

Trott Foundation News Fellows Program



Michigan Press Association Foundation
Funded by a grant from the
Trott Foundation

ABOUT:

The Foundation seeks candidates for the 2026 Michigan Trott Foundation News Fellowship.

Fellows and mentors participate in News Fellows Program in November in Lansing, MI. The purpose of the program is to develop news skills in aspiring journalists by looking at issues from a community newspaper perspective.

Fellows will tackle one issue with implications in America's hometowns. They study with veteran community newspaper journalists to distinguish facts from spin, research an issue, interview key players, and produce a news or interpretive story for publication in hometown media.

REQUIREMENTS:

MPAF as your Sponsor will:

- Pay for a hotel night in an MPA selected hotel near the Capitol in downtown Lansing.
- Pay a travel stipend and local transportation required for program activities.
- Pay for meals.
- Develop a program with meetings that will provide students with expert information and advice on the topic of government transparency.

We're looking for the following:

- Journalism background and interest in social media.
- Interest in political and public policy issues.
- Strong writing and research skills.
- Ability to represent the Michigan Press Association Foundation professionally at meetings and events in the Capitol and surrounding settings.
- Be open to feedback, with strong desire to develop professional skills.
- Effective interpersonal communication skills.



Fellows must:

- Be committed to producing a story on the selected topic.
- Be a college newspaper editor or reporter with coursework in basic reporting.
- Be able to travel to Lansing, MI in November 2026.
- Bring a device capable of WIFI connection for research.
- Be interested in hot-button issues, be open minded and able to research many sides of the issue.
- Be willing to give MPA and Michigan Community Newspapers simultaneous but not exclusive publication rights to the work for publication in media.

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply please include your name and "Fellowship" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Please submit the following to Lisa McGraw at lisa@michiganpress.org:

- A current resume and cover letter including your contact information and your interest and/or experience in a career in journalism.
- Two samples of recent work you've published in your college newspaper.
- One letter of recommendation from faculty, college newspaper advisor or staff of your hometown newspaper.

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS ON: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026