



# A-Mark Foundation 2025 Impact Report

Supporting investigative journalism through grants

## 2025 SPENDING AND PROGRAMS

**\$1.453 M** Total Expenditures

**\$824 K** Total Spending on A-Mark's three programs

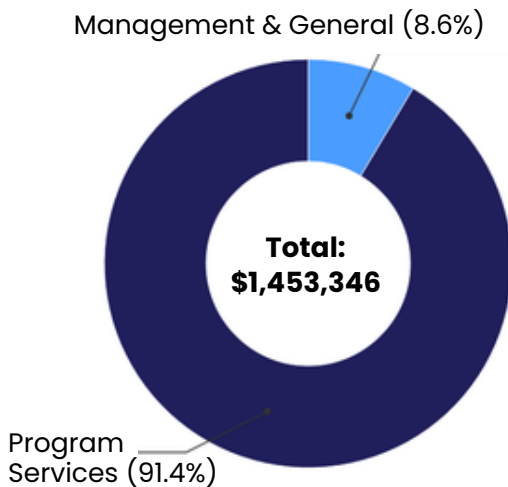
**35** States with at least one of A-Mark's three programs

**30** A-Mark Prizes for Investigative Reporting

**23** A-Mark Journalism Master's Scholarships

**9** A-Mark Student Journalism Awards

## 2025 SPENDING BREAKDOWN BY IRS CATEGORIES



| 1. Program Services               | \$          | %     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| • Three A-Mark Grant Programs     | \$824,087   | 56.7% |
| • Board of Director Grants        | \$371,000   | 25.5% |
| • Staff Time Spent on Programs    | \$129,153   | 8.9%  |
| • Marketing & Travel for Programs | \$3,923     | 0.3%  |
| Total Program Services            | \$1,328,163 | 91.4% |
| 2. Management and General         | \$125,183   | 8.6%  |
| 3. Fundraising                    | \$0         | 0%    |
| Total Expenses                    | \$1,453,346 | 100%  |

In 2025, A-Mark signed up grantees in 40 states and D.C. Of those, 35 states had at least one active A-Mark program in 2025, while five additional states are scheduled to launch in 2026.

| How Many States Had Each Program         | # of States<br>2024 | # of States<br>2025 | # of States*<br>2026 (Est.) |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A-Mark Prize for Investigative Reporting | 1                   | 30                  | 45                          |
| A-Mark Journalism Master's Scholarship   | 0                   | 16                  | 20                          |
| A-Mark Student Journalism Award          | 0                   | 5                   | 15                          |

This chart shows geographic reach, not the total number of grantees. A state may be counted in more than one row if it had multiple A-Mark programs and therefore the rows won't total to 50. In 2025, we had 23 Master's in Journalism Scholarships that were located in 16 states (including D.C.) and nine Student Journalism Awards in five states.

\*2026 numbers are estimates for the number of states that will have each program.

The only states missing an active A-Mark Program in 2025 were: Alabama, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

A-Mark funded three grant programs in 2025. Below are more details.

I. PROGRAM ONE: A-MARK PRIZES FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING



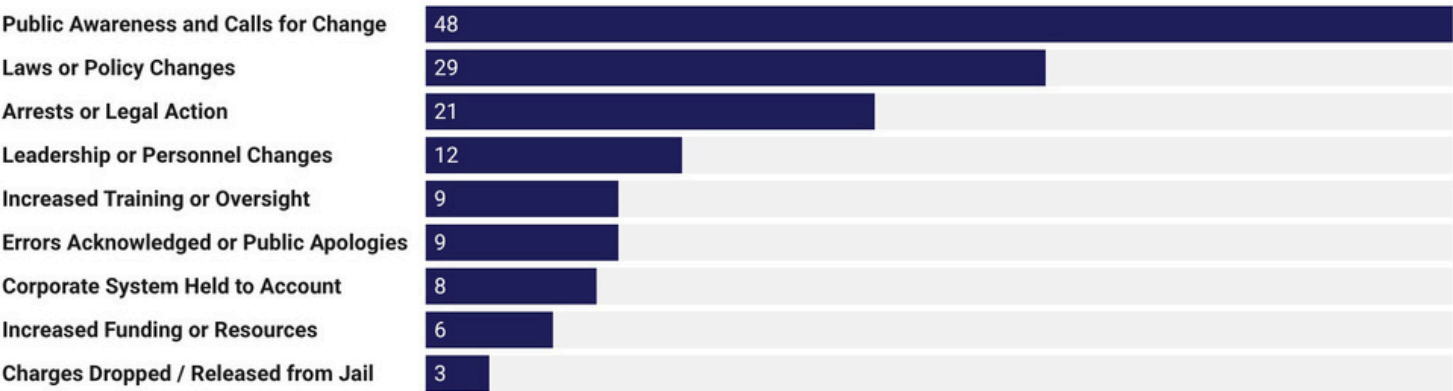
- 30 different states gave out A-Mark Prizes with a total of \$15,000 in prize money per state
- 90 winning investigative pieces awarded, with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each of the 30 states\*
- 150+ journalists contributed to the 90 winning pieces
- 661 A-Mark Prize entries total across the 30 states
- \$589,652 Spent on the 30 A-Mark Prizes awarded in 2025, including prize money, marketing, and administrative fees

\*Kentucky awarded only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places due to a low number of entries, while Louisiana had a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place

We contacted all of the approximately 150 winners, and 53 of them responded with feedback that helped us categorize the impact of the work being recognized with these awards.

