

Frequently Asked Questions

The Scripps Howard Fund is now accepting proposals from universities or nonprofit organizations to create a program to teach college students open-source investigative journalism, a way to use publicly available information to investigate. The winning proposal will receive a four-year grant for up to \$300,000 to help launch the program no later than the 2024-2025 academic school year.

How can I apply?

Applications are available [here](#). You will have to make an account through our grant-making software.

How do I get help if I am having technical issues with the application?

Any technical issues, please contact Patrick Points at ppoints@ignitephilanthropy.com or 513-401-8488.

When is the deadline?

The deadline is April 1.

Who is eligible?

Universities and 501(c)3 organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations that have fiscal sponsors that are 501(c)3 nonprofits are also eligible.

Can I partner with another organization?

Yes, partnerships are welcomed.

Can existing programs qualify for this grant?

We are looking to provide initial funding for a program to teach college students open-source reporting skills. But an existing program that has plans to use this grant to substantially expand could be eligible.

How does the funding work?

The grant will be structured as follows:

Year 1: \$100,000

Year 2: \$100,000

Year 3: \$75,000 grant if the organization raises \$25,000 for the program.

Year 4: \$25,000 matching grant if the organization can raise \$75,000 for the program.

Can grant dollars be carried over year to year?

The initial budget proposal can outline the way the funds are used. The hope would be that grant dollars will be used in the year allotted, per the grant design. However, if there is a compelling reason to delay using the funds that can be outlined in the proposed budget. If after the initial budget, funds are not spent in the year the grantee could explain this in the budget's variance report.

Can I apply for both this grant and the diversity grants the Fund is offering?

Yes, organizations can apply for both grant opportunities.

Do we need to supply specific information about how the organization will come up with the funds for years three and four when applying?

No. A broad term explanation is acceptable

Are there any expenses the grant cannot be used for?

Indirect costs are not eligible for grant funding. Expenses that support building the program such as salary and technology are acceptable.

Is this grant renewable?

No. This grant is designed as seed money to help launch a program.

Does the proposed program have to be academic? Can it be a reporting project?

It can be either. The main goal is to teach students these skills. There is room for creativity and innovation.

Is there a requirement for the education level of students impacted by the program?

No. The goal is to prepare as many students as possible.

What is open-source reporting?

[Open-source investigative journalism](#) is an [emerging method](#) of using publicly available information – text, video, records, etc. – to investigate stories. Using these approaches has yielded works of investigative journalism such as [an in-depth look](#) at the Jan. 6 insurrection by The New York Times, a 2021 Scripps Howard Awards finalist. Much like data reporting, open-source investigative journalism is likely to have a major impact on future reporting and storytelling, yet many of the journalists and non-journalists using these techniques are self-taught or have learned these skills in online forums.

What is in the application?

You are required to provide information about program participants, program activities, program staffing and structure, goals and measures, the program’s budget and institutional capacity and sustainability. The full application is available [here](#).

How will applications be judged/considered?

A review committee led by the Scripps Howard Fund will evaluate proposals for their potential to address the problem by teaching college students these skills and serve the community. The committee will also judge the capacity of the applicant to execute the project.

What should I expect if my proposal is successful?

The Scripps Howard Fund values mutually trusting relationships with our grantees. In addition to providing funding, the Scripps Howard Fund will assist in promoting the program and will meet periodically with program leaders in person or via zoom to better understand learnings and how we can support the success of the program.

The winning university or organization will be required to:

- Implement the program no later than the 2024-25 academic year
- Submit semi-annual reports on activities, successes, challenges and learnings
- Identify and provide success measures, including but not limited to diversity of students in the program, best practices and information sharing and student learning.

When will finalists be selected?

Finalists will be selected by July 1.

What does the selection timeline look like?

Finalists will be selected by July 1. The review team will visit the finalists in September. The grant will officially begin Jan. 1, 2024. Students will begin in the program no later than fall of 2024.