



Welcome!



Newark's information needs



Workshop hosted as part of the Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund
with Free Press, Outlier Media, WBGO, and
the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University,
Supported with funding from Democracy Fund, The Nicholson Foundation + Victoria Foundation.

Overview of the agenda



Welcome

Follow-up from Aug. 11 gathering

Newark's current information gaps

Introduction of the Newark News and Story
Collaborative

Free Press's work in Newark

Grant opportunity

Ground rules for today



We'll record today's session so you can review it later, but it's Chatham House rules. We will share slides + links afterward.

Rename yourself + pronouns, journalist and facilitator.

Turn your video on/off as comfortable; turning it off during presentations will help connection speed.

Use the chat as much as you want!

Any issues? Private message a facilitator.

An abstract graphic on a purple background. It features several 3D-style shapes: a large orange crescent moon, a smaller orange circle, a blue circle, and a green circle. A green crescent moon is partially visible at the bottom right. The shapes have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

**Follow-up from
Aug. 11 convening**

Concerns that were raised



The process for grantee selection and how that intersects with race, gender, and other marginalized groups

Transparency about the process

Lack of funding and resources for media projects

Funding the same groups/orgs while newer and smaller projects were left out

Sustained support for local and independent media in Newark

There was interest in



Collaboration and communication, especially in neighborhoods and communities that were siloed

Sharing information and developing a hub for news

Funding opportunities

Addressing the information gaps and supporting the survey

Innovative media projects

Peer Fund background



Center for Cooperative Media



The Center is a grant-funded program based at the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University.

It provides statewide ecosystem support for journalists and media makers through training, professional development, networking, coaching, communication and initiating collaborative projects through the NJ News Commons.

Nationally, the Center studies and advocates for collaboration in journalism.

Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund



The Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund is a three-pronged initiative spearheaded by the Center and primarily funded by Democracy Fund.

1. Travel grants to support peer learning.
 2. Organized convenings at news organizations doing innovative work.
 3. Ecosystem workshops.
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Peer Fund equity framework

When it makes awards, the Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund has always prioritized applicants of color and those who identify as having a high-financial need.

This will be the same in Newark; additionally, people and organizations who live in/are physically based in Newark will be prioritized.

Workshop attendees always offered stipends as compensation for their time.

Newark funding comes from The Nicholson Foundation and Victoria Foundation.

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**Your thoughts,
ideas + questions**

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Newark News + Story Collaborative

Newark News + Story Collaborative



- Community Storytelling Lab
 - Newark residents trained as reporters
 - Stipends will be provided
- Collaboration opportunities for local reporters and media-makers to respond to information needs and concerns of Newark residents

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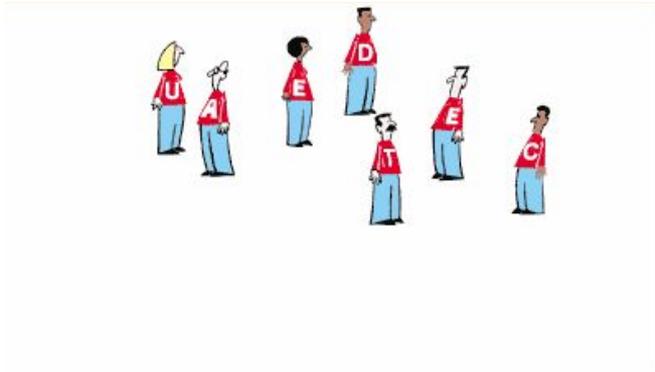
**Your thoughts, ideas
+ questions**



Newark + Free Press

FP Free Press

News Voices organizes events, workshops and collaborative projects to build power with communities seeking a stronger voice in local news.



How does the community want to address these information gaps?

- Organize, Build Power & Advocate
 - Publicize the problem
 - Create media to inform
 - Build a network to collaborate
 - Get resources & training
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**Your thoughts, ideas
+ questions**

Newark's current info gaps



NEWARK'S HIERARCHY of INFO NEEDS



GIVE COMMUNITIES VITAL INFO WHEN THEY NEED IT!

