

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Appropriation Request and Justification
FY 2025**

*Submitted to the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee
and
the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee*

March 11, 2024

*This document with links to relevant public broadcasting sites is available on our website at:
www.cpb.org*

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Overview of Public Media

Since the 1920s, people across the United States have launched public broadcasting stations in their communities to champion educational and informational programming and services. Today's public media system reaches nearly 99 percent of the U.S. population over-the-air and online across a range of digital platforms with free educational, news and public affairs programming and essential public safety services to rural and urban communities.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the steward of the federal government's taxpayer funding for public broadcasting, supports 390 grantees, representing 1,186 public radio stations and 158 grantees, representing 358 public television stations. These independently operated noncommercial, non-profit local public television and radio stations are each overseen by a local governing body.

Public television and radio stations have long played an integral role in our nation's emergency alert system, and the partnership between PBS, NPR and local stations provides resilience for our nation's public safety communications. With a national-local structure, public media entities can distribute national, state, and regional emergency alerts, and provide encrypted, geo-targeted alerts to local communities in times of need. Taken together, public media's infrastructure provides the broadest nationwide communications platform in the country.

Public media creates and distributes content that is by, for, and about Americans of all backgrounds, and its services foster dialogue between and among the American people. In addition to the critical local journalism that provides information to help communities respond to and recover from natural and human-made disasters, public media stations provide public safety and emergency alert services that help prepare and protect vulnerable communities. In a world where there are numerous outlets for information, public media continues to be America's most trusted and reliable institution for news and informational programming.

Section I- Department of Homeland Security Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) Funding Request

CPB supports a \$56 million request for NGWS in FY 2025

Today, we join the public broadcasting community in supporting a \$56 million appropriation in FY 2025 for the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Assistance Grants account. As part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), this competitive grant program will utilize public broadcasting to enable the expansion of alert, warning and interoperable communications and the incorporation of emerging technology in those activities, consistent with the recommendations in the *Modernizing the Nation's Public Alert and Warning System* report from the FEMA National Advisory Council, February 15, 2019.

NGWS enables public telecommunications entities, as defined in 47 USC 397(11), to procure, construct and improve transmission and other public safety-related equipment, software, and services, including ATSC 3.0 and comparable digital broadcast technology for radio stations. This will result in enhanced alerting and warning capabilities that serve all Americans.

NGWS Grant Program Update

In March 2022, Congress provided FEMA IPAWS with \$40 million in the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act for a Next Generation Warning System grant program. In response to FEMA's FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), in September 2022, CPB was awarded \$40 million in FY 2022-appropriated funds to administer and achieve FEMA's goals for the program through sub-grants to public television and radio stations.

Starting in October 2022 and continuing throughout 2023, CPB coordinated with partners at FEMA to establish the NGWS grant program's structure and parameters and educate the grant's target audience on the program requirements. This work included holding bi-weekly meetings with FEMA staff; hiring CPB's NGWS grant program Executive Director, Budget and Compliance Officer, and two Project Managers; soliciting a firm to provide technical assistance to stations through a competitive RFP process; adopting a new procurement policy with outside counsel; conducting a station survey to determine station demand and capabilities; establishing grant policies, developing the grant application and scoring rubric, and opening the request for applications (RFA) portal to public broadcasting stations. In addition, CPB briefed 13 public media affinity groups on the grant, hosted webinars—attended by more than 500 people—to inform and educate stations on the application process, and published FAQs to CPB's website. In numerous forums, leaders at local stations have praised CPB's NGWS team for their outreach and open lines of communication during the application process.

In August 2023, FEMA released a second NGWS NOFO¹ for \$56 million in FY 2023-appropriated funds. In September 2023, CPB was awarded the NGWS grant. The FY 2023 NGWS grant program maintains the goals and objectives that were set forth in the [FY 2022 NOFO](#). Currently, the funding need for these public safety projects outpaces the financial resources of the grant program. The additional funds will enable CPB to provide enhanced broadcast equipment to more entities as well as expand the scale of support for projects awarded.

In November 2023, CPB received nearly 270 applications from stations in 49 states and the Virgin Islands, requesting approximately \$150 million in funding for projects that would support their ability to deliver public safety information in their communities. Many applications were from stations representing rural communities. For example, stations in Alaska submitted 23 applications totaling more than \$9 million in total funding requested. The State Licensees in South Dakota and Wyoming requested more than \$12 million in combined funding. In addition, 16 of the applications for the program came from tribal-owned or tribal-controlled stations.

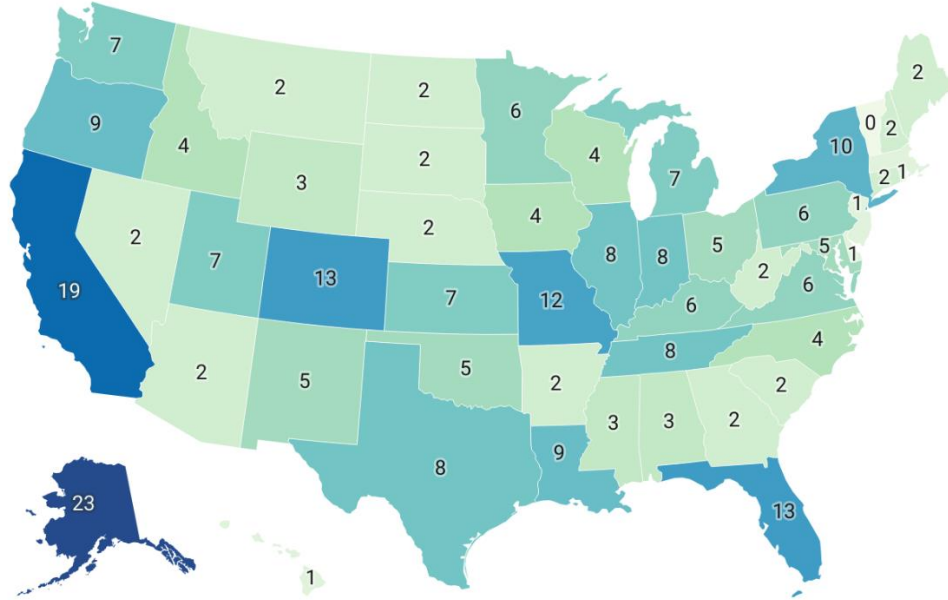
Projects represented in the NGWS applications address the following hardware and software needs that support emergency alerting:

- replace aging and outdated EAS encoders that monitor and receive messages from alerting authorities;
- replace and relocate broadcast transmitters with new equipment that allows for deeper penetration in mountainous areas, expanding service to new audiences;
- install HVAC equipment that prevents overheating of equipment that is essential for broadcasting public safety messages;
- install or replace software that can issue locally generated emergency alerts and warnings;
- obtain and replace generators that will increase the duration of backup power, which is critical for continuity of emergency services; and
- replace other essential equipment, including translators, routing and production switchers, antennas, studio transmission lines, and more.

¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency, Notice of Funding Opportunity Next Generation Warning System Grant (2023).

Number of Applications Per State

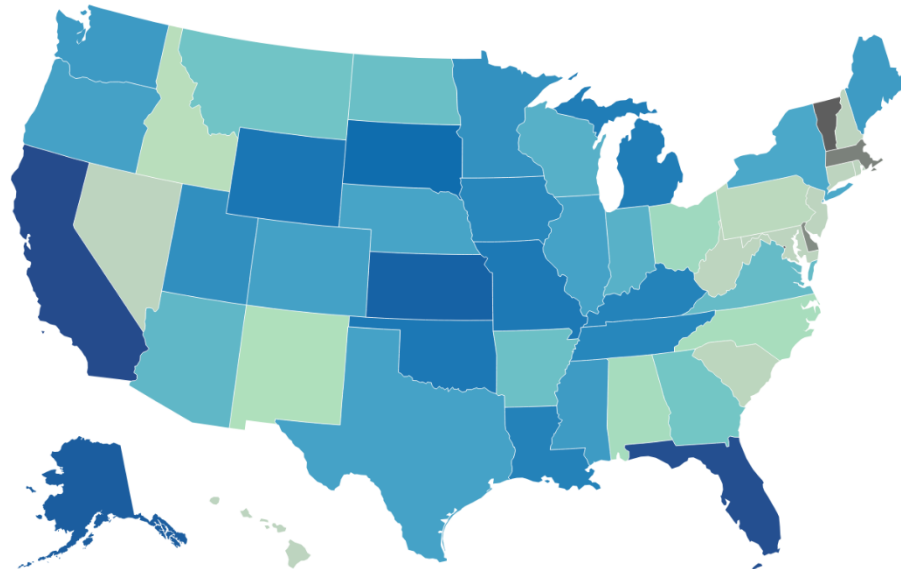
of applications



Created with Datawrapper

Total Application Dollars Per State

Amount of application \$\$



Created with Datawrapper

In September 2023, CPB awarded the first two subgrants of the NGWS program. Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), a statewide network of eight public television and eight public radio stations, received \$221,000 to upgrade its Emergency Alert System (EAS) encoders to expand the capacity and targeting of its emergency alerts throughout the state.

MPB's ability to serve as an emergency communications provider is critical as the state is ranked among the top three most disaster-prone in the country. Since 2000, Mississippi has experienced 50 disaster declarations, including three hurricanes.² The state also commonly experiences tornadoes, averaging 50 per year. MPB is the only station that has provided statewide updates in every one of these emergencies. Before updating its equipment, MPB's equipment lacked the ability to send geo-targeted emergency messages. In describing the rationale behind their application, MPB Executive Director Royal Aills stated³,

“If a storm goes through the northern part of Mississippi and we put out an alert, it affects all of Mississippi, and the folks on the coastline, they're not going to be affected by the storm, but they're going to hear about it. What we want to do is purchase encoders that would allow us to only broadcast to affected areas.”

In Fort Pierce, Florida, Indian River State College Public Media (IRSC), which operates public radio stations WQCS, WQCP and WQJS, received \$165,680 to purchase and install an HD transmission line and antenna to a tower in Okeechobee, Florida. This will improve its ability to broadcast emergency alerts and will expand its coverage to previously unserved audiences, including the Seminole Tribal community of Brighton Reservation. “Okeechobee County and the entire Lake Okeechobee area is extremely underserved because it's split between four radio markets and three television markets, and it doesn't make up a large chunk of any of them. So, it often gets neglected by media in general,” IRSC General Manager Chris Puorro stated.

In FY 2024, CPB will solicit applications and award grants to stations on a rolling basis. Applicants will have 60 days to submit their application or update a pending application through CPB's grant management system. CPB is currently announcing this funding opportunity through various communications mediums and via public media's national organizations and affinity groups.

To further assist eligible entities in the application process, CPB recently utilized NGWS administration funding to contract with a third-party firm for technical advising and administrative assistance. The third-party consulting firm will assist with tasks such as the evaluation of equipment needs, equipment acquisition, and equipment distribution, as well as support television and radio stations that lack the resources to accurately determine the equipment and services needed and/or comply with federal acquisition requirements and other grant conditions. A similar approach was successfully used during public media's conversion from analog to digital broadcasting in the early 2000s.

CPB may also contract with other providers to assist sub-grantees with their administration of the NGWS grant program. Services available to sub-grantees could include assistance with the

² Visé, D. de. (2023, March 15). Here are the most and least disaster-prone states. The Hill. <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3900281-most-least-disaster-prone-states-us/>

³ Wyllie, J., & Wyllie, J. (2023, October 16). *CPB names first Next Generation Warning System grantees*. Current. <https://current.org/2023/10/cpb-names-first-next-generation-warning-system-grantees/>

application process, post-award compliance, and close-out. These additional resources are especially important for small, rural, and Tribal stations with limited experience and resources.

NGWS Grant Program Priorities

FEMA designed the NGWS grant program to incorporate emerging technology for the expansion of alert, warning, and interoperable communications at public broadcasting stations. In responding to FEMA’s two NOFOs, CPB articulated its strategy to meet Congress’ intent for equipment funding for stations and FEMA’s priorities—funding for small, rural, and minority stations—and established a timeline for hiring personnel, opening the grant for applications, and making awards. In administering this grant, CPB, like Congress and FEMA, is focused on the grant’s “outcomes” not “outputs.”

The NGWS grant program enables a more resilient and secure public alerting system, delivered through our nation’s public media stations. Specifically, FY 2025 grant funds would continue to:

- Enhance capacity of national public media organizations and local broadcast stations to receive, broadcast, and redistribute emergency alert messages using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) specifications;
- Upgrade stations’ transmission equipment to ATSC 3.0 broadcast standards;
- Enhance technology infrastructure to enable new, enhanced 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;
- Enable training of station personnel to install and work with upgraded equipment and software;
- Strengthen existing situational awareness tools to meet the evolving needs of emergency managers; and
- Enable the communication of alerts and warnings to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited English proficiency.

CPB achieves FEMA’s goals through subgrants to public television and radio stations for equipment and training that will enable upgrades to ATSC 3.0 broadcast technology for television stations and comparable digital broadcast technology for radio stations. A particular focus will be placed on outreach to communities with the greatest need, primarily in rural and Tribal areas. See appendix B for priorities funding areas for the NGWS grant program.

