



## Impact: July 2021 - January 2022

**Revenue:** Increased income for news organizations related to solutions journalism activities, verticals, campaigns, etc.

**The Real News Network [December 2021]:** A private donor contributed \$20,000 to The Real News Network, inspired by its reporting on how activists [are using community organizing to fight voter suppression](#). The network, a multimedia news outlet based in Baltimore, is one of 10 newsrooms supported by the Solutions Journalism Network's Advancing Democracy initiative. John Duda, executive director of The Real News Network, said it would use the funding to do follow-up stories closer to the midterm elections.

**Better Government Association [November 2021]:** The Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the Better Government Association (BGA), a watchdog organization, together have launched [the Illinois Solutions Partnership](#), an ambitious collaboration that aims to address the state's urgent challenges through investigative and enterprise reporting. The McCormick Foundation will provide \$10 million in grants to the effort over the next five years, and BGA will devote reporters and other resources to substantially match McCormick's commitment over the same time period. In announcing the new partnership, BGA and McCormick described the venture as in-depth investigative journalism combined with reporting focused on potential solutions, saying Illinois residents need both to hold their government accountable and to engage public officials and leaders to improve Illinois and Chicago.

**Santa Cruz Local [July 2021]:** During the second half of July 2021, [Santa Cruz Local](#), a two-year-old outlet, launched a reader revenue campaign to support its reporting on homelessness. Within two weeks, staff members raised about \$20,000 from roughly 100 local readers, their most successful fundraising campaign to date. Solutions journalism featured prominently in their phone and email solicitations to readers. Kara Meyberg Guzman, CEO and co-founder, said supporters who contributed to this coverage frequently mentioned its focus on responses to homelessness (solutions journalism), holding local government to account and featuring underrepresented people with nuance and complexity.

**Egab [July 2021]:** Egab, an online platform that enables local journalists across the Middle East and Africa to pitch stories in any format or language to editors of regional and international media outlets, [received \\$100,000 from the Google News Initiative's Innovation Challenge](#). The platform specializes in solutions journalism and emphasized this editorial approach in its application for a grant, adding that several of the news organizations that have published Egab-originated stories say their audience surveys have shown that audiences engage more with solutions-oriented content.

**Montana Free Press [December 2021]:** A three-part solutions-focused series on regenerative agriculture helped Montana Free Press (MTFP) significantly increase readership and raise more than \$8,000 directly from readers. The first part of the [“Common Ground”](#) series brought in 29,000 visitors, 78% of whom were new to the site. MTFP then decided to launch a crowdfunding campaign to support reporting for the series, which brought in more than three times the initial goal of \$2,500. The news team also embedded a short survey with its first two stories and received 850 responses, with 61% expressing interest in a limited-newsletter series on the subject of regenerative agriculture.

**New solutions initiatives:** Examples of newsrooms and other organizations establishing new and significant solutions journalism content.

**United Nations [January 2022]:** Melissa Fleming, the U.N.’s undersecretary-general for global communications, announced that the U.N. will [take a cue from the Solutions Journalism Network](#) and highlight solutions as well as problems in its communications. “My job at the U.N. is to communicate the state of the world,” she wrote. “To do so I could tell any number of terrifying and attention-grabbing stories. But in the long run, I’d begin to lose people. I’m increasingly working on the premise that gloom doesn’t keep people gripped. Hope does.” The U.N.’s infusion of solutions will start at the top, she added. “When U.N. Secretary General António Guterres speaks, he highlights solutions while explaining problems, and then appeals to the world to join the response.”

**The New York Times [December 2021]:** In an effort to explore the world’s challenges through the lens of progress, The New York Times launched an initiative called Headway with a series of stories called [“Hindsight”](#) that looked at predictions from the past that did — or didn’t — come true and why, examining what could be learned from them. Headway is a philanthropically funded initiative that includes a partnership with the Solutions Journalism Network under which SJN will help train Headway contributors and staff. As part of Headway, The Times will also pioneer an online public square, focused on community-building, transparency, engagement and data dissemination. The goal is to support and encourage conversation, education and research around the topics Headway addresses.

**Cross-Pollination:** Through solutions journalism, a community learns about something happening elsewhere, which sparks discussion and/or action.

