



JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION Criteria and Process

Marguerite Casey Foundation 2019 Journalism Scholarship on Poverty

Marguerite Casey Foundation's Journalism Scholarship on Poverty aims to increase the public's understanding of poverty through journalistic storytelling and a focus on families directly affected. Recipients of the 2019 Journalism Scholarship will write at least one in-depth story or short series that illustrates how language, culture, gender, ethnicity and race influence public attitudes and policy about poor people, including working families, and how they are organizing for solutions and progress.

- The Scholarship is open to college students, especially those with online, print, multimedia or broadcast journalism experience. Students are not required to leave their academic studies.
- Two recipients will each receive a stipend of \$2,000. Additionally, Marguerite Casey Foundation will reimburse Scholarship recipients for all reasonable travel expenses up to \$1,000.
- Individuals selected to receive Scholarships from the Foundation will be required to sign an Award letter indicating their agreement to comply with the Foundation's standard terms and conditions, and if desired, intent to post the full content with credit on the Foundation website, as a condition of receiving the Scholarship.

Contact person for questions about Scholarship and application process: Brad Wong, Foundation communications manager, ga@caseygrants.org.

Application Requirements

Interested applicants should submit the following materials via email to:

ga@caseygrants.org

- **Application:** (Below)
- **Resume:** Please include a list of representative online, print and/or broadcast news outlets that have published your writing or journalistic work; membership in professional organizations; major journalism prizes and/or awards and the year received.

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- **Project Description:** In an informal essay under 600 words, describe 1) your proposed story or series and how it will increase public understanding of the issues and policies affecting poor families; 2) where the story will be published or aired; and 3) how the Scholarship will benefit your body of work.
- **Sample of Professional Work:** Submit one (1) recent example of your work. It should be in the media form you propose to submit if you are selected. A website link to your sample is acceptable.
- **Letter of Recommendation:** Provide one (1) recommendation from someone familiar with your work, commenting on your storytelling and analytical abilities and potential as a journalist, writer or content producer.
- **Publication/Broadcast/Multimedia Agreement:** Provide a signed agreement from a news outlet's publisher, editor or producer to publish or broadcast your story.

Selection of Scholars

Marguerite Casey Foundation's Advocacy and Communications Committee will review applications and submit final candidates for consideration to the Marguerite Casey Foundation Board of Directors, which will review the recommendations and approve applications.

The Advocacy and Communications Committee will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- a) **Quality of Proposed Project.** Based on the applicant's essay, will the proposed story or series advance the public's and policymakers' understanding of the issues affecting poor families? Is the proposed story or series timely and newsworthy? Does the applicant demonstrate a clear understanding of how public policy affects poor families? Is there a focus on solutions from working families? Do applicants clearly articulate the focus of their story/series and the desired impact?
- b) **Qualifications.** Based on the applicant's resume, samples of professional work and letters of recommendation, does the applicant demonstrate the ability to report on issues affecting marginalized communities? Does the applicant have established relationships in those communities?
- c) **Dissemination.** Based on the essay, does the applicant articulate a clear strategy for publication of the story or series?

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- d) **Quality of Writing.** Based on the essay and samples of professional work, is the applicant's writing clear, concise and accessible to a wide audience? Is the writing compelling, analytical and persuasive? Is there an indication there will be a focus on the voices of low-income families?

Important

- Individuals who are related (legally or by blood) to any member of the Board of Directors or employee of Marguerite Casey Foundation are not eligible to receive a Scholarship from the Foundation.
- Contract or freelance writers, editors and content producers, as well as former Marguerite Casey Foundation Journalism Fellows and Scholars, are ineligible to receive a Scholarship.
- To be considered for the Scholarship, your publisher or producer must agree to publish/air your story, stories or content.
- **Deadline for publication or broadcast:** Your story or series must be completed and published or aired no later than April 1, 2020.

