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00:00:13.190 --> 00:00:26.779

Barbara Mantel: Hello, everyone! I'm Barbara Mantel, and I'm the health beat leader for freelancing at age. Cj, this webinar is one of a series of topics, specific training opportunities to brief healthcare journalists.

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Barbara Mantel: on the latest information in particular health areas, or in my case in freelancing, and to give you ideas and resources that you can use in your work. Today's topic is getting a grant or fellowship to support your in depth reporting project in the spring. I let a webinar about breaking into narrative journalism when we touched on funding, but we didn't go into a lot of detail.

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Barbara Mantel: We all acknowledge during that session, that freelance fees that publications pay probably aren't gonna

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Barbara Mantel: pay for in-depth narrative article or an investigative piece. It's not gonna make it worthwhile to spend the time and energy. And so that's why we're having this webinar today to get into greater detail about how to get additional funding and how to make those applications really compelling.

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Barbara Mantel: before I introduce the panelists, I'd like to point attendees to the list of fellowships and grants that are up at the freelance portion of the Hcj website. I've got 18 fellowships or Grants listed right now, and another 7 will be going up, I believe, this week. I'd also like to plug Hcj's own fellowships that support journalism projects

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Barbara Mantel: they include the reporting fellowship on healthcare performance that supports you in pursuing a significant reporting project related to the Us. Healthcare system at either a local regional or national level. Hcg also has the International Health Study Fellowship, which is a 6 month program supporting mid career. Us, based healthcare journalists who wanna pursue a story or project

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Barbara Mantel: comparing a facet of our health system to a health system in another country. All the Hcj fellowships can easily be found on the new and revised Hcj website. So I am thrilled to have our 3 panelists for today's Webinar.

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Barbara Mantel: Josh Mcgee is an investigative reporter for Mindsight news, and he covers the intersection of criminal justice and mental health with an emphasis on public records and data reporting.

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Barbara Mantel: Yes, thanks for having me. Oh, okay. And he is a 2023 and 2024 Carter centers. Mental health journalism, fellow, which is a really impressive fellowship, and he'll share what went into writing of winning application. He also has other fellowships as well. Jacqueline Stenson

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Barbara Mantel: is the manager of projects at the Usc. Center for health journalism. She leads the centers, outreach and recruitment for its fellowships and other initiatives, and it offers reporting grants between 2 and \$10,000, 2,010 top \$10,000. She's also worked as a health reporter and editor, and she's been published in multiple places. La times Reuters, Nbc. News self shaped and and more.

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Barbara Mantel: she and our third panelists will share tips about what they want to see in an application. What makes an application stand out, and some mistakes that they see as well. Eric Ferrero

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Barbara Mantel: serves as executive director of the fund for Investigative journalism. He has worked closely with some of the nation's leading investigative journalists to help them uncover high impact stories, including

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Barbara Mantel: stories published or broadcast by the New Yorker 60 min. The Washington Post, the New York Times, Pbs. Frontline as well as other outlets, and they give out dozens of grants annually, I believe, up to \$10,000 each. Eric, is that? Yeah? Okay?

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Barbara Mantel: So welcome, everybody

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Barbara Mantel: our panelists will take just a few minutes to briefly describe the grants and fellowships they give or, in Joshua's case have received, and then we will move into the QA. I'll start out with some questions, and then I'll direct audience questions. Please ask questions

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00:04:22.110 --> 00:04:40.080

Barbara Mantel: everybody who's viewing, and please post your questions in the QA. Window, not the chat window, but the QA. Window. Josh, can we begin with you? Can you briefly explain what resources you get? As a Carter Center health journalism fellow, and the project that it's funding.

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: Yeah. So I think the most important part is the fee. They give you \$10,000 for your project paid out in 2 separate payments. So it's not everything upfront.

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: For it. They send you down to Emory University the Carter Center Presidential library. And you get about 4 days of learning. You! You hear from the fellows from the year before, and the projects that they were creating, and you also hear from the other people in your class about the projects that they're getting into.

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00:05:10.870 --> 00:05:21.649

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: And after that she gets a mentor or 2 mentors to help you. They're chosen specifically to help you with the project that you've pitched and you have monthly meetings with them

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: to talk about the project. And also there's a there's always a coordinating webinar that's on a different topic related to mental health. So all of it's about mental health. They'll give you a couple of different subjects and things that might be interesting and intriguing from their long clip their long list of former fellows. And then.

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00:05:41.850 --> 00:05:56.570

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: you know, I think you asked about my projects? My projects, basically a continuation of a story I did early when I was in mine sites that looked at police response to mental health issues. I did it in Chicago. And I

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: basically use call log data. Police calls to determine how often police were going to which neighborhoods for mental health calls. And then I across that data with use of force reports to see how often police knew they were coming into a situation with a mental health aspect, and they still use force. So a lot of that was taser usage or sandbags or you know. Sometimes it's just tackling but there's still, I think, 2 shootings. So

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I looked at that for about

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: 10 years worth of data. But for the project now, I've basically expanded it to the 100 biggest cities is how I pitched it. I had already sent a lot of a lot of these foyers in before. But you know, it's now it's producing the story. That kind of looks at that. And I do have Northwestern middles class. Their social justice. Investigative reporting class helps me out with. Some of the research for that.

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Barbara Mantel: Thank goodness, Jacqueline. Can you tell us what kind of grants are available for freelance health reporters from the Center for health journalism?

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Jacqueline Stenson: Yes, so Hi, everyone thanks so much for joining the webinar, and thank you also to the Association of Healthcare Journalists for including me. I'm really happy to be here. We have various programs at the center. Some are for journalists around the country, including the national fellowship and the data fellowship, and then some are just for reporters focused on California, but they are all open to both staff members and to freelancers.

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Jacqueline Stenson: and I can tell you some more about some specifics in just a moment. But overall. The first thing I would really like to note is that our programs are not only for the quote unquote health reporter at the paper, although we, of course, love when health reporters apply. But our programs are open to reporters covering a wide range of health and social welfare issues. So we get applications from

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Jacqueline Stenson: general reporters, as well as those who cover topics like homelessness, environment and climate change, race and gender issues, education and more. And we embrace a very broad view of health at the center.

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00:08:11.010 --> 00:08:18.769

Jacqueline Stenson: and we know health doesn't just happen at doctors, offices, and hospitals. It's shaped by our environment or schools or neighborhoods in our communities.

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and we strive to admit fellows whose work reflects that

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Jacqueline Stenson: and woven through all of our work is a focus on how systemic inequities can shape life outcomes. So most of our programs are 5 months in length, and they include mentorship.

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Jacqueline Stenson: professional training, and financial support for reporting projects. So our grants start at 2,000 and many of the programs. They can go as high as \$10,000,

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Jacqueline Stenson: and the stipends are meant to defray the extra costs of reporting. They're often used for travel, lodging, and food, or things like

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Jacqueline Stenson: purchasing data sets or covering the cost of translating projects into different languages, and we also offer engagement grants of up to \$2,000 for community outreach efforts, and we have 2 engagement editors on staff full time, who are available to work with, to work with you.

