

Iowa Starting Line Waterloo Journalism Project



Waterloo Journalism Project

Iowa Starting Line will be placing a full-time reporter in Waterloo, Iowa for a six-month to one-year journalism project. The overarching goal will be to tell the story of Waterloo, one of the most diverse cities in Iowa, and lift up the stories of the people there, their communities, the challenges they face, and the solutions local leaders are working on.

We are looking for a gifted storyteller who can take a large project and make it their own, work independently and quickly develop relationships and sources throughout a city.

Coverage Focus

- Profile community, business and elected leaders; their background, what drives them and what projects they're leading or what local issues they're dealing with.
- Do long-term follow-up work on the Tyson Waterloo COVID-19 plant outbreak. What are the impacts that workers deal with months afterward, long after the national media moves their focus elsewhere.
- Focus in on the systemic challenges the African American and local immigrant communities face.
- Highlight the very diverse immigrant and refugee communities in Waterloo.
- Cover how Congress and the Iowa Legislature's actions impact the city and what local legislators are doing to advocate in Des Moines for their constituents.
- General coverage of city council and important local government board meetings.

In addition to their Waterloo coverage, this reporter would be part of the larger Iowa Starting Line team, and about 10% of their time would be spent on general Iowa politics coverage when needed. They would also cover occasional events in Northeast Iowa, Cedar Rapids and Dubuque.

Timeline/Location

We are very flexible on when this position begins — it could be next week or mid-August. We're looking to take our time to find the right applicant, but in general we plan to start it before the end of Summer 2020.

This position will be located in Waterloo. Some travel will be required to other areas of Eastern Iowa, as well as Des Moines for occasional in-person meetings with the Starting Line team.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in journalism or a similar amount of work experience in a communications field.
- At least two years of newsroom and/or reporting work.
- Very strong understanding of reporting practices, ethics, grammar, style, sourcing, copy-editing, and accuracy in quoting.
- Past experience in developing deep networks of sources in a community or beat.
- Flexibility to work some nights and weekends and do some travel.
- Very strong ability to work independently.
- Past experience reporting on communities of color preferred.
- Reliable transportation necessary.

Pay And Benefits

This position will have a very competitive base salary based on experience and will include paid time off and compensation for travel, among other benefits that will be discussed.

About Iowa Starting Line

Founded in 2015, Iowa Starting Line is the most-read independent online news outlet in the state. We cover Iowa politics from a progressive viewpoint, with a past focus on the Iowa Caucus (read more about our story [in our New York Times profile](#)).

Based out of Des Moines, we're a newsroom that expanded significantly in 2019. In the past year, we have expanded our focus from Iowa politics to include more local reporting, coverage of immigrant communities and in-depth policy topics.

Apply

Please email your resume to Pat Rynard at Pat@IowaStartingLine.com