Resolve Philadelphia develops and advances journalism based in equity, collaboration, and the elevation of community voices and solutions. Its flagship project is Broke in Philly, a collaboration among local newsrooms doing coordinated and solutions reporting on economic mobility in Philadelphia, America’s poorest big city. This model is considered a pioneer in the collaborative and solutions journalism space, proving that local market competitors can work together effectively over an extended period of time, and that solutions journalism helps to overcome traditional barriers among news professionals.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Provide rigorous reporting on economic mobility in Philadelphia
- Examine the complex causes of economic insecurity and highlight effective approaches to its alleviation
- Elevate the voices of those with lived experience

**LOCAL ROOTS**

- Community engagement events including a neighborhood hack-a-thon, after-school activities fair and The Prosperity Symposium, a research and action-focused conference featuring voices from academics, experts, and leaders in the fight for economic justice
- Institutional partnerships with The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, and Community College of Philadelphia, among others
- Development and implementation of an impact evaluation model for collaborative solutions journalism
- Strengthening the capacity of participating newsrooms through streamlined professional development opportunities, editorial guidance, and multi-media and data visualization support
- High-quality service journalism for local communities experiencing economic hardship

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**BROKE IN PHILLY: 2018 AT A GLANCE**

Telling Stories. Elevating Solutions.

**PARTNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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NATIONAL RELEVANCE

- The Broke in Philly model is currently being replicated in more than 12 cities across the U.S. and is the subject of five research projects on three continents documenting what’s going right in journalism.
- Broke has been featured in Nieman Lab, Spotlight on Poverty, and CBS National News, among other outlets.
- An article in Columbia Journalism Review, which addressed Broke’s pioneering use of a language guide for its reporting, prompted two national newsrooms to consider our guidelines as best practice.
- Co-directors are considered national leaders in collaborative reporting, high-impact journalism, and best practices in economic mobility narratives.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Eye-catching reporting:** The High Cost of Being Broke, is an ongoing series exploring parts of everyday life that cost more when you’re struggling to make ends meet.

- **Community impact:** Pennsylvania’s largest court system, the First Judicial District, revoked a controversial policy that allowed the court to retain nearly one-third of a defendant’s cash bail deposit after their case was fully resolved following a Broke in Philly story by Philadelphia Weekly showing that nearly $3 million in bail fees were retained by the City of Philadelphia in 2018.

- **Stronger local news ecosystems:** Through Broke in Philly, small ethnic media outlets are regularly leveraging relationships with large corporate newsrooms to expand their own audiences. As a group, reporting partners collectively review and delegate reporting assignments in situations where historically, newsrooms fought one another for exclusive coverage. One editor recently described Broke as a “super-newsroom” coordinating at a level never before seen in local media.

- **Best practices beyond Philadelphia:** Broke partner reporters traveled to four cities to use solutions journalism to bring back lessons on what’s working in home-care for families experiencing poverty, universal pre-K, workforce development, and protections for shift workers.

ACCOLADES

"Our mission at VIP is to inspire and support pro-bono legal service by local attorneys. Broke in Philly is a powerful tool in our volunteer recruitment and engagement strategy. The articles detail the complex, and often interconnected, causes of systemic poverty and shed light on interventions that make a meaningful difference for individual clients and broader communities. The reporting shows the ‘why’ of the challenges confronting so many of our fellow Philadelphians, the ‘who’ of our clients through powerful narratives, and the ‘how’ of effective responses — an essential combination.”

Sophie Bryan, Executive Director, VIP Legal Services

"Resolve Philadelphia speaks with such courage and clarity about collaboration and equity as its guiding principles. It’s a true testament to [co-directors] Jean and Cassie’s leadership and authenticity that they are able to build wide-ranging coalitions for reporting on complex issues in Philadelphia, and I can see that they are already transforming the local news landscape in Philadelphia.”

Molly de Aguiar, Managing Director, News Integrity Initiative

"Resolve Philadelphia [through Broke in Philly] has done more to bring focus to, raise awareness of, and push decision-makers to figure out innovative solutions to the poverty challenge in Philadelphia than any other group in modern history.”

Michael Nutter, Senior Executive Fellow, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice and former Mayor of Philadelphia