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Jacqueline Stenson: And because our programs span about half a year, we're looking for narrative projects that go beyond a one off feature. Oftentimes the fellows in our programs are

doing multi part series, but sometimes they might be doing one long form in depth magazine piece. That really depends on the project

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Jacqueline Stenson: and the media outlet.

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Jacqueline Stenson: And my first piece of advice I would have for anyone applying for one of our programs is to really, just think about your application like it's a crew, a query letter to an editor. We have a panel of judges for each program. They're all veteran journalists, and we're looking for all the same elements that your editor is looking for so a timely topic that you think is important for your readers, and why a news hook, of course, a plan for solid reporting that will support your thesis.

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Jacqueline Stenson: We'd like to know what your goals are for the project, and how you think it might have impacts in the community. So we ask that you submit both an overall proposal summarizing your project, and then a step, separate statement of deliverables, and by that we mean, you know. Please tell us what shape your project will take. For instance, will it be a 3 part series, print video audio, what will each story focus on and include any multimedia components or sidebars?

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Jacqueline Stenson: Depending on the program? We also may ask you to submit a budget that tells us how the money.

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Jacqueline Stenson: how much money you need and how you plan to to use that money for your stories.

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Barbara Mantel: That's great. Thank you. We'll go into more detail during the hour, I'm sure. Eric, can you describe the grants that are available from the fund for investigative journalism?

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00:10:48.920 --> 00:11:00.399

Eric Ferrero: Sure, thank you, Barbara, and and thanks also. I'm a huge fan of Josh's work and of the the Usc. Program. So I'm delighted to be here with all of you. And of course,

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Eric Ferrero: age. Cj, just does such incredible work for for the whole field. So the fund for investigative journalism was founded in 1969 to provide support directly to journalists to cover the expenses of investigative stories. And so the grants that we have available. Right now.

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Eric Ferrero: I'm going to talk mainly about sort of our regular full grants. And I'll talk about a couple of smaller programs, too. But the the main Grant program that we have available is

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Eric Ferrero: or investigative stories on any topic in any medium. So they can be traditional news. They can be podcast book, documentary, the full range.

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Eric Ferrero: They're up to \$10,000. As Barbara mentioned per story or project.

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Eric Ferrero: we have 3 3 cycles a year for these regular full grants that we do. The next deadline is January twenty-ninth. So it's it's very timely to be working on those right now when you come to us for a grant. If you're a freelancer and about two-thirds of our grantees are freelance journalists.

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Eric Ferrero: If you're a freelancer, you need to have at least one letter of commitment from a media outlet committing to run the story. And we have a sample letter on our website along with our application materials. And that's [fij.org](http://fij.org).

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Eric Ferrero: And that sample letter makes clear it's it's not an ironclad thing. There are plenty of caveats there for the outlet. They can say that they intend to run it, provided it meets their standards and is as described. But you do have to have that letter to be eligible in terms of what expenses can be part of that grant which is again up to \$10,000

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Eric Ferrero: it is, is really quite a wide range of expenses that

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Eric Ferrero: that are related to that investigation. So typically, it's open records, fees, travel it can be your time and you calculate your own rate. You tell us either you know, hourly rate or stipend, how you've kind of calculated your time. Some of our applicants

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Eric Ferrero: come with proposals that include subcontracting

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Eric Ferrero: for research, assistance, data, visualization, that kind of thing that can all be part of the grant as well.

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Eric Ferrero: so again, the next deadline for those is at the end of January, January twenty-ninth, you get a decision 6 or 7 weeks later. The way we pay the Grants is that you get half of that Grant upfront right away once you're once you're awarded the grant and the other half. Once the story publishes, or if it's a series.

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Eric Ferrero: when the first piece in that series publishes the last thing I'll mention for now, cause I know that we'll do tips and other stuff later. Barbara.

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Eric Ferrero: is in in terms of kind of how we how we think of of investigative reporting or kind of how that's defined, what's included in that description, because I know different folks define that differently for us. That means that it's a story that is

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00:14:25.140 --> 00:14:44.130

Eric Ferrero: uncovering, wrongdoing or injustice that was previously unknown or previously hidden. So, for example, a story just about the nature of Long Covid or the existence of Long Covid wouldn't be investigative for us, no matter how much you're digging to tell it

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Eric Ferrero: a story about how



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Eric Ferrero: schools or insurance companies or employers. Governments are not equipped to deal with long Covid, or about how they're not sufficiently covering people with long Covid symptoms, and that there's some kind of a systemic problem there. That would absolutely be something we'd be interested in funding, and we can get more into examples.

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Eric Ferrero: But that's how we define investigative. And

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Eric Ferrero: and I don't have a percentage. But a tremendous number of the grants that we do are for stories that are related to health care. Last year I should say this year that we're ending in 2023 we made 120 new grants for 120 new investigative

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Eric Ferrero: projects around the country. Our work is us focused.

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Eric Ferrero: Those grants were in 44 States. Most of those stories are state and local stories with a national contour to them.

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Eric Ferrero: but a lot of them get into access to health care insurance issues, hospitals being equipped to deal with

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Eric Ferrero: new issues or with patients. Prison healthcare systems, all kinds of different healthcare stories that are investigative that we're eager to support.

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Barbara Mantel: Thank you so much. Those descriptions are very helpful. I wanna remind viewers to please ask questions and to type them in the QA. Window. I'm not going to be opening the chat window. I'll start with a few of my own. We do have audience questions coming in, and they're really good. But I wanna start with an open, ended question, Jacqueline and Eric.

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Barbara Mantel: could you just give maybe your top 2 pieces of advice for writing a compelling application.

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Jacqueline Stenson: I think. Yeah, my top bit of advice is you know, Re, we have different grant and fellowship opportunities, and they each have slightly different themes. So I would recommend

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Jacqueline Stenson: taking a look at our fellowships and grants Page, which I just put in the chat and you know, tailoring your pitch, you know, making sure it fits within the themes of our fellowships. And then, when you submit, it.

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Jacqueline Stenson: really think of us as editors because we have a panel of judges who review all of the applications. I'm one of them. I'm my background is in journalism. I've also taught journalism for many years. Everyone on our panel is a journalist. So think of us as editors, and and really just

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Jacqueline Stenson: pitch us like you would an editor.

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Jacqueline Stenson: and then I also recommend for folks applying to meet with me. I do one on one consultations all the time with journalists. And it's really a great opportunity to just.

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00:17:33.860 --> 00:17:40.839

Jacqueline Stenson: you know, make sure that we're you know you're that we're on the same page that you're applying for a program that really fits within

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Jacqueline Stenson: your goals and your timeline, because sometimes we have programs that require folks to be on the Usc campus. And if you're not available that week, then that program obviously is not a good fit. But I'm happy to talk with folks anytime and try to find a program. That's a good fit.

