



The [Kapoor Foundation](#) is a national philanthropic organization that works at the intersection of racial equity and technology to reconstruct a responsible technology ecosystem. This work involves expanding access to K-12 computer science (CS) and AI education and postsecondary tech pathways; improving tech accountability and worker protections; and increasing investments in tech infrastructure and innovation. In addition to our work within the national technology landscape, we actively support the growth and development of inclusive tech pathways in three key regions: Oakland, CA; Atlanta, GA; and Detroit, MI.

We make an impact by:

- commissioning research to monitor the state of the tech ecosystem, inform the field, and support the development of equitable tech policy;
- making strategic grants to organizations and coalitions that can expand the breadth and increase the depth of our impact; and
- investing in entrepreneurs and venture funds.

## About the Kapoor Foundation Research Fellowship: Investigative Reporting & Tech Policy Research

- **Funding:** \$35,000 award to each fellow
- **Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.
- **Award Notification:** First awards to be announced by June 30, 2026. Awards will be issued on a rolling basis thereafter.
- **Eligible Applicants:**
  - *Journalists* (staff or freelance), including reporters and editors, in the United States with at least 5 years of in-depth reporting experience conducting investigative reporting (including data journalism and watchdog journalism) for print, digital, or broadcast publication
  - *Researchers* staffed in *research or policy institutes* conducting and publishing CS/AI education and/or tech policy research, policy analysis, or policy evaluation
- **Reporting Requirement:**
  - Investigative Reporting Fellowship: Published long-form print or digital article
  - Tech Policy Research Fellowship: Published articles and reports; briefs may be developed as accompanying collateral
- [Apply here](#)

The Kapoor Foundation will award up to 15 grants of \$35,000 each to **(a) journalists or news outlets** producing long-form investigative reports and **(b) researchers at research or policy**

**institutes** conducting research, analysis, or evaluation that informs policy related to the Kapor Foundation's three priority areas, with an emphasis on responsible AI and tech ethics:

- **CS/AI Education:** This focus area includes transforming education pathways (i.e., K-12, postsecondary, and alternative pathways) to align with future careers. Priority research topics include:
  - Disparities in computing/AI education access and the policy levers to expand access and participation
  - AI's impact on education pathways aligned with future careers and the future of work and associated policy recommendations
  - Efficacy of policies intended to advance responsible AI education, including at the institutional or state levels
- **Innovation:** This focus area includes building the investment and entrepreneurship ecosystem that utilizes AI/tech to close equity gaps and aligning the ecosystem with responsible innovation principles. Priority research topics include:
  - Efficacy of strategies to advance responsible AI/tech innovation and the challenges to advancing them
  - Assessing and articulating potential risks of AI investments (e.g., on environment/climate and worker displacement/labor) and benefits of responsible AI on society
  - Analyses of policies that have excluded and/or expanded capital deployed to entrepreneurs and fund managers from historically-excluded groups
- **Governance:** This focus area aims to drive tech policy that protects marginalized communities from harm, promotes inclusive economic opportunity, and benefits society. Priority research topics include:
  - Regulation/accountability mechanisms for tech companies, particularly enforcement strategies that effectively shift companies' practices that cause harms, including harms related to algorithmic bias in healthcare, housing, education, and/or employment, surveillance in violation of civil and privacy rights, children's safety in using AI technologies
  - Community impacts of data center development, including economic trade-offs and policy protections
  - Risks of AI adoption for marginalized groups and policy approaches to mitigate harms (e.g., algorithmic bias in healthcare, housing, education, and/or employment, surveillance in violation of civil and privacy rights, children's safety in using AI technologies)
  - Tech workplace conditions and worker protections, including protections related to breaches in civil and data privacy rights, worker organizing efforts, and economic livelihoods with AI adoption

The topics identified above do not present an exhaustive list of the Kapor Foundation’s research interests. They are provided as examples to help applicants define those broad areas as they determine their projects’ fit for the fellowship grant. Overall, Kapor is interested in research that fills knowledge gaps and moves conversations forward – toward better defined problems and more strategically targeted solutions.