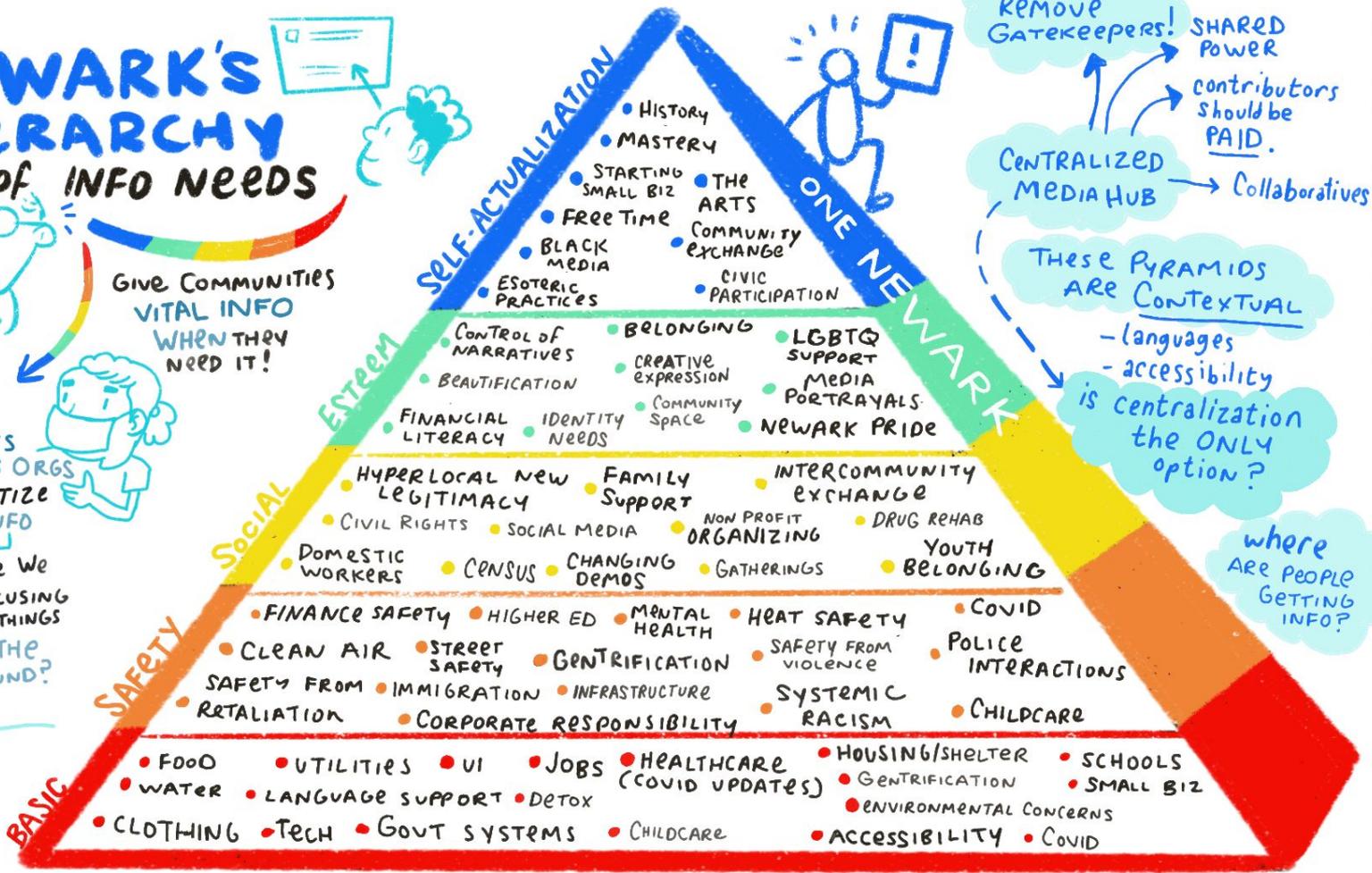
STRUCTURE MADE FOR JOURNALISTS AND NEWS ORGS TO PRIORITIZE SHARED INFO



ARE WE FOCUSING ON THINGS ON THE GROUND?



FILL INFO GAPS



What kind of information gaps are we looking for?

1. **Widespread:** an info-gap experienced by the most low-income and underserved people in a given area.
2. **Severe:** an info-gap leading to a severe outcome — even if this outcome is exclusive to a small sub-population of the low-income community.
3. **Atypical:** an info-gap that exists in one place at an unusual rate, relative to everywhere else.

Data sources

SMS survey: We sent 46,013 SMS messages. We had 1,072 responses.