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Eric Ferrero: Eric. That's great. I agree with all of that. 2 additional tips for us. One is

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Eric Ferrero: be sure to have initial findings and share them in your proposal. How do you know that there's a story there? They shouldn't be totally speculative when you come to us for a grant you should have done some initial leg work.

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00:18:17.810 --> 00:18:32.339

Eric Ferrero: Have some initial findings that you can lay out in that proposal. That shows us that there's a story there and then the rest of your proposal walks through how you're gonna really build on that and go out and get the rest of it. So that's one tip

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Eric Ferrero: the second one for us is to really draw bright lights to what makes this an investigative project. And just be very, very clear and explicit and direct about why this is investigative. We get a lot of proposals for really interesting explanatory journalism

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Eric Ferrero: in particular, that we pass on because it doesn't meet our bar of being investigative. You can see on our website, Fijorg, how we define investigative journalism. You can see examples of stories that we have supported.

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Eric Ferrero: And and in that proposal you just wanna really point to why it's investigative and what you've already got.

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Barbara Mantel: Quick question, Eric. If someone has applied for a grant in the past to you, and didn't get it would they be able to call you up and say, could you tell me what was wrong with my application.

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Eric Ferrero: Yeah, absolutely. I prefer those calls, as Jacqueline just said on the front end, so that I'm not explaining why you got declined. But I'm instead helping you get a proposal that's gonna get accepted. But for us, the easiest way to do that is, if you email [grants@fij.org](mailto:grants@fij.org)

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Eric Ferrero: and let us know that you have a proposal that you wanna talk about. We will gladly find time to do that. But yeah, absolutely, Barbara, after the fact, too. I'm always happy to do that. And there's always quite a number like Jacqueline. We have a a board of journalists that reviews everything and and votes on which ones to fund there's always a number of them

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Eric Ferrero: coming out of those board meetings who we actually hope will retool and resubmit the proposal. And so I often work with

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Barbara Mantel: folks also on on that process. Perfect. Josh. This is of particular interest to freelancers, who, before they get

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Barbara Mantel: the pay, the article published, or get a grant. Any work they do is uncompensated. How much reporting did you do on your story idea before you applied for the Carter Center grant. Now I know thinking about it. This is a continuation of a past project, so

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Barbara Mantel: I'm not sure it's a really fair question for you. But what do you think about how much reporting and interviewing reporters need to do

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Barbara Mantel: to in an application like this before, you know, before they apply.

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think. You know, I like to. I feel like you're always. If you're reporting, you're always got these stories that you never completely finished, that you kinda dig into and you might just kind of have a collection of documents. So I do like to go from something that I've already

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00:21:17.120 --> 00:21:37.389

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: done, and I'm I know that I'm interested in, so that kinda gives me a little bit extra push. You know when I start reporting, I usually am sending public records

request, anyway. So that data is usually gathered kind of on the front end. So kind of exploring that data, you know, hopefully, being able to do a quick pivot table where you're not going or exasperating your time.

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think that that really helps.

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: And I definitely like to have either have spoken to someone, either an expert or a a person involved. Or I know that could be a good topic for it. But

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Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think that you know that's just kind of front end reporting. But that's only gonna give you the first kind of 600 words of what you're doing. And if you don't get the fellowship, I feel like you, probably, especially if you're relooking at this with fresh eyes. You probably could pitch this somewhere else or find the right organization. So I do think that you you need a little bit of reporting, but it's it's kind of that front end of reporting of. How could you turn in a pitch if you didn't

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Barbara Mantel: know or have some kind of a particular findings. I know that some editors will work with you but usually grants or fellowships they're expecting you to become in with a little bit of expertise on what you're trying to pitch, Eric. How much preparatory reporting and interviewing do you expect to see

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00:22:28.880 --> 00:22:52.890

Eric Ferrero: on an application? You know it? It. It's a great question. And and I think Josh's answer is perfect in terms of sort of what what folks should expect to do for it. It's hard to answer that Barbara cause. It varies story to story, depending on what it is. But I do wanna say I mentioned earlier that we had some other kind of smaller grant programs that I could touch on. And one of them that we started

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Eric Ferrero: just last year is a a new type of grant that we call seed grants that are actually for that early reporting, and are only for freelancers. And so

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Eric Ferrero: these are grants that are up to \$2,500. You don't have to have a commitment letter yet. You don't have to have findings yet. These are grants, for I have a really interesting idea, and I need to a little bit of resource to go out and do that really preliminary reporting to see if there's a story there, and to help shape what what this investigation might look like, and so

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Eric Ferrero: that up to \$2,500 can include your time again. It can also include, like an initial reporting trip. A few initial records requests that kind of thing.

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Eric Ferrero: It's a shorter application cause it's, you know, smaller and simpler. We haven't posted yet, but probably next week we'll post that the first deadline of 2024 for those seed grants will probably be about the first week of

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Eric Ferrero: February. So keep an eye out for that@fij.org, if you if you don't already receive our emails, you can sign up at Fijorg for our email list. And we send out

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Eric Ferrero: all of our Grant deadlines and announcements have new grants and stuff to that list. That's terrific. Yeah, we're really excited. We did 42 of them last year, and they're really it's a great new way to some of that early support, especially again, freelancers that don't have.

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00:24:28.030 --> 00:24:37.739

Eric Ferrero: as as you guys were just saying that have to otherwise do that work. Kind of, you know, at their own cost. It's a way to get support for that early reporting.

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00:24:37.980 --> 00:24:54.510

Barbara Mantel: Jacqueline, do you expect to see a lot of reporting and interviews done and completed ahead of time? And one of our viewers is asking, do you? Are you open to

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Barbara Mantel: receiving applications of stories that they've reported in, written and finished, but have not been published?

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Jacqueline Stenson: So so first off, I mean, we don't expect people to have done tons of actual interviews, but we are. We do want to know that they've done enough reporting to know that they are on the right track, and they have a a

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Jacqueline Stenson: a solid project in hand, and I have conversations with folks to kind of go through that, and I find that

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Jacqueline Stenson: most of the time folks have done a fair amount of work. They know they're they've been covering something, and this ideas come up to them, and it's just something they wanna pursue, and they're already kind of digging into it. So

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Jacqueline Stenson: so overall I you know, I would say, you know, have enough information that we know it's a solid project, and you know we can talk through that. We do have a data fellowship that happens every October that one's a little more detailed for us because

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Jacqueline Stenson: we require that all the fellows in our programs do a data driven project. So it's a little more complicated. So what we do for that one is

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Jacqueline Stenson: we actually do ask that folks meet with me initially, and then I put them in touch with a data journalist. We have several leading data journalists in the country who teach and mentor in our program. So I prefer journalists after I've talked with them, to have a separate consultation with a data journalist to kind of talk through

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00:26:22.650 --> 00:26:44.689

Jacqueline Stenson: is, do we think the data is out there. Was there a reasonable chance? The data is out there. What kinds of hurdles are we gonna going to encounter? Because all of those projects are data driven. So we really wanna make sure that they work out before folks come into the program. So yeah, we do as much upfront as we can, because we want the the applications to come in strong. I mean, our whole point is.

