



MaineCF Opportunity

Position: Press Forward Maine, Editor in Chief

Background

Press Forward Maine is engaging a consultant for a three-year term to provide specialized editorial consulting services as the Editor in Chief (EIC) of an exciting, ambitious and important new program: the soon-to-launch Maine Community News Hub.

The EIC will build, manage and oversee a professionally run, student-driven newsroom designed to serve nonprofit and independent news organizations across Maine.

As envisioned, the program has three goals: (1) providing more journalism to news outlets that desperately need it, (2) getting students the clips they require in order to secure internships and jobs, and (3) helping develop the next generation of Maine journalists.

All this is intended to advance the mission of Press Forward Maine, which is to ensure all Mainers have access to trusted local news and information.

The ideal person to lead the nonpartisan News Hub will be a seasoned journalist and editor, preferably one with roots and experience in Maine. The editor will have three core duties: (1) collaborating with faculty and staff at colleges and universities across Maine to identify students who are candidates for the program and pair them with nearby news outlets, (2) coordinating coverage with editors of news organizations across the state to ensure they're getting the stories they want and need, and (3) guiding the student journalists and editing their work to professional standards before shipping it to local news outlets.

We seek a bold, innovative leader with razor-sharp editing skills and a nurturing coaching style who is facile at developing story ideas and eager to work with students to create superb journalism.

This EIC will essentially be the leader of a pilot news service, soliciting interest throughout Maine – especially from nonprofit newsrooms and small, independent outlets that are hungry for more journalism – to develop a cohort of partners. The EIC will accept story pitches from partners, help students generate story ideas, and work with students (and, sometimes, faculty) across Maine to ensure that every piece of journalism meets the highest standards before it is distributed to partner news outlets.

We aim to pilot this program with a small number of campuses and publications and then gradually but deliberately expand it to all corners of the state. The News Hub will start with text-based stories but, with the right resources, eventually broaden its storytelling reach into other forms, including audio and video journalism.

This position will coordinate with designated MaineCF staff and Press Forward Maine stakeholders to support planning, launch, and implementation of the pilot.

The Maine Community News Hub is being launched as a pilot initiative with the goal of creating a sustainable, statewide journalism program. Contract renewal beyond the initial three-year term will be dependent upon program success and the availability of future funding.

Scope of Services

- Build and run a professional, student-powered newsroom designed to sharpen emerging journalists' skills, get them published, and provide stories for independent and nonprofit news organizations in Maine.
- Collaborate with faculty and staff at Maine's universities, colleges and community colleges to identify and recruit qualified students and ensure that they receive course credit for their work.
- Conduct outreach to potential partner news organizations and collaborate with their leaders on coverage areas and needs.
- Coordinate story assignments and deadlines with editors in partner news organizations and with faculty.
- Work with students to both assign them stories and help them develop their own story ideas, shape assignments and produce high-quality, ready-for-publication journalism for news organizations across the region. Coach students and provide practical advice on story assignments.
- Manage deadlines – and help students manage theirs – so partner newsrooms have a steady, predictable flow of work for their publications.
- Provide editorial guidance, coaching, and feedback to participating students in connection with News Hub assignments so partner newsrooms have a steady, predictable flow of work for their publications.
- Edit stories with the rigor and discipline demanded by the industry's best newsrooms.
- Play a role in sharing the success of the program with the industry and donor communities including attending fundraising events and showcasing the work across channels.

Schedule and Location

This is a three-year independent consulting engagement. Consultant will determine the time, manner, and means of performing the services, subject to agreed deliverables, timelines, and coordination needs.

Consultant will perform the services primarily from a Maine-based location of their choosing. MaineCF office space may be used when mutually agreed and when necessary for meetings, events, or project coordination.

Skills and Experience Desired

- A distinguished career as a journalist, including a record of sustained excellence, especially as an editor who has worked directly with reporters.
- Exceptional editing skills and news judgment.
- A track record of innovation and a strong grasp of many facets of journalism.
- A collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to fairness, respect and journalistic ethics.
- A thirst to help develop the next generation of journalists.
- The professional expertise necessary to perform the services, including demonstrated editorial leadership, strong news judgment, experience mentoring journalists, and familiarity with Maine's journalism landscape.

Fees and Compensation

The total fee for the scope of work outlined is \$150,000 per year offered as a fixed rate and paid in monthly installments of \$12,500 as invoiced. The annual fixed fee is intended to compensate for completion of the services and deliverables and is not based on hours worked.

Apply by September 4:

Please submit a cover letter and resume no later than Friday, Sept. 4, to pressforward@mainecf.org.