

REPORT FOR AMERICA

SAMPLE 2026-2027 Report for America Corps Member Application

Application deadline: February 16, 2026

This is a sample version of the upcoming Report for America corps member application with tips and guidelines for potential applicants. **The application opens January 20, 2026.**

The process: To fill out the application, you will first create a username and password in our application system. You'll then receive an email with a unique link to start filling out your application. Using that, you can bypass the login screen and won't have to remember a password. Your work will also be saved automatically as you move through the application. You can keep it open in a tab, or any time you want to return to it, just click your link again. Once you submit your application, your link will expire and you won't be able to use it anymore. Instead, you'll receive another email with a link where you can view what you've submitted. This will not expire. We've created our system to be as streamlined for you as possible, but if you have any questions along the way, we are here to help at info@reportforamerica.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We ask for two professional references as part of your application. Please alert your references that they will receive an email from Report for America via Airtable (noreply+automations@airtable.com) with a link to the reference form. Your application is ineligible if your references do not fill out forms by **February 23, 2026**, the reference due date. You are welcome to submit the names and contact information of your references any time after starting your application using a link we will provide.

Red asterisks (*) indicate required questions throughout. Please be mindful of character limits as your responses will be cut off if they are too long.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Please confirm your eligibility for the 2026-2027 Report for America corps year. You must answer these questions before proceeding with your application.

Before you begin the application, verify that you meet Report for America's program requirements. If you do not meet all of these requirements, you are not currently eligible to apply for the program.

PROGRAM START DATE

To be eligible for the program, you **MUST** be available to start full-time work on **July 13, 2026**. All other engagements such as fellowships, internships, and post-graduate work must be wrapped up before that date so you can fully commit to this job only. We are not able to grant any exceptions to the start date.

Are you able to start full-time work with no other commitments on Monday, July 13, 2026?*

- Yes
- No

US WORK AUTHORIZATION

Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States full time at the time they apply. Applicants who need sponsorship at any point during the 2-year program will not be considered. Our host newsrooms and Report for America do not sponsor applicants for work visas.

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Are you currently legally authorized to work in the United States full-time for any employer?

- Yes
- No

Do you now, or will you in the future, require sponsorship for employment visa status to work legally for an employer through July 2028?

- Yes
- No

If you respond “No” to any question above, you will see the message below, and will not be able to proceed with your application. It is then up to you whether to press “Submit”; we will retain your answers in our data even if you aren’t able to continue.

According to your responses, you are not eligible to apply to Report for America for the 2026-2027 corps year. Please contact our recruitment team at recruitment@reportforamerica.org with any questions.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- First Name *
- Last Name *
- Byline *
This is your full name as it appears in your published professional work. It should include any needed punctuation and accents. Example: Rafael R. Díaz Torres
- Name Pronunciation *
Example: Eva Tesfaye → EE-vuh TESS-fye (rhymes with rye)
- Your Pronouns
 - She/Her/Hers
 - He/Him/His
 - They/Them/Theirs
 - Not listed above [Please Specify]
- Email address *
- Mobile Phone *
- Home address (Number, Street) *
- City *
- State/Territory [DROPDOWN LIST] *
- LinkedIn

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Social media and websites are not required, but we encourage you to link us to these if you use them professionally.

- Personal Website
- Link to X/Threads/Bluesky
- Link to Instagram
- Do you have a valid driver's license? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not now, but plan to by start date

Your ability to drive and access to a vehicle (following question) may affect your eligibility and newsroom placement.

- Do you have a vehicle you can rely on to travel for this job? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not now, but plan to by start date

[If "No" or "Not now" to either of above]: Feel free to expand on your responses above about driving and/or a vehicle. _____

RESUMÉ

Upload a file or provide a link (You do NOT need to do both but please do one or the other).

Upload resumé

Use this to upload a resumé, or if you'd prefer, add a link using the field below.

Link resumé

Use this field if you'd prefer to provide a link (to your personal website, for example) rather than uploading a file. Please do NOT use your LinkedIn page here; there is a space for that above.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- Are you a college/university graduate? *
Please respond yes if you expect to graduate by June 2026.
 - Yes
 - No
- [IF yes] College or University *
- [IF yes] Major *
- [IF yes] Year of Graduation *
- [IF no] Please describe your educational background. *

- What kind(s) of journalism experience do you have? *
Select as many as apply to you. Keep in mind that full or part-time newsroom experience refers to working as a paid, permanent employee of a news organization and should not include internships, student media, or freelancing.
 - ☐ Studied/studying journalism in college or university
 - ☐ Student journalism work (student-run paper, etc.)
 - ☐ Journalism internship or fellowship
 - ☐ Freelancing experience
 - ☐ Full or part-time employment in a newsroom
 - ☐ Not listed above [Please describe your journalism experience]
- [IF Journalism internship or fellowship] How many internships and/or fellowships have you completed?
- [IF Full or part-time employment in a newsroom] How many years have you been employed full-time by a newsroom as a journalist? *
Please do not include internships, student media, or freelance work, as noted above. If you have only worked part-time in a newsroom, select N/A.
 - ☐ N/A - Have never been employed full-time in a newsroom
 - ☐ Less than 1 year
 - ☐ 1-2 years
 - ☐ 3-5 years
 - ☐ 6 years or more
- [IF six years or more] What experience have you had mentoring and editing emerging journalists? *
- What is your primary journalism medium? *
Select only ONE, the medium that you consider your specialty and would like to work in as a corps member. You can add additional mediums below.
 - ☐ Audio
 - ☐ Multimedia (MMJ)
 - ☐ On-air TV
 - ☐ Photography
 - ☐ Videography
 - ☐ Writing
 - ☐ Not listed above [Please specify your primary medium]
- What are other journalism mediums or skills in which you have experience? *
 - ☐ Audio
 - ☐ Data journalism
 - ☐ Multimedia (MMJ)
 - ☐ On-air TV
 - ☐ Photography
 - ☐ Social media or audience engagement