112

00:26:44.750 --> 00:26:54.989

Jacqueline Stenson: you know, with the center is to support professional journalists. So we are here to to do that with the mentoring and the training and the funding and all that.

113

00:26:55.310 --> 00:27:06.650

Jacqueline Stenson: so I'm happy to answer any questions. If folks want those if people have already done a story and they haven't published it. so

114

00:27:06.900 --> 00:27:11.710

Jacqueline Stenson: I suppose technically, yeah, they could come into one of our programs.

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00:27:11.830 --> 00:27:19.020

Jacqueline Stenson: they would need to find an outlet to publish that project. So

116

00:27:19.020 --> 00:27:46.089

Jacqueline Stenson: if people, if freelancers and I encounter this fairly often. Freelancers will come to me. They'll say, I have this idea that I'm working on. I don't have an outlet lined up yet. So I say, Okay, well, let's start the process here. Let's try to get your application in. Start pitching different outlets and then keep me posted. If it's a little bit past the deadline. You know. I can try to work with you as much as I can until the very last minute, when we're finalizing the the fellows and the grantees.

117

00:27:46.100 --> 00:27:50.990

Jacqueline Stenson: but we do. I mean, our goal in our programs is that

118

00:27:51.190 --> 00:28:19.700

Barbara Mantel: participants will, you know, aim to publish their project by the end of like 6 months from the time they come into the program. So so we are looking for them to to line up an outlet. But I work with folks on that. Okay, that's good to know. Josh. Oh, when you were applying to the Carter Center Health application, mental health, journalism, fellowship. Did you reach out to previous winners? Did you ask to see successful applications?

119

00:28:20.480 --> 00:28:35.629

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I reached out to Hannah Faaro, who was a who was in the class before me. I know she does a lot of things at age. Cj, but I had never spoken to her before in my life but I reached out to her via Twitter and she was super eager to pick up the phone and talk to me.



120

00:28:35.750 --> 00:28:59.249

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think it was. Yeah, I think you should do it for every single fellowship. I think it kinda tells you if the fellowship is worth it is, if someone from the class before, is eager to talk or eager to to recommend it or try to help you. But if the you know, if you, if you get a grant, and it helps you and build your career. You're you're usually gonna wanna help the next person help them up. And you feel like it's your duty. So I think it was very helpful.

121

00:28:59.250 --> 00:29:13.730

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I asked about kind of juggling projects and a beads. I think she was doing 2 fellowships at the same time. So how? How hard that was? She works a regular beat like me. So it was good to know, like, okay, well, I'm

122

00:29:13.750 --> 00:29:30.770

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I was going to pitch some of these projects. So basically, I just got to continue to work. And it really kind of helped me. So I think that just talking about a plan and understanding what you're gonna get out of the fellowship to I think it's kind of hard to read the fa queues and know everything. You're really gonna get out of it. So

123

00:29:30.770 --> 00:29:54.649

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: you know, you really kind of have to cater. Your essay, and some of the answers to the questions to what you expect to get out of there. So by knowing, oh, you gonna get this training, or you're gonna learn about this, or you might need a the guidelines on how to speak about mental health. You know you can add that into your application. It's something that the people who are reading it know that they can actually give you. So I think that that's kind of part of why you should talk to the people.

124

00:29:55.080 --> 00:30:09.469

Barbara Mantel: That's okay, that's great. Jacqueline and Eric, is there any way for applicants to see a successful past application like could I call and say, can you show me the application from someone who got a fellowship?

125

00:30:11.960 --> 00:30:19.619

Jacqueline Stenson: Probably do that? I that's the first time anyone's ever asked me for that. So I don't have one prepared. But yeah, I'm happy to

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00:30:20.290 --> 00:30:27.980

Jacqueline Stenson: to talk with folks about that, and and and potentially dig up some some examples of of really strong applications.

127

00:30:28.140 --> 00:30:30.050

Barbara Mantel: Okay, Eric.

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00:30:31.620 --> 00:30:37.220

Eric Ferrero: yeah. Same. I mean, I think one of the challenges is,

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00:30:37.270 --> 00:30:42.650

Eric Ferrero: obviously, you know, people who wrote those proposals and stuff need to give their permission

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00:30:42.800 --> 00:31:05.230

Eric Ferrero: for that. It's a whole set of kind of other questions there. But I'll often think as as Jacqueline and I both said earlier. I often think that that time is better spent sort of talking with us about your project reaching out to have those conversations. You know, we and I know folks at the other organizations that provide grants and fellowships

131

00:31:05.230 --> 00:31:22.899

Eric Ferrero: are usually very eager to talk to applicants and help shape proposals. The the kind of, I think, often sort of one of the most misunderstood things is that dynamic between journalists and funders, and kind of this perception

132

00:31:22.900 --> 00:31:39.420

Eric Ferrero: that there's like a limited resource that we're sort of holding over here and don't necessarily want to give out or super selective and giving out. Of course, we're selective and want to give funding to to projects that meet our bar. But the reality is

133

00:31:39.420 --> 00:32:02.689

Eric Ferrero: every organization that provides funding. The journalists wants to get that funding into the hands of reporters that can do good work. And so we want to work with you on crafting proposals that are gonna lead to good stories, and they're gonna get funded and and I always encourage people to reach out to us and the other groups to to talk that through.

134

00:32:03.040 --> 00:32:13.699

Barbara Mantel: Josh. Did you have someone? You you have several fellowships. I forget the name of the other one. You told me that you had Maynard Institute. Fellow.

135

00:32:14.010 --> 00:32:27.109

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: what is it called? Again? Maynard Institute, fellow, it's it's a diversity and investigative reporting fellowship that's really good. Okay, we're gonna have to put that up on the Hcj website.

136

00:32:27.260 --> 00:32:31.949

Barbara Mantel: did you have someone for the applications

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00:32:32.000 --> 00:32:40.460

Barbara Mantel: read over your applications when they were done? Did your editor or another reporter.

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00:32:40.460 --> 00:33:07.750

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: My my editor is a he was a previous Carter fellow fellow, so he was big on having me apply but he definitely looked over. My my whole everything. I turned in the application. I think that's some of the applications are like Google sheets. And there'll be multiple pages. So I definitely copy and paste the whole application before I go in there on a separate Google sheet. So that I can be looking at the questions.

