

Print

Community and Economic Development Grant Application FY2025-26 - Submission #2623

Date Submitted: 11/23/2025

Name of Applicant Organization*

Lincoln County News Source

Mailing Address*

146 SE 1st Street #126

City*

Newport

State*

OR

Zip Code*

97365

Person Completing the Application

Name*

Michelle Gomez

Email Address*

lcnsgrants@gmail.com

Phone Number*

949-292-2652

Name of Your Project*

Lincoln County Community Journalism Project

Total Project Budget*

15,000

This includes all anticipated sources of funding

Amount Requested from this Program*

5,000

(max \$15k for STANDARD, \$50k for IMPACT)

Location of Project Activities*

Lincoln County, OR

Where in Lincoln County is your project happening?

Pool of Funds Applying to*

- STANDARD (\$15K Max)
 IMPACT (\$50K Max)

Project Description*

Ethical, accurate community-based journalism is an invaluable resource for any locality. A robust community journalism effort serves a number of critical purposes including: surfacing stories of local relevance that may otherwise go unreported by larger regional news outlets, building informed participation in civic affairs, and countering misinformation by providing trustworthy on-the-ground sources. Moreover, nonprofit community journalism projects such as that run by Lincoln County News Source are free from the donor bias inherent in corporate-sponsored news media outlets. Lincoln County News Source is currently the sole community journalism project operating in Lincoln County, OR.

The true economic impact of this project lies in the opportunities it creates for local freelance writers, photographers, videographers, and editors. Local contributors receive fair compensation for producing high-quality content, helping retain media talent in the region and stimulating economic activity through contracts and services.

Rather than funding permanent staff or operations, grant support directly fuels contracted assignments and content production—keeping media talent in the region, circulating dollars locally, and building a sustainable creative economy. Over time, expanded readership and engagement will further support a community-funded journalism model driven by small-dollar local contributors.

Tangible deliverables include a fully operational online news platform publishing daily, fact-checked reporting, investigative features, and coverage of youth sports, schools, business, and local arts & culture.

One simple but prevailing metric for measuring the vitality and viability of our community journalism project will be in the analytic breakdowns of the number of readers we serve. Success can also be measured by the number and quality of published articles and video news segments, and growth in audience engagement. By delivering accessible, reliable journalism, this project empowers residents, supports community decision-making, and fosters a more informed and economically vibrant coastal region.

What is the project and what will it do for community and/or economic development? What tangible items or results will the project deliver? How will the success of this project be judged? **IMPORTANT:** This fund is not intended for staff or operations. Please describe the economic impact of the project and how it creates or retains jobs in the community.

Funding*

At this time, Lincoln County News Source has not secured other external funding for this project. To date, it has been established and sustained by personal and in-kind contributions from local residents and community leaders. The organization plans to pursue multiple grant opportunities over the coming year, including an upcoming application to the Roundhouse Foundation, to support expansion of its digital journalism platform and community educational initiatives. No awards or denials have been received to date. Any funds obtained will directly support the organization’s mission to provide ethical, accurate, and accessible journalism to the Oregon Coast.

If applicable, please describe the status of other funding sources you have applied for or intend to apply for, and indicate whether those funds have been awarded. Also, list any other funds for which you have applied but were not funded - how much did you ask for, from whom, and why was the application not funded?

Collaboration*

LCNS collaborates directly with governmental bodies—including city councils, the county commission, area fire and police departments, and federal entities including the Coast Guard and NOAA to provide timely, accurate, and in-depth information to our neighbors in Lincoln County. We also collaborate with nonprofit and business leaders, and patrons and purveyors of the arts, to create real human interest stories that highlight the growth, development, and positive contributions of community members and the organizations they serve.

If applicable, please list who you are collaborating with and why.

Viability*

The success of this project will be judged primarily by growth in readership and audience engagement, which directly reflects the community’s access to our forthright approach to journalism and the impact of our reporting on local residents. Key metrics include monthly unique visitors, article views, audience interactions on digital platforms, and retention of local freelance contributors.

Ongoing funding will be required to sustain content production, platform maintenance, and volunteer development. This will be secured through grants, community sponsorships, and small-dollar contributions from residents, with the long-term goal of transitioning to a fully community-supported model. Analytics on readership will guide content priorities and community outreach, ensuring the project continues to serve residents effectively and supports a sustainable local media ecosystem.

How will the success of this project be judged? State success measures and timeline. Will this project need ongoing funding? How will this be secured?

Desired Start Date*

1/1/2026

Desired End Date*

12/31/2026

Budget Documents*

Lincoln County Community Journalism Project - 2026.pdf

Please submit as a PDF file - project budget only (not organizational budget)

Letter(s) of Support

No file chosen

At least one letter of support is required for an IMPACT application.

Name of Chief Executive*

Anjanette Thomas (professionally known as Kiera Morgan)

Title*

President/Chair

Chief Executive Email*

pacificnorthwest.news.ent@gmail.com

Tax ID Number*

33-4957694

Type of Applicant Organization*

501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Project Name: Lincoln County Community Journalism Project

General and Contracted Services Costs		
Content Production	Description	Total Cost
Freelance Writers	Contracted articles, investigative reporting, local news coverage	\$5,000.00
Freelance Photographers & Videographers	Coverage of events, school sports, community culture	\$3,000.00
Video Editing & Graphics	Editing video news segments, producing graphics for online stories	\$3,500.00
<i>Subtotal Resource Costs</i>		<i>\$11,500.00</i>
Community & Volunteer Support		
Volunteer Program Support	Training materials, stipends, honoraria for volunteer journalists	\$1,000.00
<i>Subtotal Materials & Supplies</i>		<i>\$1,000.00</i>
Platform & Tools		
Website Hosting & Platform Maintenance	Domain, hosting, CMS updates, technical support	\$430.00
Mailbox & Communications	Dedicated project email and communication tools	\$110.00
Software & Subscriptions	Analytics, editing, or other necessary software	\$160.00
<i>Subtotal Travel & Meeting Expenses</i>		<i>\$700.00</i>
Outreach & Sustainability		
Marketing & Community Outreach	Social media promotion, newsletters, local awareness campaigns	\$800.00
Contingency	Miscellaneous project expenses or unexpected costs	\$1,000.00
<i>Subtotal Other</i>		<i>\$1,800.00</i>
Total Direct Costs	Rate (%)	\$15,000.00
Indirect Expenses <i>(not to exceed 15%)</i>	0.00%	\$0.00
Total Project Budget		\$15,000.00