

COLLABORATING

IMPACT

TO DRIVE



Participating in INN collaborations has been a total game-changer for our small startup newsroom, helping Planet Detroit punch above its weight and gain national recognition for our work.”

– Nina Ignaczak, Founder and Executive Director, Planet Detroit

Photo by Nick Hagen for Planet Detroit’s story in INN’s Inundated collaboration

STRONGER

TOGETHER

The Institute for Nonprofit News’ editorial collaborations increase the reach, impact, and sustainability of nonprofit news. Serving communities across the country, these editorial initiatives **make reporting and long-term changes possible that otherwise wouldn’t happen.**

INN’s unique approach:

- ▶ **Using innovative methods** to reach and inspire action among those closest to these issues.
- ▶ **Counteracting parachute journalism** by relying on the expertise and accountability of community-rooted outlets.
- ▶ **Building a more equitable future** by advancing best practices that prioritize diverse perspectives and experiences.

Since 2019, 90 news outlets have participated in INN editorial collaborations, investigating pressing issues such as climate change, access to health care and educational barriers. In 2022 and 2023, INN distributed over \$670,000 total in reporting, engagement and editing stipends to outlets participating in INN collaborations.

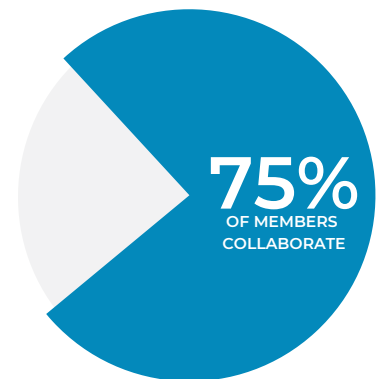
To address community information needs and drive newsroom sustainability, **we are building on this strong foundation**, starting in rural America.

COLLABORATION

NOT

COMPETITION

Working together is in the INN Network’s DNA. In 2022, **265 INN members across 45 states** shared resources with one or more other outlets to make more impactful reporting possible.



Source: 2023 INN Index Report

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Contact

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Learn more



inn.org/collaborations

INN collaborations supported by:

- ▶ Driehaus Foundation
- ▶ The Joyce Foundation
- ▶ Knight Foundation
- ▶ Ascendium Education Fund
- ▶ The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- ▶ Walton Family Foundation



Photo: Alex Milan Tracy for Underscore

- The Rural News Network (RNN) is INN's first sustained reporting consortium, an ambitious effort to ensure rural communities have access to **representative, accurate, trustworthy news**.
- Reporters living in the communities they cover produce **journalism that counters common misconceptions** about what rural America is — and who calls it home.
- By plugging newsrooms' expertise into INN infrastructure, **RNN creates audience, revenue and distribution opportunities** to help newsrooms become more sustainable while they produce great journalism.

REPORTING THAT SERVES RURAL AMERICA

Locally sourced, collaborative reporting

- 10 rural-focused series featuring 50 newsrooms through 2024
- National reach, republication including AP, New York Times, NPR
- "INN is a valuable resource and partner, building bridges and providing structure to the (collaboration) process." — *Ken Paulman, Director, Energy News Network*

Digging into Data

- Big Local News partnership uncovers local angles from national data
- **The Maine Monitor's** comprehensive, data-focused report on nursing home staffing led key stakeholders to lobby lawmakers at the start of the 2024 legislative session

85+ NEWSROOMS
47 STATES
600+ JOURNALISTS
120 PUBLISHING PARTNERS

CREATING MEANINGFUL CHANGE

A new law is squarely confronting what's causing the ground beneath a town to collapse following a report in INN's collaborative series **Tapped Out**.

Original reporting from **SJV Water** showed that pumping of underground water for irrigation was causing a California farming town to sink.

After the story was published in partnership with the **Center for Collaborative Investigative Journalism** and **The New York Times** — with funding from the Water Desk, the Fund for Investigative Journalism and Ensia — the county board of supervisors took a hard look at the activity of agricultural companies.

In November 2022, **the board passed an ordinance** in effort to stop groundwater being mined and sold

outside its borders. The change came despite opposition from entities tempted by the monetary benefits of pumping.

Pairing SJV Water's deep expertise with partners' resources for a massive investigation meant the town has gained new protection.

Climate and environmental issues have long been a focus of INN collaborations. Following Tapped Out, INN facilitated **Tapped Out 2**, another collaboration looking at water-thirsty communities in the West. In August 2023, **Inundated**, examined flooding vulnerability in the Great Lakes region with stories co-published by The Guardian. An earlier, award-winning Great Lakes collaboration, **Rust to Resilience**, highlighted climate solutions in the region.



The expertise and connections INN brings to newsrooms big and small is exceptional. We are so lucky to have the extra help to produce incredibly important stories."

— Nic Garcia, Regional Editor, The Texas Tribune