Am I Ready to Apply?

Thank you for your interest in joining the Institute for Nonprofit News — a highly collaborative network of 360+ independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan news organizations. INN welcomes independent, nonprofit news organizations that:

- Produce high-quality and original journalism that serves their communities by providing trustworthy information and encouraging civic engagement
- Maintain editorial and operational independence
- Are transparent in their sources of funding
- Follow INN's membership standards for ethics and best practices in nonprofit journalism

Organizations will be asked to provide specific links and information in order to qualify for full membership. Review the checklist below. If you're able to check off each item, then submit an application for full membership. If some items are missing, but you plan to fulfill them soon, submitting a provisional membership application will give you time to do so. Applicants considered for full membership:

- ☐ Produce original journalism through rigorous reporting that follows best practices as outlined in the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics.
- ☐ Have a mission statement centered on producing journalism oriented around the needs of the community they serve.
- ☐ Have 501c3 status or fiscal sponsorship from a 501c3 organization.
- ☐ Have a board of directors or an advisory board (if fiscally sponsored) in place.
- ☐ Can link to the web page where board members and key leaders are identified.
- ☐ Can link to an editorial independence policy on its website (sample here)
- ☐ Can link to a donor transparency policy on its website (sample here)
- ☐ Can link to a corrections policy on its website
- ☐ Publishes a list of funders who donate $5,000 or more in a year or a link to documents (990 tax form, annual report) which lists major donors.
- ☐ Can confirm that no more than 15 percent of revenue comes from anonymous funding.
- ☐ Can link to disclosures of conflicts of interest, fiscal sponsor and/or parent organization relationship or university partnerships, if applicable. (samples here)