

**Call for proposals for journalists to investigate
service delivery failures in the City of Johannesburg**

It has been [well documented](#) that the City of Johannesburg, the hub of the national economy, has faced severe challenges in delivering basic services such as water, roads, and electricity. To tackle these challenges, we need to understand and expose what lies behind them: poor policies, structural issues, corruption, incompetence ...? We need the information to hold City management to account and - particularly in the build-up to the local elections in November - re-establish a culture of answerability in City structures.

[HNF](#) and its [Our City News](#) Project are offering grants to journalists to investigate specific cases of service delivery failures and their causes and consequences. We want to know who or what is responsible and what needs to be done to address these problems.

Grants of up to R30 000 are available for up to three journalists. Any journalist or team of journalists and/or data or financial specialists may apply, and the work will be published by us and one of our publishing partners, which includes major news outlets.

HNF favours work which is in the public interest, aims to reveal new information, is in-depth and investigative in approach and uses innovative techniques or tools. Grant decisions are made by an independent panel of experts and are treated confidentially.

HNF will provide editing and publication support.

Applicants should submit a short proposal (not more than two pages), a CV and a budget evaluated against HNF's project [budget guidelines](#). The proposal should make clear what you intend to show in the work that we don't already know, how you intend to prove it and how you will ensure it has impact.

Applications should be submitted [here](#) by no later than 31 July 2026.