System Infrastructure Needs

In 2017, CPB commissioned a comprehensive System Technology Assessment to better understand public television and radio stations’ technology challenges and needs. The station response rate was unprecedented (73 percent of radio and 92 percent of television licensees), cataloging more than 60,000 pieces of equipment throughout the system that need to be updated

or replaced. This Assessment projected that the system’s financial capacity to address its equipment repair and replacement issues would total more than \$300 million by 2020.⁴

While CPB does not have an updated system assessment, current applications for NGWS grant funding – totaling over \$150 million – indicate the financial challenges that some stations face in meeting their equipment needs. Without adequate resources to maintain and replace broadcast transmission infrastructure on schedule, TV and radio licensees of all sizes and types could face operating challenges nationwide, disrupting the essential public safety service these stations provide. The elimination of critical federal funding resources more than a decade ago has contributed to the growing financial needs for licensees nationwide as aging infrastructure challenge the nation’s public media networks. A \$56 million appropriation for the NGWS in FY 2025 would help public media sustain its transmission infrastructure.

Public Media’s Role in Public Safety

Combined, public television and public radio stations reach nearly 99 percent of the American population. With its nearly ubiquitous reach, Congress and first responders recognize public media stations as a critical component of our nation’s public safety network. Since September 11, 2001, CPB has invested in building local station capacity to assist emergency service providers. Currently, in many states and local communities, public media stations’ digital and broadcast infrastructure provide a backbone for emergency alert, public safety, first responder and homeland security communications services.

Public Television

In 2006, Congress passed the WARN Act, which established a voluntary system that allows cellular phone companies to notify their subscribers of imminent threats to life or property. Pursuant to the Act and subsequent FCC rules, the PBS WARN program was initiated to enable all public television stations to send every Wireless Emergency Alert (“WEA”) out over every public television transmitter to provide a "hardened, redundant" alternate path for the cellular companies' connection to the geotargeted alerts. Since 2013, public television has been an essential partner in the WEA system, helping to ensure that every alert reaches every person in the affected area. Public television stations are established lifesaving forces in their communities, even for people who might never turn on a television.

PBS WARN recently completed a total system overhaul to ensure compliance with the FCC’s WEA Report and Order 16-127, which mandated improvements to the WEA system. This update enabled PBS WARN to continue to provide a reliable backup to the WEA system at the FCC’s current specifications and also provided new, supported equipment to each public television licensee. These improvements serve as a starting point for stations to expand their public safety footprint, and the NGWS grant program will leverage this existing infrastructure to enhance and expand public safety services.

In March 2016, the FCC’s Communications, Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council’s (CSRIC) Working Group 2: “Emergency Alerting Platforms” acknowledged the importance of public broadcasting to alert dissemination, stating “PBS WARN is a safeguard to ensure delivery

⁴ CPB System Technology Assessment Final Report. Eagle Hill Consulting. May 21, 2017.
http://www.cpb.org/files/reports/Final_Report-CPB_System_Technology_Assessment_2017.pdf

of the WEA, even in the event that a cybersecurity or other event disrupts the primary WEA delivery path.”⁵

In June 2018, the FCC’s CSRIC Working Group 2 issued a final report on “Comprehensive Re-imagining of Emergency Alerting.”⁶ Section 6.4 of the Report identifies various ways public television, can support and improve emergency alerting, noting that:

“PBS and local public television stations play a crucial role in protecting communities by using datacasting to deliver essential information to individuals and first responders. These benefits are all made possible by public broadcasting stations’ unique reach, reliability, and role across America, and are especially vital in rural and underserved areas.”

The February 15, 2019, report, *Modernizing the Nation’s Public Alert and Warning System* from the FEMA National Advisory Council, truly cements the importance of public broadcasting’s role in public safety and identifies a need for continued partnerships, recommending that FEMA encourage “use of public broadcast capabilities to expand alert, warning, and interoperable communications capabilities to fill gaps in rural and underserved areas.”⁷

Public Safety & ATSC 3.0 (“NextGen TV”)

Currently, the broadcast television industry is undergoing a technology transition, including moving from the current broadcast standard Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) 1.0 to an Internet Protocol-based ATSC 3.0 standard, often called Next Generation (NextGen TV). In February 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published the standard for voluntary adoption by both public and commercial television broadcasters.

The public safety community is particularly interested in the NextGen TV transition for its potential to enhance public safety alerting. The NextGen TV standard could enable enhanced geo-targeting of alerts and provide comprehensive auxiliary data, such as evacuation routes and weather maps. Upgrading to NextGen TV/ATSC 3.0 will cost public television stations between \$600,000 and \$3 million, depending on how much work is needed.⁸

With Congress’ support for the Next Generation Warning System program, more public television stations, especially those serving rural and tribal communities, could have access to the financial resources necessary to partner with local public safety officials and first responders to test and deploy new emergency communications tools that enhance local public safety.

Eyes on IPAWS: Leveraging stations’ existing PBS WARN infrastructure to provide situational awareness tools to emergency management.

⁵ CSRIC VI, Working Group 2, Emergency Alerting Platforms: WEA Security Sub Final Report. March 2016. <https://www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/advisory-committees/communications-security-reliability-and-interoperability#block-menu-block-4>

⁶ CSRIC Final Report on “Comprehensive Re-imagining of Emergency Alerting.” June 2018. <https://www.fcc.gov/files/csric6wg29junereportcomppdf>

⁷Modernizing the Nation’s Public Alert and Warning System Report from the FEMA National Advisory Council, February 15, 2019. https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1550587427456-30d4179ee4fa8b97ecf4ab6bee76ace6/NAC_IPAWS_Subcommittee_Final_Report.pdf

⁸ <https://www.tvtechnology.com/news/noland-details-atsc-30-transition-costs-for-public-tv-stations>

At the request of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), PBS and Sacramento member station KVIE developed tools that would provide the state’s emergency managers a live feed of WEAs from their local public television station and access to expired and cancelled alerts. The alerts are in the Common Alerting Protocol format, which allows emergency managers to use the information for situational awareness, training, and data analytics.

The Eyes on IPAWS tool, comprised of an antenna, a receiver, and a window-based app, allows the user to access the output from their local public television station’s PBS WARN feed. Knowing that there were potential use cases that would benefit the easy access of an Internet-based feed of the WEA alerts, PBS developed warn.pbs.org, a website that displays active alerts across the country with the ability to filter alerts based on alert type, location, and keyword searches and a look-back feature for expired and cancelled alerts. This site has been recommended by FEMA to all alert originators. Expanding and supporting these situational awareness tools would provide valuable resources to emergency managers nationwide for the incremental costs of software development, testing, installation, and support.

