DATA AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTER
(REPORT FOR AMERICA FELLOW)

Bridge Michigan, the state's preeminent public policy online news site, seeks a data and accountability reporter to strengthen our award-winning journalism through data analysis and visualization. Beginning in July 2026, this two-year Report for America (RFA) fellowship offers an exceptional opportunity to impact how Michiganders understand critical issues.

This position will investigate government, education and demography in Michigan, using data to reveal trends, inequities and patterns to produce stories that translate complex datasets into meaningful journalism.

We seek a reporter with experience in database reporting, data visualization and computer-assisted reporting, combined with strong storytelling skills. Topics will run the gamut from government and education to health, the economy and elections.

The ideal candidate has an investigative mindset and is a generous teammate, joining a newsroom that is dedicated to producing great journalism, making public policy relatable and preserving reporters' work-life balance.

You'll join a team of experienced reporters and editors who will bend over backwards to help you produce the best work of your career. In addition to the support of RFA, we will support you with training, mentorships and generous budgets for travel and records requests.

Data-driven journalism is central to Bridge Michigan's mission. Our award-winning work on COVID-19, government spending and accountability has set a high bar, and we seek a talented journalist to expand this foundation into new platforms and audiences.

Bridge Michigan is one of America's great civic news organizations, with secure funding and a clear mission to improve Michigan through our reporting. We are committed to lifting diverse, often ignored voices and covering the state in an equitable manner — but we are also zealously nonpartisan and committed to questioning conventional wisdom in our reporting.

The entire Center for Michigan team is expected to dedicate themselves to improving Bridge Michigan's people-first culture, public outreach and journalistic excellence. We are proud of our values and try to incorporate them in all we do. All Center for Michigan employees are expected to follow our Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy.

Position Requirements

- Professional journalism experience with data visualization and analysis tools preferred. We encourage applications from journalists at all experience levels
- A portfolio of work that demonstrates strong data journalism skills, including experience with programs such as Python, R, SQL or similar tools for data analysis and visualization
- Proficiency with data visualization tools (such as Flourish, Datawrapper, Tableau or similar platforms) and spreadsheet programs
- Strong writing and storytelling abilities, with the capacity to translate complex data into clear, compelling narratives for general audiences
- A creative mindset and deep curiosity about using data to uncover stories. Knowledge of Michigan is a plus, as is a willingness to travel throughout the state to report.
- A commitment to fairness, seeing all sides, a willingness to be surprised, and following facts
- A collaborative mindset and generous spirit. We want our reporters to be aggressive, but they need to be good co-workers, willing to assist colleagues with data analysis and visualization for their stories.
- A willingness to train and mentor fellow reporters in data journalism techniques and tools

Bridge Michigan has offices in Lansing and Detroit. This is not a remote job, and the successful applicant must be based in (or move to) Michigan. Otherwise, we are flexible and trust reporters to determine their best work environments.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying, please **submit an application through Report for America's online portal** here and select the Data and Accountability Reporter position with Bridge Michigan. The **application deadline is February 16, 2026**. Questions can be directed to the Report for America recruiting team at recruitment@reportforamerica.org. Questions for Bridge Michigan can be directed to jkurth@bridgemi.com.

About The Center for Michigan and This Position

Bridge Michigan is a publication of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Center for Michigan. All staff of Bridge Michigan are employees of the Center for Michigan.

Founded in 2006, the Center for Michigan is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making Michigan better through high-quality, nonpartisan journalism and engagement.

The Center for Michigan offers competitive salaries, eligibility for an end-of-year performance bonus and flexible work arrangements. The expected base salary range for this position is $60,000 to $74,000 annually, depending on experience; $75,000 to $92,000 annually with six or more years of experience. Our offices have a casual environment and we respect work-life balance. Benefits at the Center for Michigan include:

- Medical, vision and dental insurance (90% employer paid for employee and eligible dependents)
- Telehealth services (100% employer-paid for employee and eligible dependents)
- 1% 401(k) match
- 4-6 weeks of maternity/paternity/adoption leave
- Minimum three weeks paid time off per year
- Eight paid holidays and two floating holidays
- Monthly phone stipend

- Annual professional development and subscription allowances
- If moving from out of state, a moving stipend of up to $2,000 may be made available

The Center for Michigan is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to diversity in its workforce, creating an inclusive environment and building an organization that better reflects its communities and encourages members of traditionally underrepresented communities to apply, including people of color, women, members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people with disabilities.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The Center for Michigan will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), age, disability/handicap, height, weight, marital status, familial status, veteran status, citizenship or any other classification protected by federal or state law or local ordinance.