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00:33:07.750 --> 00:33:30.139

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I usually you know I if I'm planning for a fellowship, I'm thinking about it months and ahead of time. So I have it on my calendar for times to check in and keep looking the questions to kinda think about how to formulate them better. But yeah, but I'm never turning. I'm not gonna turn anything, cause I wouldn't have anyone. Po, you wouldn't post any of my stories without an editor checking over it thoroughly. So I'm not gonna turn it in

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00:33:30.140 --> 00:33:53.870

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: first. Another professional and not have him look over it, or someone look over at least to. So you to catch the dumb mistakes along with to help you formulate. Even you know. How would you pitch this to an editor? I think that that's kind of an important part of the story is you need to pitch this like you're pitching to an editor who would want to receive this and believe that you could finish it. So it's good to have an editor or someone who who reviews pitches.

141

00:33:53.870 --> 00:33:55.050

Take a look

142

00:33:55.250 --> 00:34:02.879

Barbara Mantel: now, you said. You work on these applications for months. Eric and Jacqueline.

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00:34:03.190 --> 00:34:13.710

Barbara Mantel: Do I assume you recommend people spend a lot of time on the applications. Are people? Is there any advantage to getting your application in ahead of the deadline.

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00:34:14.560 --> 00:34:27.979

Eric Ferrero: So for ours, actually and and again, ours, you know, the is a little bit different than some of the fellowship programs and and some of the more in-depth things. But for for the grants we provide for specific stories and projects.

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00:34:27.989 --> 00:34:37.280

Eric Ferrero: we actually don't think that should take somebody more than 90 min or 2 h to do to do that proposal, and we

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00:34:37.350 --> 00:34:42.879

Eric Ferrero: try to keep it that way. So every time we kind of each year we sit down and kind of re-look

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00:34:43.060 --> 00:34:55.680

Eric Ferrero: at our application process and the form and all the rest of it, and if we're adding stuff to it. We're also trying to subtract stuff from it so that we keep it. And and again, that's largely because.

148

00:34:55.719 --> 00:35:02.189

Eric Ferrero: we know that most of the people applying for grants from us are freelance journalists who are

149

00:35:02.200 --> 00:35:18.010

Eric Ferrero: taking time away from other projects to do the application. I think that that a fellowship program is different, and and Jacqueline can talk about there's, I will say, I often encourage people to to repurpose.

150

00:35:18.290 --> 00:35:35.390

Eric Ferrero: You know, pitch letters, pitch, memos, editorial memos, other pieces. You shouldn't be starting from scratch when you're writing that proposal. You probably have written this in different ways, but you should be repurposing it. There are times that we get folks who will apply

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00:35:35.460 --> 00:36:04.000

Eric Ferrero: and I can look at it and know just from the wording. Oh, this is the proposal they used for solutions, journalism, network cause. It's all full of solutions, language. And that's wonderful. We love that organization and partner with them in various ways. That's not what we fund. And so there's a difference between kind of I don't want you to start from scratch. You should repurpose it, but you should repurpose and tailor it for us or for whoever you're applying from.

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00:36:05.140 --> 00:36:11.649

Jacqueline Stenson: Yeah. And we use Google forms as well. And we also are not expecting when folks submit like their overall.

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00:36:11.690 --> 00:36:27.250

Jacqueline Stenson: the summary of their proposal we're not asking for like 5 pages, I mean, we're really asking for like one succinct page. To sum up. You know we have a strong idea of what project you're undertaking. Why, it's timely why, this is important. What impact you think this could have in your community.

154

00:36:27.270 --> 00:36:48.580

Jacqueline Stenson: So yeah, we're not asking for like super long applications, either. We have both fellowships and what we call impact funds. So for us. The in all of our programs are similar, and that they have the mentorship and the the funding and that kind of thing. But our fellowships involve a week at Usc.

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00:36:48.660 --> 00:37:02.610

Jacqueline Stenson: Where folks come out and actually, and we pay for that and they spend a week on campus, and we have speakers in the the medical and public health field. We have journalists come in. We talk about all all things, health and journalism.

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00:37:02.610 --> 00:37:27.129

Jacqueline Stenson: and so when I talk with folks, you know. I often am talking to them months ahead. Not that they're necessarily spending months on their application, but just in terms of the timing and the program. So like, we have our national fellowship in June, our day to fellowship. In October. We also have programs specifically for California journalists like our California fellowship is coming up next March that one involves a week on campus. So

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00:37:27.270 --> 00:37:39.750

Jacqueline Stenson: for folks who don't want to come to Usc. For the training or can't, because of what? Whatever time commitments they have. We also have various programs that are done. Virtually, we call them impact funds.

158

00:37:40.180 --> 00:37:59.119

Jacqueline Stenson: We have one for California. We have a domestic violence reporting fund coming up next spring, and one called the Impact Fund for Reporting on Health Equity and Health systems which looks at systemic racism and healthcare. And some of those programs are done remotely. So when I'm

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00:37:59.330 --> 00:38:02.140

Jacqueline Stenson: asking folks to kind of plan ahead, it's more

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00:38:02.200 --> 00:38:12.849

Jacqueline Stenson: for us to think about like their timeline, their projects, and what really works best for them. And then, after that, the applications can be kind of

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00:38:13.150 --> 00:38:15.550

Jacqueline Stenson: hopefully, not taking like

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00:38:16.010 --> 00:38:18.620

Jacqueline Stenson: tons and tons of time as we've been discussing.

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00:38:18.940 --> 00:38:22.119

Barbara Mantel: When you were asked.

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00:38:22.190 --> 00:38:35.000

Barbara Mantel: is it allowable to pair multiple fellowships or grants for single project, get funding from you and someone else and someone else, and combine it. Where do you expect to be? The only funder of a story.

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00:38:35.370 --> 00:38:44.199

Jacqueline Stenson: We allow that. We just ask with our programs one of the things that we ask

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00:38:44.330 --> 00:39:07.800

Jacqueline Stenson: journalists to include in their their final stories or their scripts is to just make reference to the fact that their project was funded through the Usc. Center for health journalism, and we have different types of language that folks can use, that we suggest, but just to give, give us an some attribution. But we do not mind if they're participating in other programs as well. If that works for them. Eric.

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00:39:08.260 --> 00:39:16.779

Eric Ferrero: Yep, same here on both counts totally fine to have multiple funders, and we also ask for a credit line when stories run.

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00:39:17.090 --> 00:39:26.540

Barbara Mantel: Okay, Josh, when you've applied for fellowships, have you done that? Have you tried to line up multiple fellowships for one project.

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00:39:27.650 --> 00:39:51.489

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I don't usually try to do the same project. I try to think of you know, what am I gonna get out of the fellowship or the grants how this training kinda connects so for me the Carter fellowship, I was new to the mental health beat. I've done criminal justice work for a long time. So I really just wanted some help with mental health sources and knowing what to do.

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00:39:51.600 --> 00:40:01.780

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: So that's why I paired it with another. The Maynard, which is investigative. Just to kind of combine some more knowledge and investigative reporting with mental health reporting.