Half of those respondents said they didn't live in Newark, another 38% said they were not interested and another 12% said they could help.

There were 56 people who ended up finishing the survey from 17 different zip codes in Newark. More responses came from zip code 07107 than any other zip code.

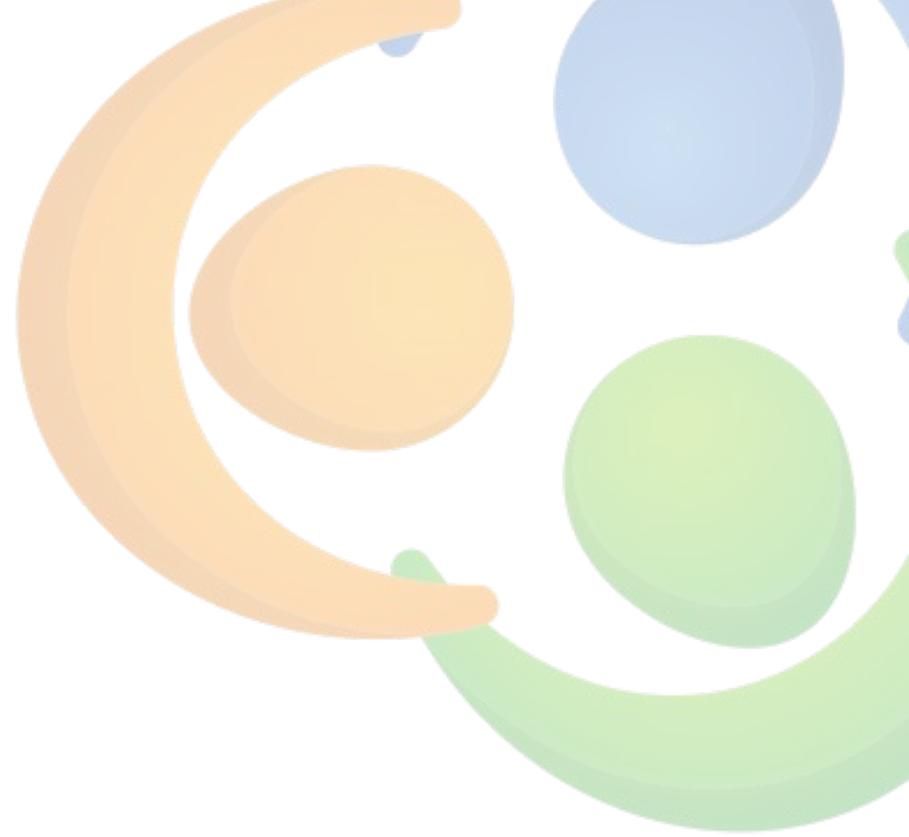
Data sources

United Way 211 Counts

United States Census

Opportunity Atlas

Newark emergency response data



Widespread info needs

“As a father of 2 I've been scrambling ever since the Pandemic disrupted our lives: rent, food, job instability, kids going to school or not, I have kept my heads up but earning half of what you used to earn it really put a question mark on everything and leaves us exposed to needing aid.”

