



Introduction

With support from **More Perfect**, Urban Libraries Council is launching a national micro-grants pilot to support collaborations between public libraries and local news organizations focused on trusted civic information, community voice, and democratic participation. The pilot will provide 6–8 micro-grants of \$7,500 - \$10,000 to libraries or library-newsroom teams, along with targeted implementation support, and will culminate in a practical playbook to help replicate promising models nationwide. Projects may expand existing efforts or seed new ones.

Pilot activities will align with one or more of the following themes:

- Increasing access to and trust in reliable local information.
- Expanding community access to nonpartisan, high-quality local information.
- Increasing community voice and narrative.
- Strengthening community representation in local storytelling through deeper journalist–community collaboration or co-production.
- Creating pathways for democratic participation.
- Supporting civic dialogue and engagement through the library’s role as a welcoming, low-barrier public space.

To express interest in participating, please complete the following questions by **May 1**, which will allow us to understand your current community gaps, potential partnerships, and openness to experimentation. **There are no wrong answers.** Please note this program is only open to U.S. Libraries.

Applications are due May 1, 2026 and selected libraries will be informed by May 22, 2026. Contact ULC Program Manager Kelsey Hughes with any questions at khughes@urbanlibraries.org. We anticipate this application to take you about 20 minutes to complete.

Applicant Information

What is the full name of your library or library system?

In which U.S. state is your library located?

What is the full name of the **primary staff lead** for this project?

What is the job title of the **primary staff lead** for this project?

What is the email address of the **primary staff lead** for this project?

[Optional] Please list the name, title, and email address of **any other staff** (up to 3) you anticipate being involved in this project.

Much of the preliminary learning and development work of this project will occur between May and September 2026. We know this period can be a busy time for libraries between leave and summer programming. Do you anticipate that project team members will be able to **meaningfully engage** over the summer by: attending once monthly live virtual cohort meetings, conducting asset mapping and

brainstorming and ultimately using what was learned to craft a project pitch and budget?

- Yes
- Unsure
- No

Local Landscape

Every community is different. To ensure this program is responsive to your local needs and opportunities, we want to better understand the community you serve and the information landscape.

In your community, where do you see the most significant gaps in the local information ecosystem?

- Limited access to reliable local information
- Low trust in local news or public information sources
- Underrepresentation of certain communities in local narratives
- Limited opportunities for residents to engage in civic dialogue or decision-making
- Other (Please Describe)

Please share an example of a local issue that people argue about in your community but rarely fully understand and provide any detail about where a lack of access to or engagement with reliable information may play into that issue.

Library Positioning

This set of questions seeks to understand your library's current position in the local news landscape and your library's readiness to engage in the tasks of the grant.

Over the initial months of the program, ULC staff and its partners will work with you and your library team through a variety of tasks. Please rate how comfortable you

are/your team is with each of these tasks:

	Very Comfortable	Somewhat Comfortable	Neutral	Somewhat Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
Mapping existing resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying gaps in meeting community needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging key partners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Launching new/innovative programming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conducting experimental pilots that may or may not succeed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe a recent partnership you have facilitated on behalf of the library (this does not have to be news or media related). How did the partnership come about, what did it entail, and how did you manage the ongoing relationship?

What is your library's current relationship, if any, with local news (reporters, public radio, journalism schools, independent journalists, civic nonprofits, etc.?) *Note: a pre-existing relationship or partnership is not required.*

If your library already has an idea about the type of project you would like to do, a partner you'd like to engage, and/or a challenge you'd like to address, please share it here. *(If you do not yet have this information, that is ok and not required going into the project).*



Clicking the arrow below will submit the survey.

To make any changes after submission, you can request a retake link by filling out the Contact Us form on the Data Hive homepage.

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