2021 Contest Rules

The 40th Award will be given to deeply reported journalism that examines local
governments, institutions or entities within Humboldt County that affect people in the
lower 40 percent of the income scale. The annual award offers a first prize of $1,500
and up to two honorable mentions of $500 each. If no work rises to prize-winning level,
any of those awards could be skipped in any year.

We encourage reporting that:

- Unveils deliberate or accidental failures in programs intended to help those with
  lower incomes;
- Exposes economic practices that harm or prey upon people with lower incomes;
- Goes beyond merely describing problems, and also examines ways other
  communities have resolved or improved similar situations.

To qualify, work must be aired, published (print or online) or broadcast during calendar
2021 on an outlet whose primary audience is within the geographic boundaries of
Humboldt County, California. Any journalist, whether staff or freelance, may enter a
maximum of three works annually, and work that was created as a multipart series may
be submitted as one entry. Double byline or other collaborative pieces should be
entered by all members of the team that created them, with the understanding that
winners must divide among themselves any prize money. Prizes will be awarded to the
journalist(s) who created the winning work, not to their employer or commissioning
institution.

How to enter:
Journalists must fill out an entry form and follow the submission guidelines that will be
posted in full later this year. We encourage potential entrants to read the preliminary
entry form now for further insight into factors that judges will consider.