Widespread info needs

Economic challenges

- Utilities
- Food
- Housing
- Basic needs

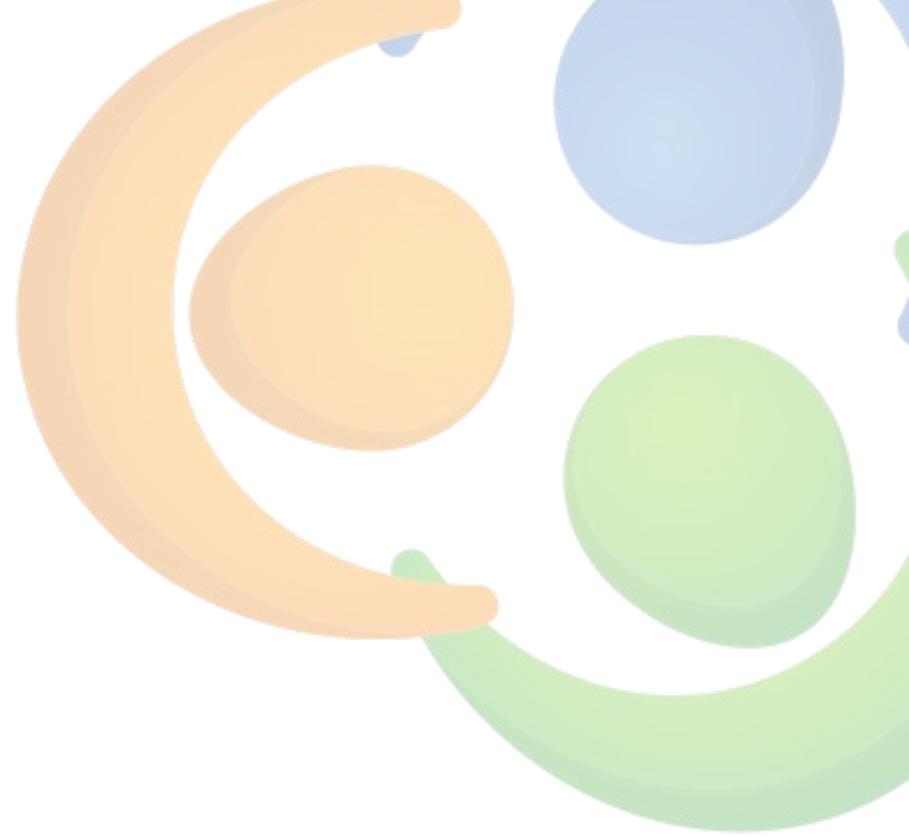
Education

- Equipment for virtual education
- Support for virtual education



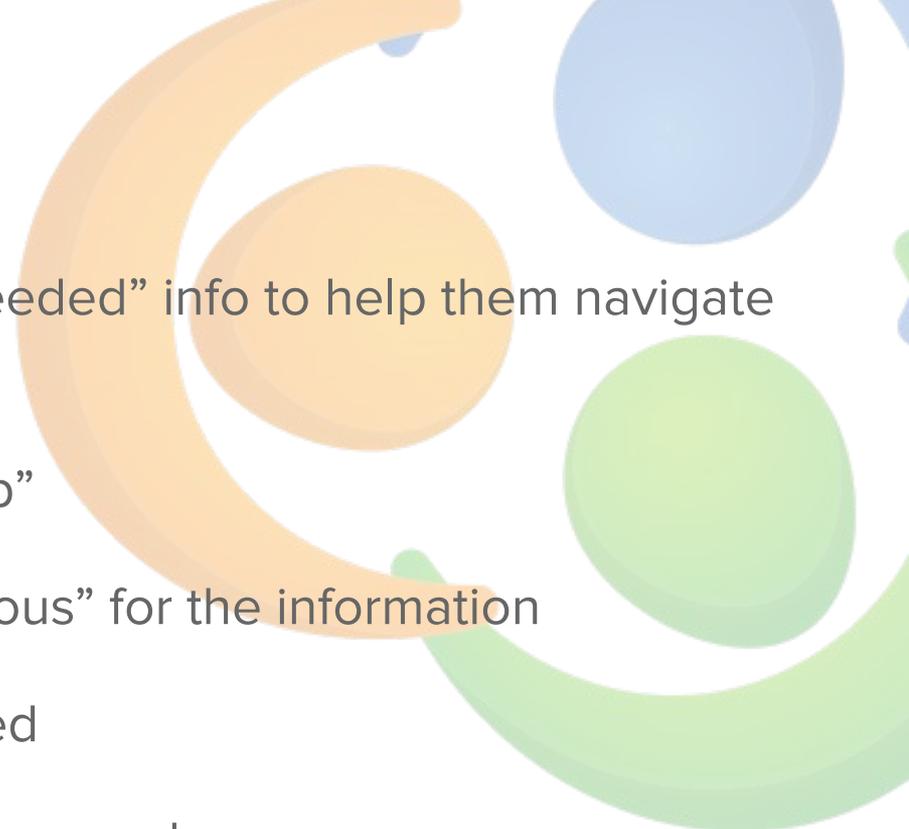
Severe info needs

- COVID-19
- Food
- Shelter
- Energy/utilities



Severe info needs

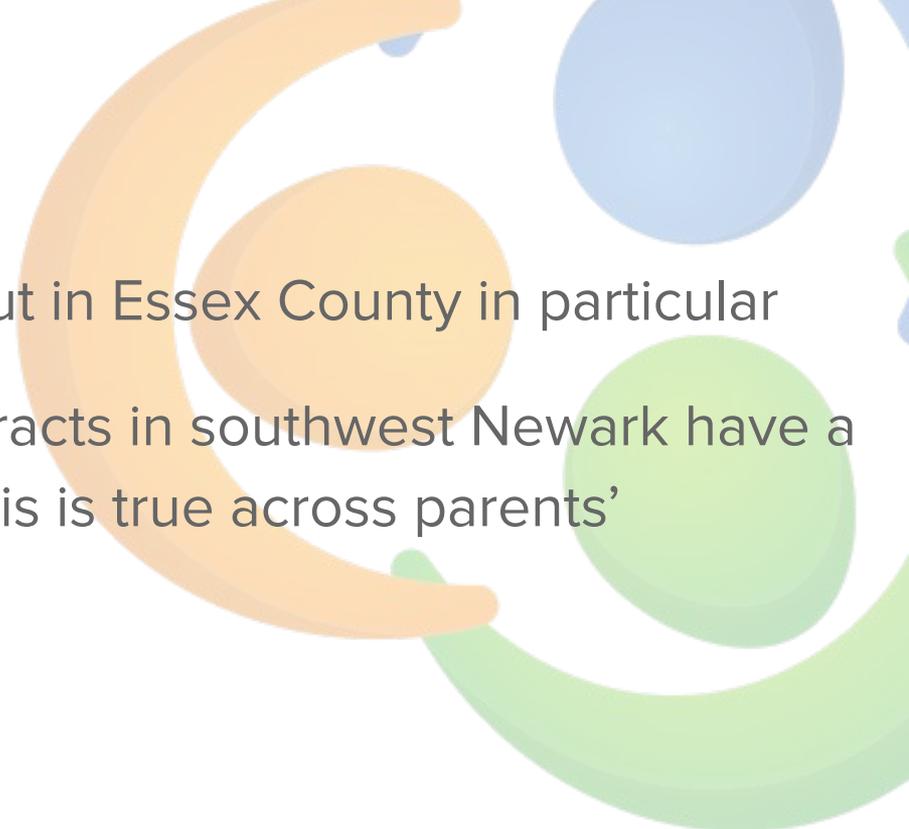
- 54% of people said they “really needed” info to help them navigate their challenges.
- Another 32% said info “would help”
- Only 13% said they were “just curious” for the information
- 34 people had more than one need
- 22 people only had one information need



Atypical info needs

COVID-19: an issue everywhere, but in Essex County in particular

Teen pregnancy: Several Census tracts in southwest Newark have a teen birth rate over 50 percent. This is true across parents' household income brackets.



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**Your thoughts, ideas
+ questions**



Breakout groups

If you want to collaborate
with us & discuss solutions
to the information gaps in
Newark come to our
organizing meeting
Thursday, Sept 10 at 10 am

Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/NewarkInfo>





Grant opportunity

Newark Peer Learning + Collaboration Fund grants



\$45,000 in total.

Provided thanks to generous support
from The Nicholson Foundation and
Victoria Foundation.



What will be funded

Collaborative projects that include journalists and community groups or members working together to address information need gaps in Newark.



Who is eligible