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00:40:01.780 --> 00:40:08.140

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: The Manor doesn't necessarily have a project connected to it. It's more about career growth.

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00:40:08.140 --> 00:40:31.860

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: So that's why I thought, you know, it's okay to kind of pair these fellowships together because I'm working towards my job and making myself better but also for my career. And what I'm gonna do going forward. So you know, I think it's pretty important if you're going to take time out of your life to to go to one of these fellowships or grants to kind of work it into your your career plan. So that's just how I thought about it.

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00:40:32.390 --> 00:40:34.330

Barbara Mantel: Okay,

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00:40:34.390 --> 00:40:40.450

Barbara Mantel: Jacqueline and Eric, do, do you favor journalists who clearly have experience

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00:40:40.570 --> 00:40:42.900

Barbara Mantel: in the topic that they're proposing.

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00:40:43.000 --> 00:40:51.489

Barbara Mantel: What and what advice do you offer? Newer journalists who maybe have a proposal in an area that they haven't really reported on before

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00:40:52.550 --> 00:41:02.279

Jacqueline Stenson: we work with journalists at all levels. We do not accept students into our programs, but we accept any us-based journalists

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00:41:02.420 --> 00:41:14.189

Jacqueline Stenson: and folks who are writing for us based publications. So those are our our basic requirements. We accept people who are

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00:41:14.400 --> 00:41:29.549

Jacqueline Stenson: young reporters who are just starting out as well as like veteran journalists who we even have a, you know, people who won Pulitzer prizes in our program. So it's really intended for all levels. And we are always looking for diversity and a range

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00:41:29.580 --> 00:41:35.039



Jacqueline Stenson: of you know, a range of media outlets. So from big

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00:41:35.130 --> 00:41:42.079

Jacqueline Stenson: national publications to smaller ethnic media. We are looking for all of that in our programs.

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00:41:42.220 --> 00:41:54.160

Barbara Mantel: Okay, Eric, I think this is a question for you. One of the viewers is asking, How do data journalism and investigative journalism significantly differ from each other?

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00:41:54.210 --> 00:41:55.330

Barbara Mantel: A

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00:41:55.590 --> 00:42:03.580

Barbara Mantel: think, I think they're trying to figure out, maybe, how to tailor a story, or which direction to go.

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00:42:04.410 --> 00:42:15.069

Eric Ferrero: So can you answer that one? Yeah. And they might have been out. I know Jacqueline mentioned earlier that they have a special kind of data track. They might have been asking also about

186

00:42:15.420 --> 00:42:25.360

Eric Ferrero: those programs and how they're different. I'm happy to answer first for us. And and then, if it was about that program, you might wanna weigh into Jacqueline. But,

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00:42:25.410 --> 00:42:26.420

Eric Ferrero: a.

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00:42:26.940 --> 00:42:37.619

Eric Ferrero: How do they differ? Sometimes they don't differ right? And then, I think, you know, Josh was describing some of the great work that he's doing, that's investigative journalism

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00:42:37.740 --> 00:42:51.190

Eric Ferrero: with very, very heavy data. A lot of the grants that we make have a data component to the story. but certainly not all of them. If you do have a data component to your

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00:42:51.220 --> 00:43:06.249

Eric Ferrero: project when you come to us with the proposal again, you're gonna want to have some kind of an initial finding. So there's some. you know. It's it's not entirely speculative. But you're also gonna really want to share in that proposal

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00:43:06.280 --> 00:43:12.359

Eric Ferrero: some of the real details of what your data methodology is going to be

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00:43:12.430 --> 00:43:25.210

Eric Ferrero: Because if you're bringing us a data, a a proposal that's heavy and relies heavily on data in the investigation, we're gonna really kick the tires. And those are the proposals that often

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00:43:25.290 --> 00:43:28.219

Eric Ferrero: I'll come back to applicants with

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00:43:28.240 --> 00:43:32.980

Eric Ferrero: questions before we reach a decision, and we'll go through sometimes

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00:43:33.010 --> 00:43:42.020

Eric Ferrero: a few rounds of revisions and kind of going deeper on. What, exactly are the data sets that you're

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00:43:42.170 --> 00:43:58.980

Eric Ferrero: hoping and intending to get? What reason do you have to believe to believe they're gettable. What's your methodology for both collecting and analyzing that data like we really pick the tires on those data stories. But you know.

197

00:43:59.080 --> 00:44:15.049

Eric Ferrero: as as you all know already some of the strongest investigative journalism has those strong data components to it. So we welcome them. They're just there. You need to really dig into the methodology when you're sharing that with us.

198

00:44:15.160 --> 00:44:39.140

Jacqueline Stenson: Jacqueline, you wanna talk about your programs there. Yeah, I would echo all of Eric's comments in our data journalism program. We actually you, you don't have to ever have done data journalism in the past. But if you have, that's great, too, because we have 3 tracks. So we ask applicants. Wh, where are you with your skills? Now, what do you want to learn, or what do you know?

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00:44:39.140 --> 00:44:56.109

Jacqueline Stenson: Talk with us about it. We have a beginner and intermediate and an advanced track. So folks come in and they are taught at whatever level we meet you where you're at. And you learn. And you do a data driven project with the skills that you've learned, you've learned through the fellowship. So

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00:44:56.110 --> 00:45:12.939

Jacqueline Stenson: if you've never done data journalism, it's and you're a little terrified of it. Please talk with me because we do have opportunities. You don't have to have had experience to participate in our program. But we do want you to to talk with us, to get a solid idea that we, we think.

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00:45:13.390 --> 00:45:14.629

Jacqueline Stenson: you know, has a

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00:45:14.810 --> 00:45:19.510

Jacqueline Stenson: that that will publish by the end of the program. So we we help you every step of the way.

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00:45:19.590 --> 00:45:26.079

Barbara Mantel: Okay, can. People who are not us based. Apply?

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00:45:26.210 --> 00:45:33.669

Barbara Mantel: And Josh, in your experience, looking at different fellowships, do you find requirements that you have to be a Us-based journalist?

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00:45:34.730 --> 00:45:46.690

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think, for some, but a lot of them. The Carter Center has, like they have a bunch of different countries for theirs. Ireland, Qatar, United Arab Emirates

206

00:45:46.690 --> 00:46:06.869

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: so I think it kinda depends on the grant or fellowship you're going for. I think that some of them are, you know wherever they got the money from, they might have to ensure that you can work in the United States. I think that's one of the the big questions, but you know I've never been. I'm not. I'm always in Chicago, so I don't know much about that.

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00:46:07.280 --> 00:46:08.290

Barbara Mantel: Okay.