Public Radio

The Public Radio Satellite System® (PRSS), managed by NPR, receives a national EAS feed directly from FEMA to send Presidential emergency alerts to local public radio stations, including NPR member and non-member stations. NPR/PRSS is also named as a resource in at least 20 states’ emergency plans, according to the FCC.⁹ Many of the public radio stations in these states serve as Primary Entry Point (PEP) stations. The PRSS network includes almost 400 interconnected stations, which serve 1,247 local public radio stations. This large national network supports secure, reliable communications during emergencies without relying on the Internet, which may be offline or unreliable.

NPR/PRSS, with financial support from CPB, has helped public radio stations implement MetaPub technology so they are capable of sending text and image metadata simultaneously with their live radio broadcasts.¹⁰ For example, the emergency alert information from state, regional and local emergency officials, such as tornado and hurricane warnings, evacuation routes, and COVID-19 information, can be heard and seen on mobile phones, HD radios, “connected car” smart dashboards, smart home speakers and other radio data system displays, and via online audio streaming. Today, approximately 12 percent of interconnected public radio stations have the capability to issue live text alerts using the MetaPub system in the event of a natural or humanmade disaster.

⁹ <https://www.fcc.gov/public-safety-and-homeland-security/policy-and-licensing-division/alerting/general/state-eas-plans>

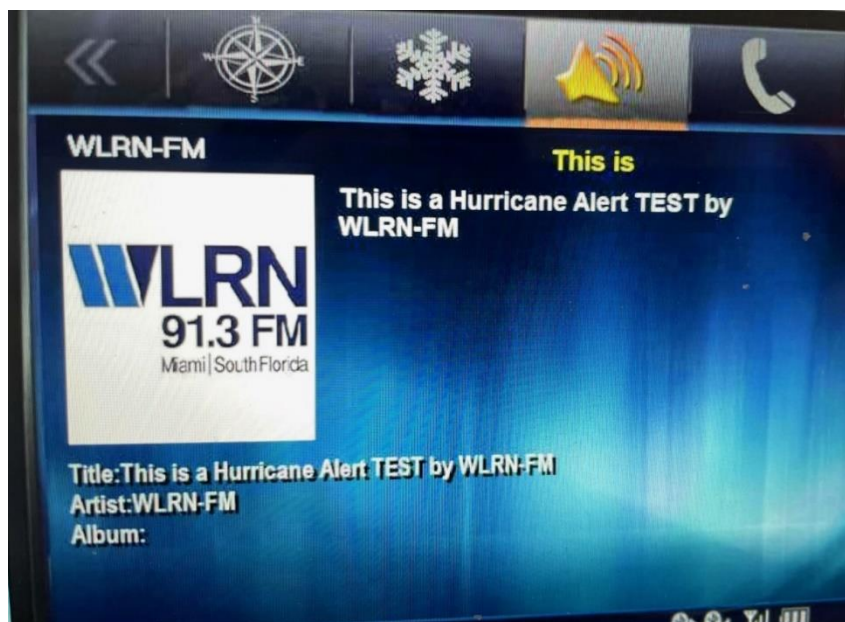
¹⁰ Metadata is descriptive information about programming (it could be station identification, logo, program, air date, topic, host or reporter names, photos, graphics, maps, and the format could be text, images, or links).



The first MetaPub alert for a non-weather event was issued by WVIK-FM, in Rock Island, Illinois. The station, which serves the Quad Cities area and is a licensee of Augustana College, alerted listeners and viewers to COVID-19 information.

In cooperation with the Rock Island County, Illinois, Emergency Management Agency (“EMA”), WVIK (pictured above) is the primary relay station for emergency information concerning the Exelon Quad Cities nuclear power generating station. In the event of an emergency at the nuclear plant, the county agency will contact station personnel, and the station will broadcast the EMA message.

Initial grants from CPB enabled MetaPub equipment to be installed at stations in California, in parts of the Midwest, including “Tornado Alley,” and in stations serving the Gulf Coast and southeastern United States. Funding for the Next Generation Warning System program could provide all public radio stations with access to funds to install MetaPub, enabling them to issue and disseminate enhanced local and regional alerts specific to their communities. The installation for the remaining stations across the country would cost nearly \$20,000 per station.



Hurricane test alert by Miami-based WLRN on car dashboard screen.

From a programming perspective, public radio stations keep their audiences informed continuously during disasters across broadcast and digital platforms. For example, when natural disasters fall short of triggering an EAS alert, public radio stations still provide local weather alerts, announcements from local officials, and information on where residents can access emergency services.¹¹

In rural and remote areas, public media is often the only source of local news and public safety information, and native-owned public media stations serve some of the most remote and least connected areas in the nation. These stations partner with the tribal governments, local public safety officials, local health agencies, and Regional Bureau of Indian Affairs offices to distribute essential health and safety information. For example, KBRW-AM in Barrow, Alaska is the only broadcast service available in an area of more than 90,000 square miles. The station airs programming and announcements, in English and Inupiat, from the Borough School District, health department and local hospital and police departments. Without stations' broadcast infrastructure, many Americans, especially those in rural areas, would lack access to lifesaving information and public safety alerts.

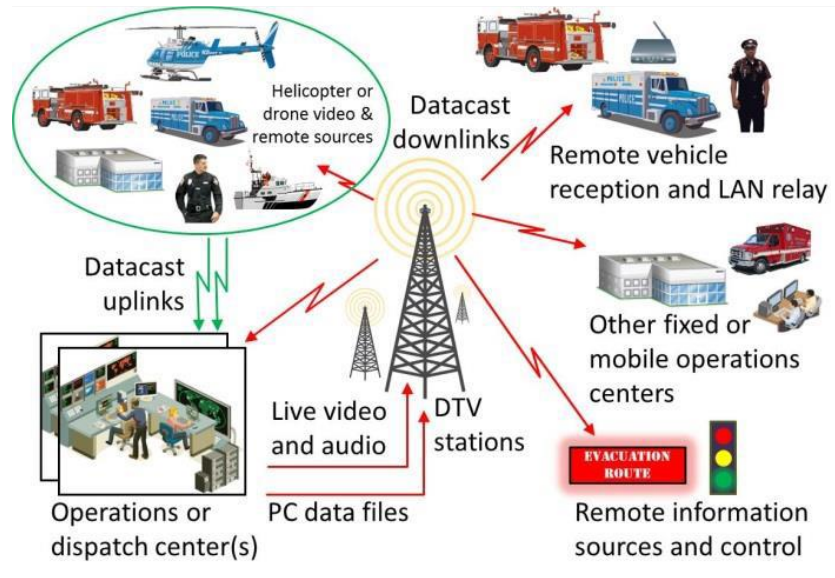
Public radio also requires funding to support the refurbishment and maintenance of state and regional public radio networks. These networks enable local stations to expand their reach statewide or regionally by connecting multiple transmitters by satellite. Similar to the national interconnection system, each regional network is a critical communications link to rural, underserved communities across America – especially during emergencies.

