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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NEW JOURNALISM FUND TO HELP SUPPORT LOCAL MEDIA PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 TO CHICAGOLAND COMMUNITIES**

*McCormick Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, Driehaus Foundation, the Polk Bros Foundation, and the Field Foundation announce grant opportunity for local community news outlets*

CHICAGO, April 2, 2020 – The Robert R. McCormick Foundation, in collaboration with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Field Foundation, today announced a new \$400,000 Journalism Fund to help offer immediate support for local media organizations working to disseminate information about COVID-19 to Chicagoland communities.

“In an emergency, whether it be a natural disaster, violent conflict, or global pandemic, consistent access to trusted, quality information is essential to restoring peace, health, and security,” said Andres Torres, Democracy program officer at the McCormick Foundation. “This fund will help support Chicago’s critical news information ecosystem so that communities already facing higher barriers to information have reliable access to trusted, quality information.”

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grow, the new Journalism Support Fund will provide local media organizations covering the public health emergency with grants up to \$10,000 to continue their coverage.

The fund will prioritize support for organizations with an operating budget of \$2 million or less and based in and principally serving residents of the Chicago region, with preference provided to those outlets serving historically marginalized audiences, primarily people of color and those speaking languages other than English. All organizations that receive a grant must make the coverage they produce with these funds freely available to the public.

“MacArthur has never been more committed to funding just and inclusive news and narratives,” said Kathy Im, Director of MacArthur’s Journalism and Media program. “Top of mind is how we can respond to these uncertain times, which are especially grave for small community and ethnic media outlets, which serve many populations already facing higher barriers to information as a result of digital divides, economics, and preferring news in languages other than English.”

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Both non-profit and for-profit media outlets will be eligible to receive grants from the Journalism Fund. Grant funds will be unrestricted in purpose for nonprofit organizations. For-profit outlets will need to demonstrate how this grant would support work in the public benefit that would not otherwise be possible. Grant funds may be used for reporter compensation and operating costs related to COVID-19 coverage. No funds may be used to support political campaign activity. Grantees will be required to report on the use of the funds.

More criteria on the grant opportunity and the application can be found on the [McCormick Foundation website](#). The application deadline is April 15, 2020.

### **ABOUT THE ROBERT R. McCORMICK FOUNDATION**

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation helps communities in Chicagoland and across Illinois develop educated, informed, and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic grantmaking and Cantigny Park, the Foundation works to strengthen our democracy, and to help ensure that people, especially children, have equitable access to the opportunities they need to flourish. The McCormick Foundation, among the nation's largest foundations with more than \$1.5 billion in assets, was established in 1955 upon the death of Col. Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. Find out more at [www.mccormickfoundation.org](http://www.mccormickfoundation.org).

### **ABOUT THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MacARTHUR FOUNDATION**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including [over-incarceration](#), [global climate change](#), [nuclear risk](#), and [corruption in Nigeria](#). In addition to the [MacArthur Fellows Program](#), the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of [journalism](#) in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, [Chicago](#). More information is at [www.macfound.org](http://www.macfound.org).

### **ABOUT THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST**

The Chicago Community Trust is a community foundation dedicated to strengthening the Chicago region and improving the lives of the people who call it home. For more than 100 years, the Trust has served as a trusted philanthropic partner, connecting the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to nonprofit organizations working to create lasting change. Following the creation of a new strategic plan in 2019, the Trust stands committed to addressing Chicago's legacy of systemic inequity and closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap, while continuing to respond to the critical needs of our most vulnerable residents. The Trust administers more than \$360 million in annual grant making as part of its commitment to equity, opportunity and prosperity for the Chicago region. To learn more, visit [www.cct.org](http://www.cct.org).

### **ABOUT THE POLK BROS. FOUNDATION**

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Polk Bros. Foundation is a private independent foundation dedicated to building and strengthening Chicago's families and communities, especially those most affected by poverty. The Foundation focuses its work at the intersection of Chicago's most pressing issues to address the complex roots and devastating effects of poverty, challenge inequity, and ensure that all Chicagoans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Since its founding in 1988, the Foundation has partnered with more than 3,000 Chicago nonprofits to build strong communities and families, increase access to quality education and the arts, improve health, and strengthen organizations and the sectors in which they work. Polk Bros. Foundation is one of the largest funders of Chicago nonprofits, granting more than \$25 million to nearly 400 nonprofit partners every year, and managing assets greater than \$400 million. Learn more at [www.polkbrosfdn.org](http://www.polkbrosfdn.org).

#### **ABOUT THE RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION**

The Driehaus Foundation benefits individuals and communities by supporting the preservation and enhancement of the built and natural environments through historic preservation in neighborhoods throughout Chicago, encouragement of quality architectural and landscape design, and conservation of open space. The Foundation also supports arts and culture, investigative reporting and government accountability, and organizations that provide opportunities for working poor people. More information is available at [www.driehausfoundation.org](http://www.driehausfoundation.org).

#### **ABOUT THE FIELD FOUNDATION**

Founded in 1940 by Marshall Field III, the Field Foundation is a private, independent foundation that has been dedicated to the promise of Chicago for more than 80 years. The Field Foundation aims its grantmaking toward the goal of Community Empowerment through Justice, Art, Media & Storytelling and Leadership Investment. With racial equity at the center of its giving, it directs dollars to critical organizations working to address systemic issues in Chicago and aims to directly benefit some of our city's most divested communities. Learn more at [www.fieldfoundation.org](http://www.fieldfoundation.org).