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00:46:08.370 --> 00:46:29.739

Eric Ferrero: Eric and Jacqueline, do you require? Are, are your grants and fellowships only for us based reporters for us? Effectively. Yes, there's a little narrow kind of you know, if something is International, and you're not based in the Us. It has to have a very strong Us. Angle

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00:46:29.740 --> 00:46:54.769

Eric Ferrero: and still be published in the Us. Outlet in English. There's this little narrow room, but effectively you have to be us. Based is what it adds up to. And there are some great, you know, Pulitzer center, Alicia Patterson Foundation, Iwmf, there are some great groups out there that provide funding for journalists who are working outside of the Us. Too.

210

00:46:54.900 --> 00:47:18.529

Barbara Mantel: Okay, Jacqueline, yeah. Our programs. You do have to be a Us-based journalist, but your projects do not have to be written in English, so they could be written in Spanish or Chinese, or any any language. As long as the publication has primarily a Us based. Audience.

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00:47:18.710 --> 00:47:19.960

Barbara Mantel: I

212

00:47:21.480 --> 00:47:39.870

Barbara Mantel: okay, it's too complicated. I'm not going to do it. But anyway, I really highly recommend going to the Freelance Center at the New Hcj website, where I have awards listed. I have fellowships listed more going to be added this week. Oh, Katherine, did it.

213

00:47:40.090 --> 00:47:46.969

Barbara Mantel: Okay? So if you scroll down this page you'll see all the awards, all the fellowships.

214

00:47:47.010 --> 00:47:53.029

Barbara Mantel: and thank you. Our producer of the web webinar. Who's doing this?

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00:47:53.870 --> 00:47:55.170

Barbara Mantel: There you go.

216

00:47:58.150 --> 00:48:22.239

Barbara Mantel: Okay. Great resource, Barbara. That's wonderful. And there I just found out in the QA. From one of our viewers like 5 more that I need to add, I also have 7 on the list, that our Webinar editor is going to be adding this week. So I'm constantly adding, and sometimes unfortunately, taking away one thing that we haven't discussed, but I think we should, is

217

00:48:22.500 --> 00:48:24.819

Barbara Mantel: mistakes that you see

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00:48:24.870 --> 00:48:26.100

Barbara Mantel: I

219

00:48:26.730 --> 00:48:36.689

Barbara Mantel: so I'm wondering, Eric, if you want to take that question first. What are some of the common mistakes that you see on applications. I sounds like.

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00:48:37.070 --> 00:48:46.940

Barbara Mantel: when I can think of right away that you've mentioned is pitching explanatory journalism rather than investigative journalism. Is there some other mistake that's common.

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00:48:47.090 --> 00:49:06.140

Eric Ferrero: Yeah. And and I think Josh mentioned earlier, and it bears repeating the the very simple mistakes that happen when you're the only person looking at your work, whether it's a proposal or anything else. It really helps to get that extra set of eyes that he was talking about, to look at your stuff, and that's for

222

00:49:06.140 --> 00:49:19.519

Eric Ferrero: typos that's for whoops. I left a different organization's name in there because I was repurposing. You know the whole the whole bit. We get proposals that still have like track changes, comments, and them from somebody who was

223

00:49:19.520 --> 00:49:29.500

Eric Ferrero: looking at stuff. So there's the just sort of like we're all busy we get it, but like tidy up, tighten up. There's that kind of stuff, I think, more substantively

224

00:49:29.500 --> 00:49:49.709

Eric Ferrero: in terms of stuff we've not talked about yet one of the biggest mistakes. That I see. You know we have on our on our application form. We ask you if the story's been covered before and if so, to please explain. And there's a field to explain how your project

225

00:49:49.730 --> 00:49:55.550

Eric Ferrero: we'll advance it. We'll build on what's already out there. It's

226

00:49:55.850 --> 00:50:01.659

Eric Ferrero: surprising how many applicants will tell us something has not been covered

227

00:50:01.730 --> 00:50:05.899

Eric Ferrero: when it's really easy to see that it has been covered.

228

00:50:06.030 --> 00:50:13.150

Eric Ferrero: and if you answer that question. I mean, if you don't do a basic Google, search yourself. That tells us a lot

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00:50:13.270 --> 00:50:16.969

Eric Ferrero: if you've done it, and you still tell us it hasn't been covered.

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00:50:17.080 --> 00:50:27.570

Eric Ferrero: You're sort of creating an automatic disconnect with reviewers when you do that, and kind of putting yourself at a great disadvantage. partly because

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00:50:27.820 --> 00:50:36.809

Eric Ferrero: we're asking that in part in large part to give you the opportunity to tell us how you're going to advance that coverage. So if you don't

232

00:50:36.880 --> 00:50:44.429

Eric Ferrero: tell us that it's been covered. Then you can't tell us how you're going to advance it, and so we both think either you missed it

233

00:50:44.470 --> 00:50:55.120

Eric Ferrero: or you're hoping we missed it, and we don't know how you're going to advance it. That's one of the most common reasons that proposals get declined. By us.

234

00:50:55.460 --> 00:51:04.470

Barbara Mantel: Okay, so you're not saying that it can't be covered before you're saying. You need to explain how you're going to advance it.

235

00:51:04.770 --> 00:51:09.100

Barbara Mantel: What what would you say would be some of the common mistakes you see, in applications.

236

00:51:09.960 --> 00:51:15.809

I would agree with the other comments about just general kind of sloppiness or typos.

237

00:51:16.250 --> 00:51:31.259

Jacqueline Stenson: you know, like, or people, you know, an application that looks like it was submitted to something else, and maybe even has another. You know, centers name on it, or something like that. So those are things that people can clearly, just, you know. Take a little more time and go over and clean up the typos and that kind of thing.

238

00:51:31.260 --> 00:51:46.979

Jacqueline Stenson: We are very willing to work with people, though. Like, if if an application comes in and it looks like, you know this is really interesting. We have a few questions. We'll go back to folks, you know, sometimes, even during the application process, and say, Hey, you know, we have a few questions.

239

00:51:46.980 --> 00:52:08.210

Jacqueline Stenson: We are very open to that. We're not, you know. It's not like we would rule you out if we go back to you and have questions. That just means we're we're really trying to make this work. You know, that's our goal is to help folks with their projects. So yeah, I would say, just please, you know, look over your outlook, give it another set of eyes, or have somebody take a look at it because you don't want these little.

240

00:52:08.480 --> 00:52:19.380

Jacqueline Stenson: you know, just like any editor. You don't want to turn in something that's a little sloppy and kind of get penalized for that. it's maybe just spending a little more time on the copy editing.

241

00:52:20.830 --> 00:52:28.960

Barbara Mantel: Josh, can you go into a little bit more detail about the second fellowship that you mentioned that you have.

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00:52:29.100 --> 00:52:38.079

Barbara Mantel: you know. What does it provide and what project it's covering for you, cause I had up on the Hcj website.

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00:52:38.280 --> 00:52:57.630

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: It's the Main Institute. They, they've been developing journalists of color and trying to create more investigative journals of color for decades. Now. For it. We flew to Fort Worth, Texas, and we spent really really good 4 days learning and being kind of.