Public Safety Station Examples

¹¹ NPR's comments to the Federal Communications Commission on "Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications." December 6, 2021. <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1206157775505/NPR%20Resilient%20Networks%20NPRM%20Comments.pdf>

- At the national level, between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, nearly 8,500 WEAs were issued by federal, state, and local authorities and transmitted over the PBS WARN system throughout the country, demonstrating the widespread utility of this life-saving technology.
- KUAC-FM (Fairbanks, AK) provides satellite connections for the Alaska Rural Communications System, a programming stream, including the emergency broadcast system, for Alaskans in rural and native communities with no access to over-the-air translator signals.
- The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television (“UNC-TV”) uses its statewide broadcast network, livestreaming capabilities, and digital platforms to provide vital information to the public. UNC-TV is a crucial link between public officials and the more than ten million North Carolina citizens before, during and after emergencies. This essential service includes:
 - UNC-TV Transmission Sites: Over 40 Federal, State, and Local agencies, including law enforcement and emergency management organizations, depend on 20 UNC-TV towers for their communication systems.
 - UNC-TV Distribution Networks: The UNC-TV microwave radio infrastructure serves as the critical backbone for the State Highway Patrol and North Carolina Emergency Management communication networks.
 - UNC-TV Emergency Broadcasts: UNC-TV broadcasts, streams, and distributes vital emergency information accessible via various media and digital platforms. This information includes North Carolina Emergency Operations Center briefings from the Governor and other National, State and Local authorities.
- Approximately ten years ago, WUFT-FM (Gainesville, FL) and the collaboration of public media stations throughout Florida created the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network or “FPREN,” which provides public media with the tools to deliver comprehensive public safety and emergency communications across broadcast and digital platforms to support listeners, emergency management officials, and first responders. FPREN has provided real-time multimedia content to public media in Florida for various severe weather events, including Hurricanes Ian, Irma, Michael, and Matthew. Two years ago, FPREN expanded its service to include the South Carolina Emergency Information Network. In 2023, the FPREN team was awarded the Florida Government Productivity Award by Florida TaxWatch. FPREN was also awarded the 2024 Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA) Media Award for their outstanding efforts in educating and informing the public about emergency management.
- During weather emergencies, the Houston Fire Department and Houston Police Department can use Houston Public Media’s datacasting technology to stream live video of weather conditions and fire hazards to the Emergency Operations Center. Datacasting also provides first responders with the ability to securely communicate during the crisis to help them assess conditions and make informed decisions. When needed, Houston

Public Media can use its radio multicast channels to broadcast multiple programs at once to provide comprehensive storm coverage to listeners.



- In Ohio, OEAS Public AlertNet covers the entire state with a project that supports emergency alerting bound for the public. A companion to the existing EAS system, AlertNet does not rely on the Internet and provides a common infrastructure tying all eight Ohio public TV licensees and their 12 public television stations together for future public safety needs.¹² Nationwide deployment of the AlertNet concept could help meet one of the recommendations from the FEMA National Advisory Council to use “public media broadcasts as one such technology to supplement the national ‘Primary Entry Point’ (PEP) strategy,”¹³ ensuring that all-hazard alerts reach the intended recipients every time.
- Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) provides real-time health and public safety warnings and alerts for multi-lingual audiences. This service fills a communication gap for police, fire, emergency management and other “initiators of warning and alerts” by working with public safety and cultural communities to pre-load or customize messages so broadcast viewers can see and hear warnings and alerts in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.¹⁴
- Maine Public Broadcasting Network makes its statewide spectrum available to federal and state authorities to communicate with first responders and the media in the event of an emergency. The one-way closed communication system is designed to work even when Internet connections and electricity are not working.

¹² <https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/ohio-digital-alerting-system-is-active>

¹³ Modernizing the Nation’s Public Alert and Warning System Report from the FEMA National Advisory Council, February 15, 2019. https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1550587427456-30d4179ee4fa8b97ecf4ab6bee76ace6/NAC_IPAWS_Subcommittee_Final_Report.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.twincities.com/2019/07/07/local-station-wants-to-be-source-for-limited-english-speaking-communities-before-and-after-a-crisis/>

- Vegas Public Television works with Clark County Emergency Management to provide an immediate alternate phone bank, using existing pledge banks, to take non-emergency calls during an incident that taxes primary emergency operations centers. Vegas PBS also has a partnership with emergency officials that includes a database of floor plans and student contact information for more than 400 school buildings, all of it available instantly to first responders via the station's datacasting system. It was unexpectedly used during a recent forest fire near one school.
- New Hampshire PBS (NHPBS) is part of a microwave network across the state that services Homeland Security, the Departments of Safety, Transportation, Economic Development, and the National Guard. Funds from a newly created Next Generation Resilient Warning System account could be used to maintain equipment for this important network. Further, NHPBS is located within 30 miles of a nuclear power plant and 90 minutes north of Boston. Should there be a major event along the New Hampshire seacoast or Boston south, the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Interoperability Office projects many people from the south heading to the north and west to evacuate. To provide emergency support services in this scenario, NHPBS would need to: 1) upgrade the studio generator to power the entire building including the studio; 2) upgrade the uninterruptable power system (UPS) to handle the entire building; 3) procure a new LED lighting system to reduce power loads; and 4) upgrade the phone system to handle emergency communications for the region.
- WHRO Public Media in Hampton Roads, Virginia, interconnects the public safety agencies in the area with multiple emergency operation centers (EOCs) and other critical public safety locations via their optical fiber network. Through cooperative efforts, WHRO connects to this network and receives video content from any connected EOC. The use of standard video conferencing equipment turns every EOC into a broadcast-ready location for press briefings and on-air news conferences.
- Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) partners with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to distribute critical information in times of emergency. Along with standard EAS alerts for radio and television, GPB serves as the official distributor of evacuation route information during State-ordered evacuations. Evacuation route signs are marked with corresponding radio station frequencies. In an emergency, GPB interrupts regular programming to provide lifesaving information. GPB also works directly with the Governor's office to deliver critical updates from the Governor and GEMA officials over radio and over GPB's digital services including web, and mobile apps.
- Tennessee public television stations (WKNO, Memphis; WLJT, Lexington; WNPT, Nashville; WCTE, Cookeville; East Tennessee PBS, Knoxville; and WTCI, Chattanooga) use part of their broadcast spectrum to deliver encrypted videos, files, alerts, and other data to officials statewide, as needed, during emergencies and natural disasters.
- South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) is responsible for the ownership and management of all state transmitter sites and interconnecting networks. This includes infrastructure used by and implemented for state public safety and government operational radio systems. This is one of several examples where public media entities host or share site costs, emergency power and technical staff resources.

- KVIE public television in Sacramento has worked with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to figure out how to deliver early earthquake warnings faster. In a field test using public television's datacasting ability, an early earthquake warning was delivered in under three seconds. The previous warning standard was 30 seconds. Four other California public television stations, KPBS in San Diego, KQED in San Francisco, PBS SoCal in Los Angeles, and Valley PBS in Fresno participated in subsequent testing of public television's system for earthquake early warnings.
- Maryland Public Television partners with the State of Maryland on Maryland First, a statewide radio network linking state and local first responders, which is part of the state's Statewide Public Safety Communications System. The communications network supports interoperable communications throughout the State of Maryland between State agencies and with county/local, bordering States and Federal public safety agencies.
- KSVR-FM (Mount Vernon, WA) partners with the Mount Vernon Police Department to allow local police officers to record and broadcast messages, in English and Spanish, to provide the latest information on policing, crimes, and crime prevention.

FY 2025 PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

Federal Funds

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY- FEMA, OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

Of the amounts made available to the Department of Homeland Security Operations and Support account for fiscal year 2025, \$56,000,000 for the Next Generation Warning System as part of the Emergency Alert System.

Budget Language

Next Generation Warning System- This recommendation includes \$56,000,000 for the Next Generation Warning System as part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. The Committee expects FEMA to work with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to implement this program for public broadcasting entities, as defined by 47 USC 397(11).

Appendix A
NGWS Application Funding Needs

Organization	State/Territory	Total Project \$ Requested
Kashunamiut School District	AK	\$1,541,905.00
Unakleet Broadcasting, Inc.	AK	\$5,780.00
Aleutian Peninsula Broadcasting, Inc.	AK	\$5,780.00
Bethel Broadcasting, Inc.	AK	\$252,082.62
KDLG-AM	AK	\$8,530.00
Pribilof School District Board of Education	AK	\$20,000.00
Kuskokwim Public Broadcasting Corporation	AK	\$454,000.00
CoastAlaska, Inc.	AK	\$84,535.00
Koahnic Broadcast Corporation	AK	\$394,089.22
Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc.	AK	\$85,959.00
Unalaska Community Broadcasting, Inc.	AK	\$246,048.00
Kodiak Public Broadcasting Corporation	AK	\$47,915.00
KTOO-FM	AK	\$229,280.00
Lynn Canal Broadcasting	AK	\$75,000.00
Kachemak Bay Broadcasting, Inc. (KBBI)	AK	\$5,780.00
Raven Radio (KCAW)	AK	\$386,959.58
KDLL-FM	AK	\$230,337.08
Terminal Radio Inc.	AK	\$103,292.00
Narrows Broadcasting Corporation	AK	\$31,850.00
Rainbird Community Broadcasting Corporation	AK	\$160,329.78
Alaska Public Media	AK	\$2,316,440.05
Big Cabbage Radio	AK	\$8,717.00
KUAC FM	AK	\$2,691,658.24
AK Total		\$9,386,267.57
Alabama A&M University	AL	\$223,876.16
Alabama Public Television	AL	\$455,252.95
University of Alabama Board of Trustees	AL	\$723,225.70
AL Total		\$1,402,354.81
Arkansas Educational Television Network	AR	\$89,252.31
Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona State University	AR	\$1,825,000.00
AR Total		\$1,914,252.31
Arizona Public Media (KUAT TV)	AZ	\$1,960,363.00
Maricopa County Community College District	AZ	\$221,886.00
AZ Total		\$2,182,249.00

Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project	CA	\$500,000.00
Pala Band of Mission Indians	CA	\$181,666.00
KCET	CA	\$2,708,763.00
KQED, INC.	CA	\$369,743.75
San Diego State University Research Foundation on behalf of KPBS	CA	\$2,425,852.05
KVIE, Inc.	CA	\$37,923.50
KVMR	CA	\$210,159.69
Radio Bilingue, Inc.	CA	\$2,814,378.00
Redwood Community Radio	CA	\$81,543.62
San Mateo Community College District	CA	\$220,000.00
White Ash Broadcasting, Inc.	CA	\$30,139.44
California State University, Northridge/KCSN-FM	CA	\$2,601.26
Estero Bay Community Radio	CA	\$12,719.00
Northern California Educational TV (KIXE)	CA	\$780,057.00
Golden Valley Community Broadcasters	CA	\$81,501.56
KBUU-LP	CA	\$168,724.00
KEET-TV	CA	\$248,868.31
KXFM	CA	\$213,500.00
Mendocino County Public Broadcasting	CA	\$808,296.36
CA Total		\$11,896,436.54
KSUT Trial Radio (Kute, Inc.)	CO	\$527,666.00
KZET-FM	CO	\$116,964.83
Crested Butte Mountain Educational Radio, Inc.	CO	\$35,000.00
North Fork Valley Public Radio, Inc.	CO	\$212,678.52
San Miguel Educational Fund	CO	\$74,189.64
Carbondale Community Access Radio	CO	\$316,944.28
Colorado Public Radio	CO	\$42,352.00
Colorado Public Television, Inc.	CO	\$596,370.40
Community Radio for Northern Colorado	CO	\$50,570.00
Aspen Public Radio	CO	\$270,122.00
Boulder Community Broadcasting Association, Inc.	CO	\$305,767.00
Grand Valley Public Radio Company, Inc.	CO	\$22,700.00
Rocky Mountain Public Media	CO	\$396,435.00
CO Total		\$2,967,759.67
Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc.	CT	\$177,037.29
Sacred Heart University, Inc.	CT	\$525,094.00
CT Total		\$702,131.29
Delaware First Media Corporation	DE	\$33,314.00
DE Total		\$33,314.00
Florida State University	FL	\$213,903.30

University of Florida Board of Trustees	FL	\$4,508,719.00
Community Communications, Inc.	FL	\$229,413.66
Community Broadband Radio Association, Inc.	FL	\$15,000.00
Gulf Coast Community College	FL	\$175,000.00
Indian River State College	FL	\$150,618.51
Palm Harbor Radio Inc.	FL	\$34,570.00
WSRE-TV Foundation, Inc.	FL	\$402,688.00
University of West Florida	FL	\$219,580.00
WGCU-TV	FL	\$566,619.13
WJCT, Inc.	FL	\$500,000.00
WUCF TV	FL	\$103,275.48
Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting, Inc.	FL	\$4,292,881.50
FL Total		\$11,412,268.58
Clark College	GA	\$213,686.00
WABE-FM	GA	\$1,553,824.08
GA Total		\$1,767,510.08
Hawaii Public Television Foundation	HI	\$155,278.00
HI Total		\$155,278.00
KWIT-FM	IA	\$108,158.53
Iowa PBS	IA	\$3,670,275.00
Iowa Public Radio	IA	\$470,484.35
The Des Moines Community Radio Foundation	IA	\$10,000.00
IA Total		\$4,258,917.88
KIYE-FM	ID	\$285,000.00
Boise State University	ID	\$105,225.00
Idaho Public Television	ID	\$660,184.00
KISU-FM	ID	\$33,326.00
ID Total		\$1,083,735.00
Board of Trustees, Southern Illinois University	IL	\$1,613,000.00
Western Illinois University	IL	\$148,857.13
Augustana College	IL	\$125,300.80
Western Illinois University	IL	\$258,302.00
WGLT-FM	IL	\$121,643.00
WNIU-FM/Northern Illinois University	IL	\$300,000.00
The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	IL	\$34,910.00
University of Illinois at Springfield	IL	\$332,746.00
IL Total		\$2,934,758.93
Michiana Public Broadcasting Corporation	IN	\$89,707.86
Fort Wayne Public Television, Inc.	IN	\$168,258.28
WNIN Tri-State Public Media, Inc.	IN	\$159,734.00
Ball State Public Media	IN	\$929,599.00

Bloomington Community Radio, Inc	IN	\$14,500.00
Jasper High School	IN	\$55,838.00
Lakeshore Public Media	IN	\$861,002.27
Northeast Indiana Public Radio, Inc.	IN	\$87,870.63
IN Total		\$2,366,510.04
KRPS-FM	KS	\$128,129.08
Smoky Hills Public Television	KS	\$5,363,390.43
Kansas Public Telecommunications Services, Inc	KS	\$700,000.00
KTWU	KS	\$1,790,000.00
Hutchinson Community College	KS	\$48,120.00
KANZ-FM	KS	\$451,135.33
KMUW-FM	KS	\$250,094.16
KS Total		\$8,730,869.00
Board of Regents, Murray State University	KY	\$245,804.98
Kentucky Educational Television Foundation	KY	\$2,342,070.00
WEKU-FM	KY	\$347,347.00
Western Kentucky University	KY	\$1,383,328.25
University of Kentucky Board of Trustees	KY	\$180,323.94
Radiolex	KY	\$16,000.00
KY Total		\$4,514,874.17
Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting	LA	\$1,782,132.00
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	LA	\$28,059.54
CCW Enterprise	LA	\$42,000.00
Educational Broadcasting Foundation	LA	\$24,300.00
Greater New Orleans Educational Television Foundation	LA	\$1,370,054.00
Louisiana State University in Shreveport	LA	\$73,811.00
WRKF	LA	\$674,398.32
Southeastern Louisiana University	LA	\$180,801.00
WWNO-FM	LA	\$387,585.76
LA Total		\$4,563,141.62
Friends of MVYRADIO, Inc.	MA	\$26,000.00
MA Total		\$26,000.00
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	MD	\$20,570.00
Cove Mountain Educational Broadcasting Inc.	MD	\$67,395.00
Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission	MD	\$61,213.08
WHCP-FM	MD	\$310,687.00
WYPR License Holding, LLC	MD	\$193,031.29
MD Total		\$652,896.37
Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation	ME	\$3,243,920.12
Salt Pond Community Broadcasting Inc.	ME	\$25,565.00

ME Total		\$3,269,485.12
Central Michigan University	MI	\$1,823,574.00
Delta College Public Media	MI	\$887,915.40
North Michigan University (WNMU-FM)	MI	\$935,930.42
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp	MI	\$330,000.00
Grand Valley State University	MI	\$608,790.00
Detroit Educational Television Foundation	MI	\$12,000.00
WEMU-FM	MI	\$225,000.00
MI Total		\$4,823,209.82
American Public Media	MN	\$203,100.00
Kawe-TV	MN	\$2,500,000.00
KKWE-FM	MN	\$306,915.00
The Duluth-Superior Educational Television Corporation	MN	\$643,163.00
Fresh Air, Incorporated	MN	\$53,950.48
KBEM-FM	MN	\$47,560.24
MN Total		\$3,754,688.72
KSMU-FM	MO	\$349,296.56
University of Central Missouri	MO	\$882,575.06
University of Missouri (KBIA)	MO	\$168,522.19
KQJN-LP	MO	\$6,156.00
Truman State University	MO	\$195,033.42
KCUR	MO	\$14,515.00
Mid-Coast Radio Project, Inc.	MO	\$5,500.00
Mutual Musicians Foundation, INC	MO	\$50,000.00
Park Public Radio, Inc.	MO	\$7,689.00
KCOU 88.1 FM	MO	\$35,317.00
Public Television 19, Inc.	MO	\$2,861,044.00
Saint Louis Regional Public Media Inc.	MO	\$435,261.79
MO Total		\$5,010,910.02
Mississippi Authority for Educational Television	MS	\$320,676.92
Mississippi Public Broadcasting	MS	\$2,430,514.77
Hancock County Amateur Radio Association Inc.	MS	\$500,000.00
MS Total		\$3,251,191.69
Montana Public Radio	MT	\$553,535.49
Montana State University on behalf of KUSM-TV	MT	\$1,260,100.00
MT Total		\$1,813,635.49
WTEB-FM	NC	\$670,225.00
Friends of Community Radio, Inc.	NC	\$36,370.00
Friends of Public Radio, WHQR	NC	\$178,652.86
University of North Carolina Center for Public Television	NC	\$501,283.35

NC Total		\$1,386,531.21
KMHA-FM	ND	\$1,082,648.45
Prairie Public Broadcasting, Inc.	ND	\$866,158.75
ND Total		\$1,948,807.20
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission	NE	\$2,728,600.00
Omaha Community Broadcasting	NE	\$101,525.00
NE Total		\$2,830,125.00
New Hampshire Public Radio, Inc.	NH	\$51,875.00
New Hampshire Public Broadcasting	NH	\$162,671.20
NH Total		\$214,546.20
New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority	NJ	\$391,684.25
NJ Total		\$391,684.25
Ramah Navajo School Board	NM	\$252,000.00
Gallup Public Radio	NM	\$150,000.00
New Mexico PBS	NM	\$701,019.00
Zuni Communications Authority	NM	\$25,000.00
San Juan College Board of Directors	NM	\$207,911.00
NM Total		\$1,335,930.00
End of the Trail Broadcast Project	NV	\$29,486.00
PBS Reno	NV	\$283,280.84
NV Total		\$312,766.84
New York Public Radio/WNYC Radio, Inc	NY	\$486,085.60
Radio Catskill, Inc.	NY	\$132,331.00
Mountain Lake PBS Telecommunications Council Inc	NY	\$181,063.00
St. Lawrence University	NY	\$104,921.09
St. Lawrence Valley Educational TV Council	NY	\$249,675.00
WSKG Public Telecommunications Council	NY	\$108,427.88
Central New York, WCNY - Public Broadcasting Council of Central NY	NY	\$995,472.33
WXXI Public Broadcasting Council	NY	\$239,105.00
Western New York Public Broadcasting Association	NY	\$88,250.80
WRVO-FM	NY	\$46,249.47
NY Total		\$2,631,581.17
WOUB-FM	OH	\$285,714.03
Cincinnati Public Radio, Inc.	OH	\$413,668.00
Greater Cincinnati Television Educational Foundation	OH	\$364,799.42
Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc.	OH	\$43,543.00
Ideastream Public Media	OH	\$342,320.00
OH Total		\$1,450,044.45

