

Press Forward >>

Search for the Network Manager Press Forward The Miami Foundation

[The Miami Foundation](#) seeks a well-rounded, innovative, and equity focused leader to serve as the Network Manager of [Press Forward](#), a national initiative to strengthen communities and democracy by supporting local news, rebuilding local journalism, and improving the dissemination of civic information throughout the United States. This is an opportunity to apply previous leadership and grantmaking experience to help cement Press Forward's impact on local journalism, and serve in a critical capacity to manage a complex network of stakeholders across pooled, aligned, and local funders.

Under a set of shared values and priorities to guide their grantmaking, a coalition of more than forty donors have come together with a more than \$500 million investment over the next five years to re-center local news as a force for community cohesion; support new models and solutions that are ready to scale; and close longstanding inequities in media ownership, philanthropy, and journalism.

Reporting to the Director, the Network Manager will be charged with designing processes and building relationships within a rich and diverse ecosystem of funders and stakeholders. As Press Forward is a newly established initiative, the Network Manager will also be instrumental in supporting and establishing Press Forward's grantmaking efforts and procedures. The successful candidate in this role will bring an equity driven and centered approach to this work and be able to convert diverse thoughts and perspectives into strategic action.

The Miami Foundation, as the fiscal sponsor of Press Forward, has engaged Karen Avery and Alexis Ditaway, of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this important search. Inquiries, nominations, and/or applications should be directed in confidence to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT PRESS FORWARD

Press Forward is a \$500 million national initiative to expand local journalism on an unprecedented scale. Press Forward will invest in the strongest ideas, seed new ideas that have not yet had a chance to emerge, build powerful networks, and engage people, institutions, and organizations with substantial new resources to join the movement.

Press Forward was created to support the reimagination, revitalization, and rapid development of the local news ecosystem in the United States. Originally conceived by the MacArthur Foundation, Democracy Fund, and Knight Foundation based on their decades of experience supporting nonprofit journalism, Press Forward has grown into a multi-funder collaborative of more than 20 donors. The initiative has created an early theory of change that will result in new norms, conditions, policies, culture, and structure to ensure the work achieves its goal of creating strong journalism for a stronger democracy. The focus of Press Forward's early momentum will be to:

- **Catalyze Philanthropy** - Rallying the field by creating a campaign and outreach to make local news a philanthropic priority on par with arts and education across national foundations, local funders, and individual donors.
- **Grow Civic Media** – Building momentum to mobilize resources to scale models that work; close longstanding inequalities in journalism coverage and practice; and change the norms of journalism to encourage pro-democracy coverage and information.
- **Expand Public Financing** – Locking in new dynamics by building coalitions and advocates needed to transform policy frameworks to drive significantly more public funding into a reimaged media sector.

STRUCTURE

Press Forward is a national initiative that is fiscally sponsored by The Miami Foundation. The team hired will be employees of The Miami Foundation for the initiative's duration. Press Forward has an expected duration of at least five years, with the possibility of an extension. The Network Manager will report to the recently hired Director of Press Forward.

ROLE OF THE NETWORK MANAGER

At a time when there is both significant and growing disinformation across the country and profound social inequities, Press Forward is poised to play an ever more vital and transformational leadership role in the American media landscape. To propel these efforts, the Network Manager will work with the Press Forward leadership team to provide both leadership and relationship building, management and connections to ensure cohesion among partners and stakeholders. The Network Manager will also be

critical in supporting Press Forward's grantmaking process and efforts. This position will require a hands-on leader who will have grantmaking and funder collaborative experience and willingness to understand the ever-changing landscape of journalism and local news.

The three broad objectives for Press Forward's Network Manager are as follows:

Manage Press Forward Aligned Funders

Press Forward will continue to bring new Aligned grantmaking partners to the effort. Working with the Director, the Network Manager will be critical to building a strong network of donor partners eager to learn how to be effective local news funders and interested in aligning their giving with other Press Forward funders. As these needs develop and evolve, the Network Manager will also be charged with providing Aligned grant makers with donor education, educational toolkits, and resources to be successful. To do this effectively, the ideal Network Manager will have strong communication skills and previous experience connecting a similar ecosystem of partners, funders, and stakeholders. Also, a successful candidate can deftly navigate competing priorities to advance the work.