244

00:52:57.670 --> 00:53:23.650

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: you know, emaciated in investigative journalism. We have really good speakers Ryan makes, and some of the best investigative reporters in the world, and people of color just talking to you about this work, and why it's important. I think it's a real good career builder. I see we have main or fellow in our our attendee list. But you know, I think it's really good for people of color who may have

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00:53:23.870 --> 00:53:46.470

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: who who are trying to transition into investigative journalism. I know one of the questions was about age this was a fellowship where I felt like, you know, there's people of all different ages and kind of talents in there. But you know they were all kind of centered on a focus of maybe being overlooked or stuck in a a deadbeat beat where they were trying to kind of expand. So it's really a good opportunity to just



246

00:53:46.470 --> 00:54:09.910

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: just fall in love with investigative journalism, but also get support. They have a mentor, too, and I think that their mentor program is a lot more intense than some of the other, because the the people they have as mentors really want you to to advance your career, and they wanna help you. So I do think that's one of the best takeaways from it is, you know, along with having an amazing class of people.

247

00:54:09.910 --> 00:54:18.719

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: We got a Whatsapp, where we're talking and constantly sharing our stories with each other. It's a good community to have. So that's one of the great takeaway from it.

248

00:54:18.840 --> 00:54:25.130

Barbara Mantel: This is a question for anybody. But do you recommend in the application, stressing

249

00:54:25.170 --> 00:54:45.659

Barbara Mantel: not only how the money is going to help you do your reporting, but how usually mentoring or something is provided along with it. But how that's going to help you sort of grow as a journalist or help you learn is is that something that's important to stress and applications.

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00:54:46.310 --> 00:55:14.410

Josh McGhee, MindSite News: I think that's one of the most important parts is kind of selling how this is going to advance your career. People, the people who are offering the grants of fellowships. They want to brag about you. They want to stay on Twitter that you did this, that you completed this project. So just putting in there what your plan is, and that you have a plan and what you plan to do next with the things that you're taught. I think that really helps them kind of invest in you and your story. To kind of push you ahead, and you know, to advance the the fellowship and grants that they have

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00:55:16.420 --> 00:55:19.390

Barbara Mantel: Jacqueline or Eric. Do you want to add to that?

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00:55:19.550 --> 00:55:29.330

Jacqueline Stenson: Yeah, we have a part of our application that asked for just a short personal statement. So tell us about yourself, and why? Why you're interested in the program. So yes, we love to hear what people are hoping to get out of it, because

253

00:55:29.560 --> 00:55:43.549

Jacqueline Stenson: we that you know, we want to try to meet those needs. So we we love to hear from folks about their goals and kind of where they are in their careers, and what they're what they're hoping to achieve

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00:55:44.050 --> 00:55:45.670

Jacqueline Stenson: would be helpful. It's just

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00:55:46.360 --> 00:56:10.409

Jacqueline Stenson: Yeah. So we have. We asked folks to submit a resume. But then we also have a section which is just a short personal statement, like, just kind of summarize about yourself, and and that's where you have an opportunity to tell us. You know, maybe, why you're interested in this particular project, or why you're interested in this fellowship. What! You're hoping to get out of it. So we we love to read those.

256

00:56:10.520 --> 00:56:11.450

Barbara Mantel: Eric.

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00:56:12.610 --> 00:56:35.020

Eric Ferrero: do you, Eric? Do you want to hear a lot of personal stuff. We don't. We don't not want to hear it. I do think it's more relevant for fellowships, and it is for kind of story grants like what we do, we're we're really looking more at. Is this a solid story? Does this person have the plan and the chops to go out and do it, and that might be. We provide grants to the question earlier.

258

00:56:35.020 --> 00:56:50.550

Eric Ferrero: you know, over this last year we've had grants that have gone to people who are still in still in school and to an 80 year old retired journalist and everybody in between. So the experience level varies a lot. But we are looking at

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00:56:50.550 --> 00:57:06.589

Eric Ferrero: is this gonna be a strong investigation? That's gonna be, you know, revelatory and uncover something new that will have an impact once it runs. Does this person have a plan to do it in the chops to do it? And I think the fellowships are

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00:57:06.590 --> 00:57:18.730

Eric Ferrero: more geared toward. And what are you gonna gain from this? How is this building your career? It's not that we aren't interested in that. Of course we are. But I would say, the emphasis of that is a little bit less

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00:57:18.730 --> 00:57:45.619

Barbara Mantel: when it's a project Grant, than it is for a fellowship fellowship that probably includes mentoring and sessions. And right. Okay, do most grants and fellowships that you're familiar with, and the the money part of it is that mostly just going to defer expenses? Or is it also to augment the pretty small fee that freelancers often get?

262

00:57:46.820 --> 00:58:01.949

Eric Ferrero: yeah, I'll take this one first, because it's a real, a real bug, a boo and a real a real issue. That, I think, is so important that we talk about differently. Well, we believe, and have believed for 54 years that

263

00:58:02.230 --> 00:58:26.199

Eric Ferrero: the journalists time is an expense of the investigation. And so the this idea that you have, like your time, and then you have the expenses to do your investigative work. Those aren't separate, and so our grants cover the expenses of the investigation, which includes, and often, in fact, the time is the biggest expense

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00:58:26.220 --> 00:58:31.650

Eric Ferrero: for a lot of our freelance grantees who are doing these things.

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00:58:31.660 --> 00:58:42.809

Eric Ferrero: and then, you know, there are always the other expenses to the the kind of hard expenses. But I think it's very, very important that we think about journalists, time being.

266

00:58:43.660 --> 00:59:12.630

Eric Ferrero: and expense of the investigation, and that we think about funding being one of the tools and investigative reporters, need I? We? I also get very exercised by these conferences that are about sort of tools for investigative reporters, and there's no session on how to get funding to do the work. Funding is one of the biggest tools that you need. Right. In addition to the legal help and the mentoring and the training, and the this and the that wrap up.

267

00:59:12.630 --> 00:59:40.409

Barbara Mantel: Unfortunately, I think we have a few more questions, but I think also, we wanted to put up on the screen a Hcj's own fellowship opportunities. That's on a separate page on the H. Cj. Website. But there's plenty of them. And I also wanted to absolutely thank our viewers and thank the panelists. And I wanted to remind viewers that we have more of webinars coming up, one on January tenth on long Covid.

268

00:59:40.580 --> 00:59:46.489

Barbara Mantel: sure, I have everything.

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00:59:47.270 --> 00:59:52.919

Barbara Mantel: and yeah, I just wanted to thank everybody for sharing your expertise

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00:59:52.960 --> 01:00:09.240

Barbara Mantel: and all the viewers out there. I hope you found it useful. Please visit the Hcj website. We have a lot of information about fellowships our own and outside ones up there, and more will be coming. So good luck with your stories. Thank you.

271

01:00:10.860 --> 01:00:11.920

Eric Ferrero: Thanks. Everybody.