



DEPUTY EDITOR, WEST MICHIGAN

Bridge Michigan, Michigan's leading nonprofit newsroom, is seeking an ambitious, community-minded editor to lead our journalism in West Michigan.

This is a newly created position focused on helping Bridge Michigan deepen its reporting, strengthen its understanding of communities and audiences, build lasting relationships and increase its regional impact.

The deputy editor will serve as Bridge Michigan's lead editor for West Michigan, leading regional coverage, helping shape editorial strategy and producing the West Michigan newsletter. This editor will work closely with reporters, freelancers, newsroom leaders and community partners to identify stories, strengthen accountability reporting and ensure Bridge Michigan's journalism reaches and reflects communities across the region.

The editor will also help coordinate the West Michigan Journalism Collaborative, a partnership among news organizations working to strengthen public-service journalism in the region.

We are looking for an editor who understands that modern journalism leadership extends beyond assigning and editing stories. Success requires understanding community information needs, collaborating across audience strategy, engagement, newsletters, visuals, multimedia and partnerships, and ensuring audience understanding informs editorial decision-making. The ideal candidate is excited about helping shape the future of regional nonprofit journalism — not replicating legacy newsroom structures.

This position reports to Bridge Michigan's Regional Editor and works closely with executive and other supporting editors, audience and engagement colleagues, and regional partners throughout West Michigan.

This position is funded for an initial three-year term. Continued employment beyond that period is possible but not guaranteed and will depend on funding and organizational needs.

What You'll Do

- Help lead and shape Bridge Michigan's editorial strategy and journalism in West Michigan, including producing and overseeing the West Michigan newsletter and engaging with its audience
- Edit stories for accuracy, fairness, clarity and impact

- Help identify and execute enterprise, accountability and community-centered reporting opportunities
- Work closely with reporters, freelancers and contributors to strengthen journalism and storytelling
- Collaborate with audience, engagement, visual and multimedia teams to maximize the reach and impact of reporting
- Help coordinate collaborative journalism and regional partnerships across West Michigan, building relationships with journalism partners, community organizations, civic institutions and residents
- Design and participate in listening sessions, surveys, community conversations and engagement efforts that help identify underreported issues, information gaps and opportunities for deeper reporting
- Use audience insights, community engagement, and editorial performance data to help identify coverage priorities, reporting opportunities, emerging issues, and opportunities to strengthen the reach and impact of our journalism
- Help identify and execute strategies to expand audience reach, newsletter growth, search discoverability and regional distribution

Who We're Looking For

This role requires a strong editor with sound news judgment, collaborative instincts and a forward-looking understanding of local journalism.

The ideal candidate:

- Is an excellent editor, writer and story coach
- Understands accountability and public-service journalism
- Thinks beyond text stories and understands how story form, headlines, visuals, newsletters, audience engagement and distribution work together to maximize the reach and impact of journalism.
- Is deeply curious about communities, audience needs and how people consume information
- Understands that audience understanding and discoverability are editorial assets, not simply distribution functions
- Is energized by newsletters, audience relationships and community engagement, and comfortable experimenting and helping shape evolving newsroom practices
- Can coordinate complex projects and partnerships without losing focus on editorial quality
- Brings curiosity, humility, strong communication skills and a collaborative mindset

Position Requirements

- At least five years of editing and newsroom leadership experience
- Exceptional editing and writing skills and strong news judgment
- Experience managing reporters, freelancers or contributors
- Demonstrated ability to produce or edit accountability and enterprise journalism
- Experience building relationships with communities, stakeholders or partners that informed coverage decisions is strongly preferred

- Experience using audience insights and editorial performance data to inform editorial decision-making
- Experience with newsletters and digital publishing
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to manage multiple deadlines and relationships
- Ability to build trust and collaborate across organizations and disciplines
- Knowledge of Michigan and West Michigan is strongly preferred
- Commitment to fairness, accuracy and nonpartisan journalism
- Entrepreneurial mindset and comfort building new systems and approaches
- Demonstrates curiosity about experimenting with AI tools and evolving newsroom technologies; prior experience is not required

Bridge Michigan has offices in Lansing and Detroit and coworking space available in downtown Grand Rapids. The successful applicant must be based in (or move to) Michigan, with a strong preference for candidates based in or willing to relocate to West Michigan.

Why This Role Matters

Bridge Michigan is investing in regional journalism because we believe strong local and regional reporting is essential to civic life and democratic participation.

West Michigan is a rapidly changing region with important stories about housing, education, health, economic development, politics and quality of life. This role is designed to strengthen Bridge Michigan's ability to cover those issues deeply, better understand the communities affected by them, reach more residents directly and build stronger connections between journalism and community needs.

The role is also part of a broader effort to help local journalism evolve. We believe the future of nonprofit journalism requires strong reporting combined with audience engagement, collaborative partnerships, newsletters, multimedia storytelling and direct community relationships.

What You'll Get

You'll join one of the nation's most respected nonprofit news organizations and work alongside an award-winning team committed to journalistic excellence, innovation and public service.

Bridge Michigan is a publication of the Center for Michigan, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making Michigan better through high-quality, nonpartisan journalism and engagement. All staff of Bridge Michigan are employees of the Center for Michigan.

The entire Center for Michigan team is expected to dedicate itself to improving our people-first culture, public outreach and journalistic excellence. We are [proud of our values](#) and strive to incorporate them in all we do. All employees are expected to follow our [Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy](#).

How to Apply

If you're interested in applying, please send a resume, cover letter and four to seven work samples to jobs@bridgemi.com with "Deputy Editor, West Michigan" in the subject line.

In your cover letter, please describe:

- Your approach to regional journalism and editorial leadership
- How you think about audience growth, newsletters and community engagement
- Opportunities and challenges you see in West Michigan journalism
- Your experience working collaboratively across teams or organizations

Candidates should submit their application by August 19.

About The Center for Michigan and This Position

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 is the publisher of Bridge Michigan and BridgeDetroit.

The expected base salary range for this position is **\$80,000 to \$95,000 annually**, consistent with the Center for Michigan's Supporting Editor salary band.

The Center for Michigan offers competitive salaries, eligibility for an end-of-year performance bonus and flexible work arrangements. Benefits include:

- Medical, vision and dental insurance (90% employer paid for employee and eligible dependents)
- 1% 401(k) match
- 10–12 weeks of paid parental leave
- Life insurance
- Minimum three weeks paid time off per year
- Eight paid holidays and two floating holidays
- Monthly phone stipend
- Annual professional development and subscription allowances

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 without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), age, disability, height, weight, marital status, familial status, veteran status, citizenship or any other classification protected by law.