Provide leadership and expertise to Press Forward's grantmaking process across Aligned and Pooled Funds

The Network Manager position allows opportunities for an experienced leader to help design, implement and influence grantmaking strategies. The Network Manager will serve a critical role of coordinating efforts across Aligned and Pooled Fund grantmaking. While each type of funding has different audiences and stakeholders with various needs, the successful candidate will develop alignment and equity to ensure that funders remain engaged and informed with Press Forward's efforts. The successful candidate will have previous experience in a grantmaking or foundation role and will have a proven record of success navigating complex systems and relationships with multiple stakeholders.

Develop and manage relationships across Press Forward's network of stakeholders and partners

The Network Manager will serve as a critical resource and leadership for Press Forward and its funding partners and stakeholders. This provides an opportunity for an experienced leader to oversee and manage a diverse and dynamic community. The Network Manager will constructively lead and support various efforts including communicating with funders, facilitation of working groups and building relationships both within Press Forward and externally. The successful candidate will have prior experience with managing multiple pieces of a project or organization, strong communication skills, and the ability to work effectively across nuanced systems to build bridges that connect various audiences.

Important Other Responsibilities

Contribute to Building a Strong Foundation for Press Forward's Impact and Future Within a Multi-Faceted Environment

Press Forward is a newly created national initiative which calls for leadership, vision, and direction. The Network Manager will be essential and influential in working closely with the Director, and the small full-time team, to shape Press Forward's early foundation and provide direction for long-lasting impact. The level of learning in this space will be continuous, and a successful candidate will have to be comfortable with nimble strategies and be able to pivot in the face of new understandings. A successful candidate will also have experience scaling a project from the ground up and possess strong, complex project management experience.

Navigate and Connect with Divergent Audiences and Stakeholders

The Network Manager will have an ample amount of contact and touchpoints with multiple stakeholders and will often be called upon to represent and speak on behalf of Press Forward at panels and conferences. This requires a skilled public speaker who is comfortable and experienced in connecting with diverse audiences, and who can effectively communicate Press Forward's vision and impact on a national level. Additionally, a successful candidate for the Network Manager role will possess the savvy necessary to navigate a complex ecosystem of ideas, stakeholders, and partnerships. This means a leader who can remain both levelheaded and mission focused, in the midst of a changing environment with numerous, ever-growing needs.

Lead and Guide Decisions with an Equitable and Inclusive Mindset

Press Forward will ultimately serve a wide variety of audiences (e.g. nonprofit and for-profit newsrooms, rural, urban and suburban communities) and will often operate within competing needs and priorities. The initiative's success will not only be dependent on operational leadership, but on strategically and intentionally prioritizing equity and inclusion within decision-making and engagement. As such, the Network Manager may be responsible for managing various consultants and team members, and leading workstreams that further Press Forward, such as education, evaluation, and communication. To be successful, the Network Manager will need to be a proven leader who has a deep analysis and record of accomplishment to build systems and processes where equity is not only a value but enacted with action and measurable results.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no one person may embody all, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications and personal qualities:

- A proven track record of managing complex projects with multiple stakeholders and willingness to be deeply hands on in managing multiple workstreams
- Experience working with a high functioning team to accomplish multiple goals
- A proficient and comfortable public speaker, with the ability to communicate numerous ideas and objectives to diverse audiences
- Experience and savviness navigating equally important yet competing needs and priorities
- Skilled grantmaking experience, preferably within a foundation or similar organization and understanding of the philanthropic sector
- Demonstrated commitment to not only valuing, but enacting diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Knowledge in leading local and place-based initiatives
- Experience in program evaluation and/or working for a philanthropic institution is preferred
- Demonstrated alignment with The Miami Foundation's team values and enthusiasm to launch a high-paced national effort within a larger community institution

LOCATION

This position is remote. The candidate can live anywhere in the continental United States. The candidate must be willing and able to travel frequently.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The expected salary range for this role is \$150k to \$170k annually.

Individual compensation packages are based on a variety of factors, including skill set, experience, and location.

The Miami Foundation offers a comprehensive and generous benefits package which includes medical, dental, and vision insurance, a 403(b) retirement plan, flex spending and dependent care accounts, professional development stipend, paid time off, cell phone stipend, and gym reimbursement.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and resumes with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/miami-foundation/network-manager>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Karen Avery, Partner
Alexis Ditaway, Associate
Isabelle Atkinson, Senior Search Coordinator

The Miami Foundation will not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring, and firing of staff, selection of volunteers, selection of vendors, and provision of services.

The Miami Foundation practices and champions inclusiveness. We honor the diverse strengths, needs, voices, and backgrounds of all members of our community. Candidates from traditionally marginalized communities are especially encouraged to apply.