



NorCal Public Media's KRCB-NPR newsroom selected for California Local News Fellowship

For immediate release—Rohnert Park, CA, July 24, 2025—Northern California Public Media will be adding Shandra Back to its news team at KRCB 104.9FM, NPR for the North Bay. Back is a 2025 Fellow with the UC Berkeley-based California Local News Fellowship program.

The multilingual journalist, podcaster and recent Boston University graduate has covered Spanish-speaking communities on a local and international level and is currently reporting from the Dominican Republic on the Haitian deportation crisis for the Pulitzer Center. Back will begin her two-year fellowship as a reporter at KRCB in September 2025.



The California Local News Fellowship deployed its first cohort in 2023 and currently has more than 70 early-career journalists reporting from every corner of the state, covering immigration, wildfires, housing, healthcare access, city council and school board meetings, and the effects of Trump administration policies. Fellows are working in 35 counties covering more than 90 percent of the state's population through community newspapers, local nonprofits, ethnic media outlets and public radio stations.

The program is funded by a state allocation spearheaded by former State Senator Steve Glazer. State Senator Catherine Blakespear and Assemblymember Marc Berman recently led efforts to expand the





program for two more years, with new editing fellowships, newsroom leadership and sustainability training led by the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.

Following an intensive orientation at U.C. Berkeley in early September, Back will live and work for two years in the North Bay, covering breaking news and reporting enterprise and investigative pieces for KRCB. In addition to hands-on newsroom experience, she'll receive training and mentorship from the fellowship program in partnership with respected organizations such as the First Amendment Coalition, Big Local, and the Dart Center, and seasoned journalists from across the country.

"At UC Berkeley Journalism, we are so grateful to host and shepherd this critical program for local journalism," said U.C. Berkeley Interim Dean Elena Conis. "Journalism is finally being seen as a public resource we cannot live without — a resource that requires ongoing investment."

UC Berkeley Journalism

Fellows and newsrooms are selected through a competitive process led by the fellowship staff and advisory board, with input from journalism faculty at California State University campuses.

"Our newsroom is thrilled and grateful to be selected for this invaluable opportunity," said KRCB News Director Greta Mart. "Shandra's storytelling chops and bilingual reporting skills will enable us to greatly expand our coverage of North Bay communities and issues. With Shandra on our team for the next two years, we will deliver on our promise to provide trusted, accurate and meaningful local news to our audience and beyond."

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More information and links:

[KRCB News home page](#)

[About the California Local News Fellowship](#)

[About the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education](#)





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Shandra Back

