be an asset to their community and newsroom. Corps members are emerging, early career and experienced journalists with one to three years of experience and a strong commitment to public service.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- **A minimum of 5 strong, published clips**, ideally local news clips (not classwork or self published work). For broadcast, reels that show range and depth of journalistic experience
- **Experience working in a local newsroom** (full-time, part-time, or one or more internships)
- **Two strong recommendations.** If possible, one reference should come from a newsroom supervisor/editor
- For recent college graduates, leadership position in their college newsroom with internship/ or newsroom and publication experience is a plus

NOTE: Corps member positions are not fellowships or internships. They are full time positions with a two-year commitment and an option to re-up for a third year.

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A REPORT FOR AMERICA CORPS MEMBER

Significant Beats: Report for America corps members concentrate on coverage for a variety of beats, including healthcare, energy, statehouse, climate, education, city hall, local business, communities of color, photography and more.

Training and Mentorship: Report for America offers more than 70 training sessions per year from experienced journalists and other experts, helping corps members sharpen their skills. We also pair you with a national mentor at the top of their game for additional skill-based/coverage gap-related support.

All-Around Support: In addition to a robust peer network of fellow corps members who are covering similar beats and living in nearby towns, Report for America's regional managers—deeply experienced, award-winning journalists— are assigned to support every corps member and partner newsroom.

Springboard to Career Success: Report for America graduates get hired by their newsrooms or by other regional, national and international outlets. Corps members win dozens of state, regional and national awards.

2023-2024 Corps

~300 corps members

~200 host news organizations

45% journalists of color

66% women

25 median age

What Types of Beats Are Available?

Beats

Many of our corps members will cover education, healthcare, food, climate, city hall, county commission, local business and more.

We're also looking for:

- statehouse reporters
- environmental reporters
- bilingual/fluent Spanish speakers
- journalists interested in serving rural communities
- 10 Photographers - Catchlight Partnership
- data journalists



PEOPLE
AMERICA

Where Do Corps Members Work?

Newsrooms

Report for America's ~300 host news organizations are **newspapers, public radio, tv stations and digital startups**

Located in **rural and urban areas** nationally

Serving a **mix of under-covered communities** and under-reported issues - For profit and non-profit

400+ Alumni

- **82% of Report for America alumni** are working in journalism
- **80% of those work in newsrooms** and 14% are freelancing
- Alumni are **employed at 215 different newsrooms across the country**
- **27%** are still working at their Report for America newsrooms

*October 2024 internal data

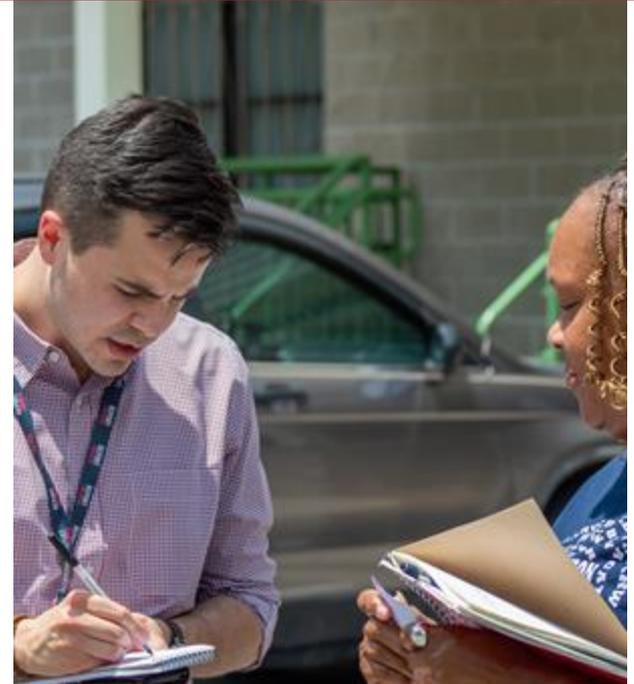
Where Alumni Work

- Associated Press
- USA Today
- Boston Globe
- Miami Herald
- Vermont Public Radio
- Axios
- The Wall Street Journal
- The Dallas Morning News
- Washington Business Journal
- Hawaii Public Radio
- Lee Enterprises
- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Several other TV, radio, and/or digital news outlets

What's the Application Timeline?

2024-2025 TIMELINE

- **Corps member application opens**
December 17, 2024
Applications reviewed on rolling basis as they are received
Initial assignments considered with newsrooms
- **Final application deadline**
February 3rd, 2025
Rolling application review continues
- **Corps member interviews: Round 1**
February-March 2025
Applicants selected for interviews with Report for America team



JAKE SHORE
THE CURRENT GA

2024-2025 TIMELINE (CONT.)

○ Corps member interviews: Round 2

March-April 2025

Finalists assigned to newsroom(s) for interviews and selection
Newsroom placements for finalists announced

○ Corps member announcement

May 2025

On #RFADay, Report for America and partner newsrooms announce and welcome new corps member placements. It's our favorite day to be on Twitter!

○ Corps member year begins

July 27, 2025

Corps members begin their two-year commitment with the newsroom with optional 3rd year to renew

Sign Up for Updates

Scan the QR code below or visit
www.reportforamerica.org/apply.



REPORT FOR AMERICA

STAY IN THE LOOP.

Questions? Email us: recruitment@reportforamerica.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: [@report4america](#)

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