

**Job Title:** Community Reporter Fellowship

**Position Type:** Paid/Stipend

**Organization:** 23 East Group

**About the Program:**

23 East Group, the marketing and communications agency for the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, is launching a Community Reporter Program to amplify the voices and stories of people with developmental disabilities across North Carolina. This initiative is part of a larger media storytelling project to highlight what's happening in local communities in North Carolina, through the eyes and experiences of people with disabilities.

**Job Description:**

Community Reporters will serve as local storytellers, gathering and sharing news, events, and personal stories that show how community issues, policies, and programs affect people with developmental disabilities. Reporters will connect with peers/people with lived experiences, key leaders, organizations, and residents of their communities to help build greater awareness and involvement in everyday life through storytelling and advocacy.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Report on community news, events, and initiatives affecting people with disabilities
- Interview individuals, families, and local leaders about disability-related topics impacting the local community
- Create short stories as blog posts, audio interviews, graphic art, infographics or video interviews for publication in a format of the reporter's choice
- Collaborate with Council staff and communications partners to share stories through Council media channels
- Participate in reporter orientation and onboarding, monthly team check-ins or trainings on how to gather and share your story, and a post-fellowship feedback interview.

**Qualifications:**

- Lived experience with a developmental disability
- Interest in storytelling, writing, and advocacy
- Comfortable talking with people and learning about their experiences
- Dependable, self-directed with assigned tasks, and able to meet deadlines
- Basic access to phone, email, or internet for communication

**Our Commitment to the Program:**

- **Accessibility:** We value accessibility and will make reasonable accommodations for Reporters to engage their role.
- **Inclusion and Belonging:** We want this project to center the lens of lived experience while providing diverse and inclusive viewpoints on topics of importance to people with disabilities. We honor that all voices bring value to the conversation.
- **Collaboration:** We encourage Community Reporters to connect with community organizations. We will assist in facilitating partnerships, if requested by the Community Reporters.
- **Ongoing Feedback and Support:** We will schedule regular listening sessions so that Community Reporters can mentor and coach each other while sharing ideas and addressing issues.

**Timeline & Compensation:**

This fellowship will be for five months. Each community reporter will have five months to choose, develop, and produce their stories, and it will include onboarding and training on how to gather, form, and share their story.

Total Stipend: \$2,000