



If you're writing-or contemplating writing-about gun violence issues, we're launching an innovative journalism grant program that may interest you.

This fall, the [Center on Media, Crime at Justice \(CMCJ\) at John Jay College in New York](#) will be awarding grants of up to \$5,000 for new and original work on any facet of gun violence, including investigative, analytical, online and broadcast reporting, that promises to have a major public policy impact. The grants are competitive-we'll only be able to select up to seven reporting projects--they are limited to working journalists in ALL states in midwest and northeast region with priority given to journalists in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The deadline for entries is September 23rd, 2010 11:59 PM ET. We'll announce the winners on or before Oct. 1, 2010.

Finding out if you qualify is easy: send us a short letter describing your project (it can be underway or on the drawing boards), its significance, an estimated timeline for publication, and how you would use the money. Include in the letter a short bio of yourself, and attach as well a letter of reference or recommendation from your editor or assignment director. Individual reporters working for news organizations on any media platform, or teams, can apply, and we especially welcome projects that use multimedia, graphic or interactive tools to tell the story. Freelancers may also qualify.

What it means to you: Two commitments are necessary on your part: (1) Your project should be completed in publishable or broadcastable form sometime between Oct 1 2010 and March 31, 2011. (2) You or one member of your team must be available to attend a half-day skills and networking workshop to kick off the project around the beginning of November 2010, tentatively in Chicago (we pay expenses).

Some background: this special project is made possible by grants from the Joyce Foundation and the David Bohnett Foundation. It is administered by our own journalist team, including Pulitzer-prizewinning former Chicago Tribune journalist Maurice Possley, who will be the coordinator. Our sponsors will not be involved in choosing grantees or in story development. During the course of the project period, our role will be to provide you with any additional help you need, whether it involves technical issues of reporting or directing you to useful research sources. And you'll have the added benefit of sharing ideas and tips with your fellow grantees, whom you'll meet at the workshop.

Finally, a word about us: The CMCJ is the country's leading media training and fellowship organization for journalists covering criminal justice. We run the country's only prize in criminal justice journalism: the annual John Jay Award for Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting, and we operate a nationwide criminal justice news service on our site: www.thecrimereport.org.

What would you write about? I don't need to tell you that the range of potential topics is vast. Just last month, Attorney-General Eric Holder declared that "gun violence is not just a big city problem; it is a concern for us all." We're open to all imaginative and powerful ways of exploring the issue, with an

emphasis on investigations in the midwest region. In this age of newsroom budget restraints, how many of us are sitting on great story ideas for lack of extra help or support?

If that describes you, send us a note. **Applications should be sent to Project Coordinator Maurice Possley at: mauricepossley@gmail.com.** Please feel free to e-mail Maurice, **Deputy Director** ctabachnick@jjay.cuny.edu.or **CMCJ Director** Stephen Handelman with any questions shandelman@jjay.cuny.edu