The Kapor Foundation will fund fellows’ research activities for projects focused on national trends and/or local populations and trends in three key regions (named city or across the state): Oakland, CA; Atlanta, GA; and Detroit, MI.

**Note:** This fellowship does not provide intensive training or professional development programming. All applicants, including early and established professionals, are expected to receive such support from their home organizations, editors, or professional networks.

## **Fellowship Requirements**

**Status Update:** Fellows may be required to submit a mid-project 1-2 page progress report.

**Final Reports:** Grant awards are intended to support fellows’ analysis and writing as they produce thorough investigative reporting or policy research. The expected output is published reports or series of reports that represent a deeper investigation of issues and policy implications at the intersection of racial equity and accountability in the tech ecosystem (e.g., whistleblowing, ethics, privacy). Complementary multimedia pieces like video or podcasts to encourage wider dissemination of reporting are welcome as supplemental material.

Fellows are expected to submit their final published reports and dissemination plans for their work to the Kapor Foundation.

**Acknowledgement of Funding:** Fellows are to include an acknowledgment of Kapor Foundation support in publication (including web pages) of any material based on or developed as a result of this fellowship.

## **Eligibility**

**Investigative Reporting Fellowship:** Freelance and staff journalists, including reporters and editors, in the United States with at least 5 years of in-depth reporting experience are eligible to apply.

**Tech Policy Research Fellowship:** Staff housed at research or policy institutes registered as 501c3 organizations in the United States are eligible to apply.

## Application Instructions

Completed applications must be submitted using the [online form](#).

All applicants must submit a personal bio, CV or resume of the primary researcher, research project summary, and link to published work examples. At the time of application, investigative reporting fellowship applicants must submit a letter of commitment from a media outlet to assign an editor and publish their reporting.

### Document Formatting:

- File Format: PDF
- File Naming Convention: LastName, FirstName\_KF Fellowship [Document Requested]\_MM.DD.YYYY.
  - *Example: Smith, John\_KF Fellowship Research Abstract\_07.12.2024*
- Margins: 1" all around
- Spacing: Single-spaced
- Font: Arial, no smaller than 11 point
- Page Limits: Vary across requested documents. Figures or citations are allowed and do not count towards page limits. References do not count toward page limits.

## Application Components

- Applicant contact and demographic information; byline name, if different from legal name; current title and employer
- Editor or lead research advisor's contact information
- Bio (250 words max)
- CV or resume
- Two published work samples
- Project Title
- Project Summary/Abstract (1 paragraph)
- Project Proposal (i.e., what do you want to investigate; why does the topic or issue matter and to whom; have you or others done significant previous reporting on the topic; and how is your project unique or what does it add to existing work) (2-5 pages)
  - Research question
  - Problem Statement
  - Significance
  - Research Plan and Methodology
  - Implications
  - References
  - Indicate the percentage of the project budget this fellowship award represents
- Project Timeline (1 page)

- Dissemination Plan (e.g., targeted audiences, publications/venues that reach those audiences) (1 page)

Additional Requirements for Investigative Reporting Fellows:

- Letter of commitment to publish reporting from an editor at an established media outlet

Additional Requirements for Policy Research Fellows:

- The Project Proposal section must include clear, concrete links between the proposed research and actionable implications for advancing relevant policies.

## **Selection Process**

The Kapor Foundation research team, in partnership with Foundation leaders, will review completed applications and select fellows based on:

- how compelling and significant the proposed research is, and
- likelihood that the proposed work will make an impact in the Foundation's priority areas.

Fellows will be notified of their awards via email; please ensure that there are no typos in the email addresses provided. At the time of award notification, additional information may be solicited to facilitate verification of credentials and collect information necessary to disperse award funding.

*Please note that the Kapor Foundation research team does not have the capacity to provide individual feedback on rejected applications.*

If you have questions, please contact us at [research@kaporcenter.org](mailto:research@kaporcenter.org).