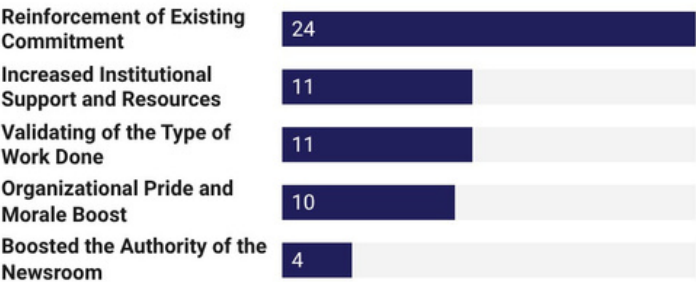
Impact of 2025 A-Mark Prize Winners

A-Mark Prize winners published reporting that led to a wide range of real-world outcomes.



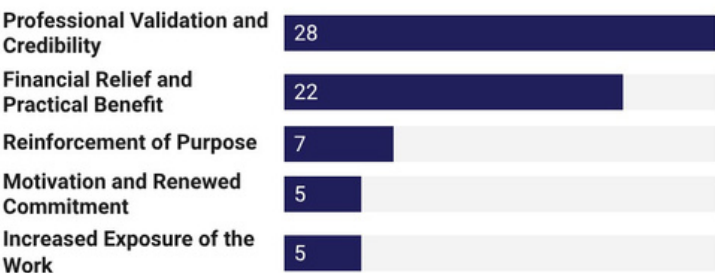
Impact of the 2025 A-Mark Prize on Newsrooms

A-Mark Prize winners shared how the award influenced their newsrooms' priorities and support for investigative reporting.



Impact of the 2025 A-Mark Prize on Winners

A-Mark Prize winners shared how receiving the award affected them professionally and personally.



The A-Mark Prizes for Investigative Reporting started as a pilot program with the Los Angeles Press Club in 2023 and 2024, receiving 13 and 12 entries respectively, before expanding nationwide in 2025, the first year of national tracking. We track the number of entries to assess the level of engagement with the Prizes.

### Number of A-Mark Prize Entries Nationwide in 2025

| State       | # of Entries | State         | # of Entries | State          | # of Entries | State          | # of Entries |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Alaska      | 14           | Illinois      | 19           | Missouri       | 17           | Pennsylvania   | 23           |
| Arkansas    | 16           | Indiana       | 8            | Nebraska       | 27           | Rhode Island   | 11           |
| California  | 21           | Kansas        | 67           | New York       | 50           | South Carolina | 32           |
| Colorado    | 49           | Kentucky      | 3            | North Carolina | 42           | South Dakota   | 14           |
| Connecticut | 11           | Louisiana     | 16           | North Dakota   | 12           | Vermont        | 19           |
| Florida     | 30           | Massachusetts | 15           | Ohio           | 22           | Wisconsin      | 22           |
| Georgia     | 14           | Michigan      | 21           | Oklahoma       | 11           | <b>Total</b>   | <b>661</b>   |
| Hawaii      | 13           | Minnesota     | 25           | Oregon         | 17           |                |              |

Visit [amarkfoundation.org/a-mark-prizes](https://amarkfoundation.org/a-mark-prizes) to see the list of state press groups presenting A-Mark Prizes

The following programs launched during the 2025–2026 school year and therefore did not have impact measurements available by the end of the 2025 calendar year. Note: Some spending for these programs will occur in 2026, so the 2025 total spent does not equal the scholarship amount x the number of schools.

## II. Program Two: A-Mark Journalism Master’s Scholarships



- **\$10,000 scholarships** For aspiring investigative journalists enrolled in a Master’s journalism program
- **23** Participating Universities in 15 States and D.C.
- **23** Students supported
- **\$195,000** Spent in 2025
- **Impact measurements** Pending completion of first program year

Visit [amarkfoundation.org/awards](https://amarkfoundation.org/awards) for the full participant list

## III. Program Three: A-Mark Student Journalism Awards



- **\$5,000 scholarships** For aspiring journalists working on community college student newspapers
- **9** Participating Community Colleges in 5 states
- **9** Students supported
- **\$39,435** Spent in 2025
- **Impact measurements** Pending completion of first program year

Visit [amarkfoundation.org/scholarships](https://amarkfoundation.org/scholarships) for the full participant list