



Rhode Island Press Forward FAQs

The Rhode Island Foundation and the [van Beuren Charitable Foundation](#) are excited to launch the Press Forward Rhode Island Chapter!

Press Forward Rhode Island aims to cultivate civically engaged and well-informed communities across our state supported by thriving, diverse, reliable, local news and information.

The work of the chapter will be shaped by community input, and anchored in the following:

- A strengthened local news ecosystem leading to more civically engaged Rhode Islanders who can easily access information they can trust.
- Independent journalists, historically marginalized, and non-traditional or new journalistic voices, traditional non-profit, and for-profit news entities collaborating, supporting one another, and sharing content is essential to fill information gaps, amplify important local news stories, contextualize global and national stories for a local audience, and improve community cohesion and government accountability throughout the state.
- Providing resources to innovate and test models will ensure the community has access to information while media entities develop sustainable structures for news gathering and delivery given changing news consumption patterns.

Over the next several months, we will be hard at work laying the groundwork to support strategic and lasting investments in local news. [To stay up to date, please sign up for our e-news.](#)

FAQs

What is a Press Forward Local Chapter?

- [Press Forward](#) is a nationwide initiative aimed at coordinating action and investing resources to revitalize local news and enhance access to trusted and reliable information.
- Press Forward Local Chapters make up a network of place-based foundations that support local journalism in their communities. Chapters aim to bring together donors and funders to expand resources and make an enduring impact on their local journalism ecosystem.
- Press Forward Locals work closely with [Press Forward National](#) and are part of a network that shares information, models, and tools, to accelerate learning and action.

Why is this important?

- For several years, the Rhode Island Foundation and [van Beuren Charitable Foundation](#) have been exploring how we may support civic health in our communities. We know that strong civic health leads to positive community outcomes, including in health, education, and creating equitable opportunities. We recognize that a critical component of strong civic health is strong civic journalism and local news.
- Both organizations have supported local news through grants, subscriptions, advertising, and underwriting, and look forward to expanding our investments.
- Enhancing access to trusted news and information sources, including support of independent local journalism, is also a focus area of the Rhode Island Foundation's new [Five-Year Action Plan](#).
- Establishing a Press Forward Local Chapter allows us to coordinate and expand support of local journalism, encourage new funding, and develop a sound strategy to make lasting investments in our news ecosystem.

When will you begin making grants?

- Thank you for your interest. We acknowledge you're eager to get started and appreciate your patience for the next few months.

- In the next few months, we will conduct research and gather community input to assess needs and information gaps in the state. This information will shape Press Forward Rhode Island's strategy, and guide investments.

I am a funder. How can I get involved in this work?

- [Sign up here](#) to receive updates on Press Forward Rhode Island or email us at info@rifoundation.org.

How do I get involved?

- We're excited about your interest and are glad you're here!
- [Please sign up here to receive updates on Press Forward Rhode Island](#) and future information-gathering sessions or check back in the coming months.