

## Host a Civic Engagement and Media Intern

### Support Local Talent. Strengthen Local News. Advance Civic Health.

As part of our growing support and in partnership with the **Appalachian Cradle to Career Partnership**, the **Press Forward Blue Grass Chapter** is inviting its local news organizations to apply to host a **Civic Engagement and Media Intern**. This opportunity is open to local news and communication outlets across the 16 counties represented in the Press Forward Blue Grass Chapter's network—part of the national **Press Forward Locals** movement.

### Why It Matters

Press Forward Locals chapters are place-based efforts designed to meet the unique information needs of their communities. As one of more than 30 chapters nationwide, Press Forward Blue Grass brings local donors, foundations, and community partners together to reinvigorate trustworthy, relevant local civic engagement.

These internships are one way we invest in the next generation of communicators - and in the civic life of our region.

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## Internship Overview

**Position:** Civic Engagement and Media Intern

**Internship Term:** 8 weeks (between June 2, 2025 - May 30, 2026)

**Hours:** Up to 35 hours/week

### Compensation:

- \$3,500 stipend (at the discretion of the employer, interns may work as few as 20 hours per week but not more than 35 hours per week)
- The Appalachian Cradle to Career Partnership takes care of all the costs associated with the intern as well as making sure they get paid, with you assigning schedules and signing off on timesheets. No need to worry about taking interns onto your payroll.
- Up to \$400 available for student needs (upon request and approval)

**Internship Format:** In-person, remote, or hybrid - based on mutual agreement

## Who Can Host?

Any local news outlet serving communities in Kentucky is eligible to apply. Student interns must be from one of the 54 counties in Appalachia to meet the criteria of special focus on the Appalachian region. We welcome newspapers, radio stations, digital newsrooms, and community-based media organizations of all sizes.

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## What Interns Will Do

Interns will work directly with host newsrooms on projects such as:

- Reporting, writing, editing or multimedia production
  - Audience engagement and social media
  - Civic storytelling and civic engagement that informs and empowers communities
  - Supporting day-to-day newsroom operations and public communications
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## Unique Requirement: A Civic Engagement Project

Each intern will also be required to design and lead a **community-based civic engagement project**, using local news to increase local community civic engagement.

### Examples include:

- Leading a “Letters to the Editor” campaign on a key community issue
  - Publishing a guide on how to engage with local government
  - Teaching students how to participate in civic life
  - Hosting a public session on submitting news or press releases
  - Delivering a talk to a civic club or Chamber of Commerce
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## Final Deliverables from Interns

At the conclusion on the internship, interns will submit:

- A summary report of their civic engagement project
- Samples of published work or community outreach
- A written or recorded reflection on lessons learned

## Support and Supervision

Interns will be supported by:

- A designated site supervisor at the host newsroom
  - Training and networking opportunities via Press Forward Blue Grass
  - Access to a broader network of media and civic leaders
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## How Interns Are Evaluated:

- Completion of assigned newsroom duties
  - Execution and impact of the civic engagement project
  - Professionalism, initiative, and collaboration
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## Ready to Host an Intern?

Local news organizations in the Press Forward Blue Grass Chapters' 16-county service area interested in hosting a Civic Engagement and Media Intern are encouraged to apply today. This year's internship funding pool is limited to a total of seven placements. Hosting an intern not only brings fresh talent into your newsroom - it also helps build stronger, more informed communities across Kentucky.

For questions or more information, contact:



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