

The Media Consortium

2017-18 CIF Grant Cycle

The Media Consortium/ Foundation for National Progress

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LOI Form

Organization Information

Project Name*

For "Project Name," please use the following format:

[Organization Name] 2017-18 Pillars Cycle

The Media Consortium

Common Name or Acronym

If different than your full legal organization name, please list your organization's common name or acronym.

TMC

Board Chair's Name*

(use n/a if not applicable)

n/a

Board Chair's Email Address*

Board Chair's Professional/External Affiliation*

Please list the names and titles of any additional key staff members.

Optional information.

Manolia Charlotin, Associate Director

Max Horten, Business Manager for our Fiscal Sponsor, the Foundation for National Progress

Year Organization Was Established*

2005

Number of Full-Time Employees*

2

Number of Part-Time Employees*

0

Number of Board Members*

11

Are you a 501(c)(3) organization?*

If you have a fiscal agent, please complete fiscal agent information below.

No, but we have a Fiscal Agent

Fiscal Agent Name (if applicable)

Foundation for National Progress

Fiscal Agent Contact Name

Max Horten

Fiscal Agent Street Address or P.O. Box Number

222 Sutter St. Ste 600

Fiscal Agent City

San Francisco

Fiscal Agent State

CA

Fiscal Agent Zip Code

94108

Fiscal Agent Phone

415 517-1106

Fiscal Agent Email Address

mhorten@motherjones.com

Fiscal Agent Website

www.motherjones.com

Programming and Reach

What is your organization's primary geographic focus?*

Online

Please select your organization's U.S. region.*

If national, please select the region where your organization is physically located. Please note that Pillars does not fund organizations or programming outside of the United States.

West

Please indicate which Pillars focus area is MOST closely aligned with your organization's work.*

Pillars makes grants to advance three priorities:

- **Rights:** We support social and policy change efforts that allow American Muslims to live and thrive with dignity and that protect and expand the human and civil rights of us all.
- **Wellness:** We support the growth and nurturing of whole, healthy American Muslim communities that are equipped to serve those nearest to them and society at large.
- **Understanding:** We support a range of approaches to amplify American Muslim voices, create a deeper understanding of American Muslims and American society, and encourage people to learn more and take action.

Leadership and Institutions: We also invest in individual leadership development and organizational capacity to strengthen the American Muslim civic engagement community as a whole.

Please visit pillarsfund.org for more detailed descriptions of our focus areas.

Understanding

Please explain how your organization's work aligns with one or more of the Pillars focus areas.*

The Media Consortium is a national network of over 80 independent news organizations, including Democracy Now!, Mother Jones, Colorlines, AlterNet, In These Times and the Nation. Adopting racial equity as a key strategic principle, our members prioritize Understanding, building bridges with communities they don't already cover well. We do this Understanding work via a Leadership Initiative. We identify, support and bring together leaders in news media in specific communities, creating a news media "hub." Then, we link these news media hubs to our members in informal and formal ways. The most formal linkage is via a Reporting Project, in which we ask journalists and community leaders to train reporters at our other outlets in covering stories about their communities.

We have supported local news hubs in Chicago and Boston; we have created Reporting Projects around media policy and new economies. This would be our first project bringing both initiatives together.

Please briefly define the problem or issue you are working to address.*

New stories about Muslims in America are too often misleading, inaccurate, or most of all, absent. If the only stories told about American Muslims appear in relation to a bombing or political crisis, Americans will think of Muslims only within those negative contexts. To change the frame, we need to work in two directions. First, we need to support Muslim-created news content; it is journalists within the Muslim community that will be best able to tell stories of national interest that underscore the similarities between Muslims and non-Muslims (say around health care) or that actually offer solutions to national problems (say through Muslim

lending practices). Second, we need to ensure that such stories spread to the non-Muslim public through a reporting project. We do this by asking Muslim journalists to teach journalists at non-Muslim focused outlets how to discover and cover key stories in the Muslim American community.

Please indicate the type of support your organization would seek from the Pillars Fund.*

Please check all that apply. If other, please describe below.

- Program/Project
- Collaboration/Convening

If you selected Other, please explain.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Organizational approach to diversity*

Pillars values diversity, equity, and inclusion in the philosophy, practice, board, management, and staff of its grantees. We recognize that diversity can be defined and expressed in a multitude of ways.

Please share your organization's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion and indicate how these values are currently present within your organization and/or in which ways your organization could use support.

The Media Consortium believes strongly in racial equity. We are leaders in racial equity in the news media sector. In 2016 we adopted racial equity as the primary strategic goal for our organization. In practice we have worked to make our organization itself diverse—our two staff are female and one is Haitian American. Our advisory board is composed of eleven people, of whom eight are women and six are people of color. Among our board and staff we also have sexual and religious diversity. Critically, we ensure people of color are in leadership positions.

In 2016 we dedicated a day of our two-day conference to a racial equity training and followed up with members. As a result, many more of our members have changed staffs, procedures and content to be more equitable. The work we propose to be funded by Pillars stems from this equity work and contributes to it.

Budget and Finances

Does your organization currently have a zakat opinion?*

No

Has your organization ever received support from the Pillars Fund.*

No

If yes, please indicate the most recent year Pillars support was received.

If applicable, has the Fiscal Agent ever received Pillars Fund support?

No

If yes, please indicate the most recent year the Fiscal Agent received Pillars support.

What is your organization's current fiscal year budget?*

\$223,000.00

What was your organization's budget for the previous fiscal year?*

\$275,000.00

Funding Sources

Please indicate how much funding you received from each source for this fiscal year. If you don't have current information for FY17, please use information from the most recent year available and indicate that below.

Example:

Foundations: \$204,980
Government: \$175,000
Sponsorships & Fundraisers: \$60,573
Individuals & Board: \$90,153
Fee-for-Service: \$35,600
Membership Dues: \$0
Other: \$7,895

Fiscal Year: 2016

Foundations*

\$150,000.00

Government*

\$0.00

Sponsorships & Fundraisers*

\$30,000.00

Individuals & Board*

\$0.00

Fee-for-Service*

\$15,000.00

Membership Dues*

\$14,500.00

Other*

\$11,250.00

Fiscal Year*

Optional Information

Optional Information

Please include any additional information you would like to share about your organization, program or project. You may submit attachments below.

Optional Attachment

Please attach any supplemental information you would like to share.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded