



Next Generation Warning System Grant Program

With public television and radio stations playing an integral role in our nation's emergency communications, Congress has appropriated \$136 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant program to expand alert, warning, and interoperable communications to create a more resilient and secure public alerting system.

In 2022, Congress directed [FEMA](#) to award the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funding to establish and implement the competitive grant program, prioritizing public media stations serving rural communities and those in disaster-prone areas. On behalf of FEMA, CPB administers grant funding -- \$40 million in FY 2022, \$56 million in FY 2023, and \$40 million in FY 2024 -- to upgrade public television and radio station equipment and training that will result in enhanced alerting and warning capabilities.

As of March 2025, [42 public television and public radio stations](#) have been awarded NGWS grants from the FY 2022 (first round) funding. In addition, CPB received 175 station applications requesting more than \$110 million in the second round (FY 2023) of NGWS funding.

NGWS grants and reimbursements are administered according to federal requirements. Each grantee has a signed agreement that allows the station to spend funds for a project and then be reimbursed by CPB for allowable costs. CPB is then reimbursed by FEMA for the costs incurred.

NGWS grant funding is designed to:

- Enhance capacity of local broadcast stations to receive, broadcast, and redistribute emergency alert messages using the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) specifications.
- Allow for technical assistance for stations in determining equipment needs, purchasing, and installation.
- Enhance technology infrastructure to enable new broadcast services that improve the distribution of public alerts and warnings and strengthen infrastructure resilience with emergency generators and other equipment.
- Expand the delivery and distribution of emergency alert messages from IPAWS to fill gaps in alert and warning delivery in underserved areas.