Newark-based and Newark-serving news organizations, individual journalists, community organizations and individual community members can apply.

How much



There is no set limit on the funding; apply for as much as your project needs.

We anticipate most awards will be between \$5K-\$10K.

If your project is selected and the amount you need is higher than we can give and still maintain equity for other awardees, we will get in touch to discuss.



Who will be prioritized?

Projects led by people of color, women and those who identify as having a high financial need will be prioritized.



Who will select awardees?

The scoring rubric includes objective and subjective criteria.

The subjective criteria will be judged by a panel of three outside people.



What is the timeline?

Grant application opens today, Sept. 3.

Grant application closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2.

Winners will be notified by Friday, Oct. 9.

Money will be disbursed within 30 days following completion of financial paperwork.

Projects should begin within 3 months.



APPLICATION INFO:

collaborativejournalism.org/newarkfunding

What if I need help?



Join Brit, Vanessa and Kenny for a follow-up brainstorming session:

- Thursday, Sept. 10th at 10 am

Join Kenny during his office hours during the weeks of Sept. 14 and Sept. 21:

- Monday 8-10am
 - Tuesday 10am-2pm
 - Friday 4-6pm
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Thank you!

Don't forget to visit collaborativejournalism.org/newarkfunding

Email peerfund@collaborativejournalism.org with questions.