Deadline for application: September 25, 2019

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Scholarship Application

Scholarship Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

College/University: _____

Years of Schooling: _____

College/University Address: _____

College/University Telephone: _____

Previous Awards/Scholarships: _____

Brief Summary of Proposed Story or Series Topic:

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Applicant's Verification of Information

I verify that all the information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I attest that I am not related (legally or by blood) to any member of the Board of Directors or employee of Marguerite Casey Foundation. I also attest that I am not a Foundation freelance or contract writer, editor or content producer or a past Journalism Scholar or Fellow. I understand that giving false or misleading information would make my application invalid.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

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Publisher's/Producer's Agreement to Air or Publish Story/Series

To be considered for the Scholarship, your publisher or producer must agree to publish your story, series or content. Please have your publisher or producer fill out the information below and sign the agreement.

I, _____, publisher/producer of _____ media outlet agree to publish or air the story, series or content produced by _____ for the Marguerite Casey Foundation Journalism Scholarship on Poverty. I understand the Foundation holds the right to repost the Scholarship-supported journalistic content, in full and with credit, after it is first published.

SIGNATURE OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR PRODUCER

DATE

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FAQ

Q: Who is the sponsor of this Scholarship?

A: Marguerite Casey Foundation (www.caseygrants.org)

Q. When will applications be accepted?

A: Applications will be accepted through September 25, 2019.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Submit the application and supplementary materials via email to ga@caseygrants.org.

Q: When will the Scholarships be

awarded? A: December 2019

Q: What does the Committee want to see in the application essay?

A: 1) The applicant's ability to tell the story of poor families in a manner that challenges public attitudes about who is poor in America; 2) the applicant's understanding of the role that language, race and culture play in policy decisions.

Q: What type of story is the Foundation looking for?

A: A focus on storytelling and voice that illustrates how language, race, gender, ethnicity and culture influence public attitudes and policies that directly affect the lives of poor families. Inclusion of solutions from working families and those who are poor.

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Any student attending a graduate program or four- or two-year college. Individuals who are related (legally or by blood) to any member of the Board of Directors or employee of Marguerite Casey Foundation are not eligible to receive a Journalism Scholarship. Contract or freelance writers, editors and content producers, as well as past Journalism Scholars and Fellows, also cannot apply for a Scholarship.

Q: How will Scholars be selected?

A: The Advocacy and Communications Committee will rank submissions and then submit the final candidates to the Marguerite Casey Foundation Board of Directors for review and approval.

Q: Do I have to have a publisher before applying?

A: Yes, all applications require a signed commitment from a publisher, editor or producer to publish or air the story/series.

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Q: Will the Foundation reprint my work supported by the Scholarship?

A: Yes, Marguerite Casey Foundation reserves the right to repost the Scholarship-supported journalistic work on its website, with appropriate credit given, and to share on social media and/or in print after original publication. The Foundation will not maintain original rights to the story.

Q: Will the Foundation edit or change my Scholarship-supported work before it posts it on the Foundation website?

A: The main editing is the responsibility of the news media publication that first prints it. The Foundation will review the story to ensure that it follows Foundation and Associated Press style and is free of libel, slander or any type of legal liability.

Q: How will I know my application has been received?

A: You will be notified by email. The Foundation reserves the right to publicize the Scholarship recipients via press release, Foundation website posting and social media.

Q: When will the Scholarship and travel reimbursement funds be issued?

A: The Scholarship funds will be issued, by check, to the recipient after the Scholarship agreement is signed and returned. The travel reimbursement funds will be issued, after all travel is completed, travel receipts are sent and a website link to the published Scholarship-supported story or content is submitted.

Q: If I receive a Scholarship, do I have to report it on my taxes?

A: Please consult with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and your state tax department about requirements. Marguerite Casey Foundation will issue a Form-1099 to the IRS, indicating the Scholarship amount.

Q: Does Scholarship-supported content have to be published by a certain date?

A: Yes, articles or content must be published by April 1, 2020.

Q: Will I receive feedback on my application?

A: Because of time constraints, we will be unable to provide feedback.

Q. Who is the best person to write my letter of recommendation?

A: A current or former publisher, editor, manager, producer or director – anyone who can speak directly to your work as a journalist.

Q. Whom do I contact if I have a question?

A: Brad Wong, Foundation communications manager, at ga@caseygrants.org

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