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation	OK	\$259,498.24
KOKT-LP	OK	\$1,500.00
KOSU Oklahoma State University	OK	\$392,810.00
Oklahoma Education Television Authority	OK	\$4,277,000.00
The University of Oklahoma	OK	\$226,175.41
OK Total		\$5,156,983.65
KWSO	OR	\$150,029.35
Southern Oregon University	OR	\$304,050.18
Curry Coast Community Radio	OR	\$171,400.00
KPIK-LP 96.5	OR	\$6,794.00
Lane County School District No. 4J	OR	\$181,090.00
Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon	OR	\$16,365.00
University of Oregon	OR	\$664,855.00
Lane Community College	OR	\$55,417.00
Southern Oregon Public Television, Inc.	OR	\$1,399,847.79
OR Total		\$2,949,848.32
Penn State University	PA	\$225,054.64
WQLN	PA	\$101,494.00
Northeastern Pennsylvania Educational Television Association	PA	\$202,014.00
WHYY, Inc.	PA	\$92,892.44
WITF, Inc.	PA	\$207,194.80
WQED Multimedia	PA	\$101,262.97
PA Total		\$929,912.85
Rhode Island Public Radio	RI	\$231,243.00
RI Total		\$231,243.00
South Carolina Educational Television Commission	SC	\$761,200.44
Tyger River Radio, LLC	SC	\$69,315.00
SC Total		\$830,515.44
Rosebud Sioux Tribe	SD	\$413,874.42
South Dakota Public Broadcasting	SD	\$6,633,702.00
SD Total		\$7,047,576.42
East Tennessee Public Communications Corporation	TN	\$546,516.54
The Greater Chattanooga Public Television Corporation	TN	\$139,182.04
Mid-South Public Communications Foundation	TN	\$1,572,032.00
Upper Cumberland Broadcast Council	TN	\$784,850.30
West Tennessee Public Television Council, Inc.	TN	\$631,437.16
Nashville Public Radio	TN	\$172,518.00
Nashville Public Television, Inc.	TN	\$251,677.00

WUTC-FM	TN	\$201,208.42
TN Total		\$4,299,421.46
KLRN Public Television	TX	\$501,296.70
Permian Basin Public Telecommunications, Inc.	TX	\$76,813.00
Texas Public Radio	TX	\$316,659.10
KAMU-FM	TX	\$486,214.00
South Texas Public Broadcasting System, Inc.	TX	\$472,725.34
Wimberley Valley Radio	TX	\$84,000.00
Jazz ATX, Inc.	TX	\$990.00
North Texas Public Broadcasting, Inc.	TX	\$1,000,000.00
TX Total		\$2,938,698.14
Moab Public Radio, Inc.	UT	\$150,000.00
Community Wireless of Park City, Inc.	UT	\$30,150.20
KRCL-FM	UT	\$420,032.06
University of Utah	UT	\$1,618,242.00
Utah State University of Agriculture and Applied Science	UT	\$67,380.00
KUER	UT	\$205,697.77
University of Utah-KUED	UT	\$1,354,128.00
UT Total		\$3,845,630.03
Blue Ridge Public Television, Inc.	VA	\$1,012,185.64
University of Virginia (WTJU)	VA	\$25,000.00
Greater Washington Educational Telecommunications Assn, Inc.	VA	\$285,106.33
Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association	VA	\$407,171.90
Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc.	VA	\$144,336.97
WNRN	VA	\$186,565.77
VA Total		\$2,060,366.61
Virgin Islands Public Television System	VI	\$246,610.28
VI Total		\$246,610.28
Bates Technical College	WA	\$2,543,861.92
KBCS	WA	\$154,493.00
Kulshan Community Media	WA	\$42,833.55
Northwest Public Broadcasting	WA	\$497,125.00
Valley Community Broadcasting	WA	\$1,160.00
Grays Harbor Institute	WA	\$25,000.00
Van Zandt Community Hall Association	WA	\$44,000.00
WA Total		\$3,308,473.47
Wisconsin Educational Communications Board	WI	\$1,400,000.00
White Pine Community Broadcasting (WXPR)	WI	\$119,837.32
Driftless Community Radio, Inc.	WI	\$21,026.00

Milwaukee Area Technical College	WI	\$853,114.48
WI Total		\$2,393,977.80
Pocahontas Communications Cooperative Corporation	WV	\$15,734.00
West Virginia Public Broadcasting	WV	\$763,724.50
WV Total		\$779,458.50
KHOL-FM	WY	\$199,884.00
Wyoming Public Media (University of Wyoming)	WY	\$3,500,000.00
Wyoming Public Television	WY	\$1,777,320.00
WY Total		\$5,477,204.00

Appendix B Priority Funding Areas for the NGWS Grants

CPB’s proposal to FEMA stated that station applications will be reviewed, scored, and prioritized using the criteria below:

Priority funding areas for NGWSGP			
Priority One	Tribal/Minority/Rural stations serving underserved communities (TV and Radio)	Age of equipment to be replaced/new equipment to serve resilience purpose	
		Improved public safety/alerting service to be offered	
		Dedicated project management at the station and timeline for completing work	
		Geographic area special risk factors (e.g., hurricane, tornado, wildfire and predominant languages as a barrier)	
Priority Two	Small stations (TV and Radio)	Age of equipment to be replaced/new equipment to serve resilience purpose	Improved public safety/alerting service to be offered
			Dedicated project management at the station and timeline for completing work
		Geographic area special risk factors (e.g., hurricane, tornado, wildfire and predominant languages as a barrier)	
Priority Three	Other TV and Radio Stations	Age of equipment to be replaced/new equipment to serve resilience purpose	
		Improved public safety/alerting service to be offered	
		Dedicated project management at the station and timeline for completing work	
		Partnerships with local/regional/state emergency management officials	
		Geographic area special risk factors (e.g., hurricane, tornado, wildfire and predominant languages as a barrier)	