



NJ Civic Information Consortium announces 2022 state appropriation

MONTCLAIR, N.J. – The New Jersey Civic Information Consortium is pleased to report that the recently adopted FY2023 budget for the State of New Jersey contains a \$3 million appropriation for the Consortium, an increase from the state’s \$1 million appropriation in the FY2022 budget. Budgetary language also includes a provision for an additional \$1 million, contingent upon approval from the State Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

The Consortium also recently received an additional \$1 million in state funding based on similar language in the FY2022 budget and \$140,000 from New Jersey Health Initiatives, a statewide grantmaking program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Consortium has seen a steady rise in funding since its first grant of \$500,000 in the FY2019 state budget. Money from the state is used to fund grants to improve access to local news and information across New Jersey. In two rounds of funding, the Consortium has awarded approximately \$1.5 million in grants to date, the majority of which was funded by the State appropriation. The New Jersey Health Initiatives funding was used to fund four health-related grants this year.

“We would like to thank Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari and Assembly Speaker Coughlin, along with the full Legislature, for their show of support in the Consortium and our work,” Consortium Board Chair Christopher J. Daggett said. “The funds from the state will go toward grants for new and innovative ways of growing access to local news and information. Such access helps residents across New Jersey, betters our state’s communities and grows the journalism pipeline.”

The previous state appropriations have also been used to fund training for grant recipients and administrative needs of the Consortium.

The Consortium’s grants thus far have focused on supporting [a number of important projects across the state](#), including:

- An effort to teach journalism skills to children in foster care and children of people who are incarcerated in Cumberland County.

- A civic education program for youth in Trenton.
- A project to expand news coverage to neighborhoods across Jersey City.
- A Spanish language online radio program geared toward seasonal agricultural workers in South Jersey.
- A statewide Creole language online radio program for the Haitian community.
- Innovative hyperlocal sites in Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Blairstown, Bloomfield, Newark and Trenton.
- Growing the high school digital journalism program in Cranford.
- A statewide mental health reporter.
- An oral history project examining efforts to clean up Newark's drinking water.

The Consortium was created by the state in 2018, bringing together New Jersey's six public research universities — Kean University, Montclair State University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Rutgers University, and The College of New Jersey — to improve access to local news and information.

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