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- ☐ Videography
 - ☐ Writing
 - ☐ Not listed above [Please describe]
 - Are you fluent in Spanish? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - [IF yes] Can you write fluently in Spanish? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - If you are fluent in any languages other than English or Spanish, please note here. Include only languages in which you could conduct a nuanced interview.
 - Is there anything else you would like to share about your skills or desired mediums? You may add a link as an example. 700 char limit (100 words)
Not required. Working in a newsroom often requires juggling multiple tasks and using skills outside of your main area of specialty. You can use this space to tell (or show) us how you've done that. Please shorten links if possible, since there is a character limit.
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WORK SAMPLES

Upload or Link to 4 Professional Work Samples (Required)

Please submit four professional work samples published under your byline. These may include pieces from campus media, but we cannot accept graded coursework or unpublished work. Each sample must clearly feature your byline. Avoid submitting collaborative pieces unless they are part of a major project or series. You may upload text, image, or audio files, or provide links to your samples. If any of your work is behind a paywall, please also include a PDF.

[Upload work samples]

[Work Sample Links]

- ☐ I confirm that I have uploaded and/or linked FOUR professional work samples. *

PLACEMENT PREFERENCES

Use this section to let us know about any preferences for placement consideration, including medium, beat and skills.

- I am interested in newsrooms that are: *
 - ☐ Digital only
 - ☐ Newspaper
 - ☐ TV
 - ☐ Radio

- Please pick the THREE TO FIVE subjects below in which you have the most knowledge or are most experienced covering: *

This will help us match your skills to the coverage needs of our host newsrooms. Please limit your selections to five at most. You will have a chance to describe other topics you've covered later in the process, if you are selected to move forward.

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Asian Pacific American Communities
- ☐ Black Communities
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Criminal Justice
- ☐ Economy & Business
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Elections & Voting
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Gender
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Immigrants & Immigration
- ☐ Indigenous Communities
- ☐ Latino Communities
- ☐ Military & Veterans
- ☐ Poverty and economic mobility
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Rural Communities
- ☐ Seniors & Aging
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ State Government
- ☐ Towns & Cities
- ☐ Transportation

Select the open newsroom positions that particularly interest you.

The application will include a sortable list of open positions (currently unavailable). You'll find five dropdown menus where you can select roles and briefly explain why each interests you. Please review the full list before making your selections, and rank your choices by preference rather than alphabetically. **You must select at least one position** and may choose up to five. Because this is a competitive process, we strongly encourage applicants to choose more than one.

- Position * [DROPDOWN LIST]

Why this position?: * _____ 100 char

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ESSAY QUESTIONS

- What contributions do you hope your work as a Report for America Corps member will make to your host newsroom, the community you cover, and your own professional development? * 1,400 char limit (200 words)

Please be sure to address all three of the above areas in your response.

- Describe a specific reporting challenge you've faced, and how you overcame it.

* 1,400 char limit (200 words)

If you are a visual journalist, please make this a specific **visual** reporting challenge. We are looking for obstacles that you overcame in reporting, newsgathering, or in the writing and/or production process of a story.

- If a reporter wrote a profile about you, how would the first two paragraphs read? * 1,400 char limit (200 words)

Please fully write out the paragraphs; don't just outline your ideas.

WRITING PROMPT (Required)

The writing prompt is designed to get an on-the-spot example of your news writing based on fictitious information typical of what a reporter might receive about a local event. You will be asked to write the first three paragraphs (2,100 character/300 word limit) of a news brief. We evaluate your response by looking at how you decide what is relevant for a news article and your organization of the information in addition to your writing style. The writing prompt is different every year.

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

- How did you hear about this opportunity at Report for America? *

- ☐ College journalism department
- ☐ Current or former Report for America corps member
- ☐ Handshake
- ☐ Journalism conference or career fair
- ☐ Journalismjobs.com
- ☐ Report for America newsroom partner
- ☐ Report for America Virtual Information Session
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Not listed above

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[If “Journalism conference or career fair” or “Not listed above”]: Please expand on how you heard about this opportunity. _____

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Your responses in this section will NOT affect your eligibility for the program. We use your demographic information internally to ensure that our program reflects the diversity of the communities we serve, and in the aggregate for grant reporting. If you prefer not to respond to the questions in this section, please select the “prefer not to answer” option.

- What is your date of birth? [Date field]
- Are you a military veteran? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to answer
- Please select the choice(s) below that best reflect your racial background. If you do not wish to be identified with a particular group, please select “prefer not to answer”. *
 - ☐ Asian (including South, Southeast, and East Asian)
 - ☐ Black or African American
 - ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a/x
 - ☐ Indigenous or Native American
 - ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
 - ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - ☐ White
 - ☐ Not listed above [Please specify your racial background]
 - ☐ Prefer not to answer
- Gender *
 - ☐ Man
 - ☐ Woman
 - ☐ Non-Binary
 - ☐ Not listed above [Please specify your gender]
 - ☐ Prefer not to answer

IMPORTANT

If you have not already, please submit the names and contact information of your two professional references! The deadline for them to fill out the reference form is February 23, 2026.

- ☐ I confirm that I am aware my application cannot proceed without two professional references. *
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