

# Freedomways Reporting Project Application

The Freedomways Reporting Project is bringing together eight journalists and storytellers with experienced mentors to pursue a community-driven reporting project. Over nine months, from June 17, 2019 to February 28, 2020, participants will receive training and support from mentors and social movement partners to produce a series of stories from their local communities.

In our aim to strengthen journalism driven by people who are building power within marginalized and oppressed communities, we encourage women of color and LGBTQ people of color who currently live in southern communities to apply.

Applicants that identify from the categories below are strongly encouraged to apply.

- Community Media: Those who work in or are affiliated with community and rural media outlets, including those from non-traditional outlets
- Organizers: Storytellers who produce narratives that drive community-building campaigns across social movements
- Freelance journalists: Independent reporters focused on community-driven storytelling looking to deepen their reporting on a local issue or community
- Mid-Career journalists: Reporters transitioning from legacy news organizations to independent media with an interest in community-driven reporting

Freedomways participants will:

- Develop a story pitch and reporting plan tailored to the needs of and critical issues facing local communities
- Be matched with local, regional and/or national media partners that will publish and broadcast stories
- Develop an engagement plan to deepen the impact of their reporting
- Receive \$6000 in compensation for their participation in the program and production of their series of stories

During this period, participants commit to:

- 1) Attend a 2-day orientation (Monday June 17 and Tuesday June 18) to meet mentors, peers, staff, movement organizations and media partners. During this gathering participants will engage in workshops and discussion on:
  - a. The practice of movement journalism
  - b. Political education
  - c. Reporting project ideas

- d. Potential media partners and collaborators
  - e. Skills-building
- 2) Attend six 2-hour online workshops which will include presentations by organizers about the issues they are tackling in their communities, as well as skill-building in areas such as story crafting, developing sources, research, and measuring story impact
  - 3) Spend about 4 hours per month developing or deepening relationships with the communities that are the focus of the reporting project (outside of reporting time)
  - 4) Complete a minimum of three in-depth reporting packages, as feature stories or recurring series following a particular issue
  - 5) Carry out an engagement strategy (e.g. a public event, social media campaign, etc.)

We seek participants who are flexible, constructive and willing to help us improve this approach to shared learning and community building. The generosity of our funders allows us to cover travel expenses for the program.

**DEADLINE to submit application is May 3, 2019**

=====  
**About Press On**

Press On is a newly founded collective that aims to build the media ecosystem in the South, and influence news media trends nationally, by strengthening and expanding the practice of movement journalism. We are journalists, storytellers and organizers rooted in oppressed and marginalized communities that birth social movements. The South is the critical site for leadership in the growing practice of movement journalism, therefore we uphold Southern traditions of storytelling that have long resisted the systems of extraction, exploitation, and colonization that have defined mainstream journalism.

By providing a diverse set of resources including trainings, fellowships and reporting guides, Press On aims to help journalists and storytellers produce stories driven by local communities that are building power necessary to creating transformative social change.

# Freedomways Reporting Project Application

## INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline to submit your application is **May 3, 2019**.

To apply, please respond to the following prompts in a Word or OpenOffice document.

Then, email it to [freedomways@presson.media](mailto:freedomways@presson.media) and make sure the subject line has:

“YOUR LAST NAME, Freedomways Application”

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (home/cell) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following questions.

Describe any of your identities that you would like us to know about, e.g. ethnicity, race, gender, etc.

What is your relationship to social justice movements in the South and/or in your local area? (300 words or less)

Describe any relevant journalism, media, communications, and/or story-telling work you've done. (300 words or less)

Are there media organizations you have a working relationship with?

Are there movement organizations you have a working relationship with?

Do you have ideas for a reporting project that this fellowship would enable you to pursue? Please describe. (300 words or less)

If so, what is your relationship to the communities that would be involved in your reporting project? (300 words or less)

If you described a reporting project idea, please explain how you think it would have the potential to help advance justice within the communities involved. (300 words or less)

What are some of the personal and/or professional goals you think this fellowship would help you build toward? (300 words or less)

Are there particular skills you hope this fellowship can help you learn or hone? (For example: interviewing, fact-checking, multimedia, investigative research, etc....)

What other work, projects, and commitments will you be carrying out alongside the fellowship? (300 words or less)

Please provide two examples of your journalism / media / communications / storytelling work. At least one should be a written piece. You can copy and paste links here, or send as attachments in your application email to [freedomways@presson.media](mailto:freedomways@presson.media)