**KPRC 2 [November 2021]:** Officials in Harris County, Texas, are exploring whether to adopt a model operating in Bexar County, a few hours’ drive away. To help ensure that defendants out on bond don’t commit crimes while awaiting trial, Bexar County offers them support that can include mental health services, addiction treatment and support in job hunting. Harris County officials learned about Bexar County’s approach from [a report on KPRC 2](#). KPRC 2 reported that Bexar County’s program also has attracted interest from Atlanta, New Orleans and Los Angeles, as well as from a number of other counties in Texas.

**Las Vegas Optic [September 2021]:** In Alamosa, Colorado, law enforcement is reducing the jail population and issuing fewer arrest warrants by referring more people to treatment, recognizing that drug abuse is at the root of some criminal behavior. After the Las Vegas Optic in New Mexico [wrote about that effort](#), called LEAD for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, officials in the city of Las Vegas, as well as in San Miguel County, New Mexico, are working to put it in place. San Miguel County also has purchased a building it plans to turn into a treatment facility. LEAD [is a nationwide program](#) that first launched in Seattle in 2011.

**Engagement and/or Trust:** Solutions coverage leads to increased engagement and/or trust between a community and a newsroom, or with a particular issue.

**The 19th [November 2021]:** After The 19th, a nonprofit newsroom based in Texas, [wrote about a diaper bank](#) that helps parents obtain that costly necessity, the public responded with a flood of donations. Readers told The 19th that the story helped them understand why diapers, which can't be purchased with federal aid, are a mostly invisible contributor to poverty, and many contributed to the Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, their local diaper banks or the National Diaper Bank Network.

**Daily Yonder [throughout 2021]:** The Daily Yonder's coverage of COVID-19 led to a twofold increase in readership over the past two years, which coincided with the time the publication started doing more solutions journalism on that topic. Besides showing where the pandemic is bad or getting worse, the Daily Yonder's stories highlighted areas that were doing well or improving. One examined why [Maine and Vermont](#), largely rural states, have high vaccination rates when most rural areas are below the national average.

**Charlotte Journalism Collaborative (CJC) [August 2021]:** A [graphic novel](#) produced by an SJN-sponsored news collaborative in Charlotte, North Carolina, has made its way onto the shelves of middle school and high school media centers, and has been distributed free to over 2,500 residents. The publication, "PANDEM!C," includes first-person accounts of people impacted by COVID-19 in 2020. The collaborative's members say one of the novel's strengths is its reliance on solutions-based reporting. The collaborative includes seven major media companies and other local institutions focusing on issues of importance to the Charlotte region.

**Public Discourse/Civic Engagement:** Solutions coverage leads to a change in the tone of public discourse.

**Gambit [October 2021]:** Gambit, a New Orleans alternative weekly newspaper, hosted a solutions-focused forum with the top three candidates for a local citywide council seat. The event followed a series of housing-focused solutions stories Gambit published earlier in 2021. Like the solutions stories themselves, the forum focused on lessons learned from other responses to housing crises, including one on post-Hurricane Katrina housing initiatives. "Asking the questions from a solutions-based perspective ... changes the way you, and by extension the candidates and public, think about an issue," said Gambit Editor John Stanton.

## Awards:

**Nexstar/KXAN-TV [2019-2020]:** KXAN's [Save Our Students](#) (S.O.S.), a series of solutions stories exploring ways to improve the wellness and safety of youth, was a recipient of a number of national awards, including Best Broadcast (In-Depth Reporting) from [Suicide Awareness Voices of Education](#), a [Mental Health America Media Award](#), an [Edward R. Murrow Award for "Excellence in Innovation" in its TV market category](#), and the Texas School Bell Award from the Texas State Teachers Association. KXAN also was a finalist for the [2020 "Service to America" large-market TV award from the National Association of Broadcasters](#).

**JoAnna Haugen [September 2021]:** JoAnna Haugen, who writes solutions-focused travel stories, was one of the five winners in the storytelling category for [Newsweek's Future of Travel Awards](#). "Filling a gap in travel journalism today, JoAnna Haugen seeks out hidden stories that may hold powerful solutions to the issues that plague the planet," wrote Norie Quintos, one of the judges and a contributing editor at National Geographic Traveler.