Collaborative journalism is much more than a buzzword. It’s a response to the radically shifting news ecosystem with the rise of the Internet, social media and financial pressures that have resulted in a decline in news coverage in many communities. It is also a powerful way to efficiently share and deploy resources to expand audience reach and to fill gaps in reporting.

Connecticut Public and Connecticut Mirror are long-time collaborators. Our two organizations have worked together in many ways – Connecticut Mirror reporters on Where We Live, Connecticut Public content on the Connecticut Mirror web site, and co-reporting the “daily story” during the height of COVID.

In the fall of 2021 we hatched an idea for a deeper collaboration: jointly hire a Federal Policy Reporter, based in Washington, DC to fill the void in this crucial coverage area. We agreed to develop a job description and to begin raising the funds to pay for the position.

Early in the planning an opportunity arose to share this idea with entrepreneur Bob Patricelli – a supporter of both Connecticut Mirror and Connecticut Public.

With his historic interest in our two organizations collaborating with one another, his early-career experience in Washington, and his concern about the lack of news coverage of the Connecticut Congressional delegation Bob seized on the concept immediately.

A week later we had an agreement in principle. Soon thereafter, Bob signed a pledge for 80% of the $300,000 it would cost to fund the position for two years. This support from The Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family...
Foundation and Engage CT provided momentum to move forward. With additional funds raised this spring from Bob Jaeger and Jim and Cathy Smith, and the recruiting process underway, we hope to have the Federal Policy Reporter in place in July.

As a result of this collaboration, the new joint Federal Policy Reporter will produce stories that examine the impact of federal legislation on the residents of Connecticut, with a particular emphasis on economic sectors that are critical to the state, such as defense, health care and financial services, as well as high-disparity topics like education, housing and justice. The reporter will also cover the state’s congressional delegation, monitor federal agencies, and work with Connecticut-based reporters at Connecticut Mirror and Connecticut Public to drive or augment in-state coverage of issues with a federal dimension.

**As far as expanding journalism in our state, this is the type of collaboration that’s a win-win.**

---

**Thank you**

**to our generous supporters:**
- The Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation
- Engage CT
- Bob Jaeger
- Jim and Cathy Smith

Mark G. Contreras  
President & CEO

---

The Center for Cooperative Media broadly defines Collaborative Journalism as “**the practice of executing journalistic endeavors using a cross-entity approach.**”

In an industry where competition between organizations and individual journalists has always been a cornerstone of the field, working across such boundaries is certainly anathema to many. But the fact of the matter is that journalism is rapidly evolving and times have changed. Collaborative projects and partnerships have increasingly been shown to improve journalism and its reach.

– From the Center for Cooperative Media, Montclair State University  
collaborativejournalism.org