

# SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

## Impact Report: October 2022

**Revenue:** News organizations receive income from funders, readers and/or businesses related to solutions journalism projects, beats, sections, events, etc.

**Prism [2022]:** Solutions coverage of democracy helped Prism raise \$100,000 for additional [politics and democracy reporting](#). Shirley Vilca, Prism's development director, said the newsroom's solutions journalism approach helped attract a major donor who she said was drawn to this editorial approach. Prism also highlights its solutions work in its [impact report](#), which staff members use in fundraising efforts.

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

**Graham Media Group (July 2022):** Executives from Graham Media Group say their new digital solutions journalism program, called Solutionaries, has already attracted more than a million views on YouTube. The program was inspired by solutions journalism training that SJN provided to Graham's seven TV stations and its national desk. [Solutionaries](#) features reports from each of Graham's newsrooms.

**Hothouse (May 2022):** A solutions story [on quality carbon credits](#) is among the most popular articles published to date by Hothouse, a newsletter that investigates climate solutions. The publication credits that story as a big factor in a recent gain of 1,000 new subscribers, helping more than double the audience of the one-year-old publication. It was syndicated in Popular Science and Scientific American. Hothouse was started as part of an [SJN LEDE fellowship](#). Its mission is to produce original, investigative journalism on climate solutions.

**Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative and Cleveland Documenters (February 2022):** Close to 600 people have completed a seven-day course on public records sponsored by the [Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative](#) with help from [Cleveland Documenters](#). The course offered a daily, bite-size "micro-lesson" via text message along with

exercises to help users apply what they had learned. One group in Cleveland — parents whose children were victims of gun violence — has used the course to request local homicide data, and they hope to present a map of every homicide in their county to the City of Cleveland's safety committee. "There's this notion that people are apathetic," said Rachel Dissell, a Cleveland-based journalist who designed the course with editor and educator Linda Austin. "But the more we work with people, it's more like people are frustrated. ... Really, people want to solve problems — they don't know how."

**Granite State News Collaborative [2021]:** Through its [solutions-focused series on race and equity](#) in New Hampshire, the members of the Granite State News Collaborative developed strong relationships with leaders in the local Latino community, who meet regularly with members of the collaborative to give input on its reporting. As a result of those relationships, the Latino leaders alerted the news organizations when they heard about a bill that, if approved, would have made it impossible for the state's public schools to conduct DEI trainings. After the news organizations [wrote about the proposal](#), the governor went on record opposing it, as did a number of businesses, health and education associations and organizations. In the end, the bill died in committee, though a weaker version ended up in the state budget.

**Awards:** Solutions coverage is recognized with a prestigious prize or award at a state or national level.

**Street Roots [May 2022]** Street Roots, a weekly social justice newspaper in Portland, Oregon, was honored in the Society of Professional Journalists [Northwest Excellence in Journalism Contest](#) for "[Foster Care Shuffle](#)," a five-part series that examined places that are making progress in providing more stable placements for young people in foster care.

**Solutions Spread:** Newsrooms and other organizations establish new and significant solutions journalism projects without the financial support or training of the Solutions Journalism Network.

**Solutions Now Africa (June 2022):** Mpindi Abaas, a 2020 Solutions Journalism Network [LEDE Fellow](#) and longtime proponent of solutions journalism, launched [Solutions Now Africa](#), a solutions-focused newsroom based in Uganda, run by seven alumni of the [Media Challenge Fellowship Program](#). The newsroom is Africa's first solutions journalism newsroom, producing stories on innovations, models and systems that are working around the continent. The newsroom also is using solutions stories to challenge negative narratives about Africa.

**BBC Media Action (April 2022):** BBC Media Action, the BBC's international development charity, contracted Corinne Podger, a certified solutions journalism trainer, to co-write a new '[Reporting Effectively for Climate Action](#)' online course, which included a module on solutions journalism. Originally created for [journalists in East Africa](#), the course was adapted in 2022 for global distribution in a mobile-first, micro-learning format.