

Activity at a Glance

- 1.2 million people per week view programming of the Minnesota Public Television Association
- Approximately 276,000 people listen one or more times per week to the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS) radio programming with signal coverage reaching 95% of the state of Minnesota
- Over 900,000 Minnesotans listen to MPR stations weekly. Programming produced and distributed by MPR reaches 16 million people nationally each week
- MPR provides the state with infrastructure and services for the Emergency Broadcast System, the Amber Alert System, and the blind and visually impaired
- MPR's three program services are also available online at www.mpr.org
- Metro Cable Network reaches over 600,000 cabled households in the seven-county metro area

Activity Description

Public broadcasting is the grant administration program carried out for the legislature under specific appropriation language and M.S.129D.11-16. The program oversees this grant authority, disbursing funds in accordance with legislative appropriations and direction, and ensures compliance with statutory requirements.

Population Served

Television viewers and radio listeners throughout Minnesota are served by this activity.

Services Provided**Public Television**

State funds are used by six recipient stations to sustain their ability to serve as a major community resource providing educational, cultural, economic development, public affairs, and children's programming to the public, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, business corporations, and educational facilities. Public television also provides statewide over-the-air broadcast coverage of the House and Senate floor sessions and major committee hearings. In addition to over-the-air broadcast, all stations provide a variety of web services and video streaming. State grants are made in a direct and matching basis, consistent with the criteria established in M.S. 129D.11-16. Public Television signals cover approximately 95% of the state. State grants provide between three and 21% of individual stations' operating budgets.

The *Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment* through the Laws of 2009, Chapter 172, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5, appropriated funding from the arts and cultural heritage fund to the Department of Administration (Admin) for public television grants related to production and acquisitions (\$6,300,000). This funding enabled recipient stations to develop and broadcast numerous hours of arts, cultural, and history programming.

Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (AMPERS)

State funds are used to support radio stations operated by the 12 organizations belonging to the Association of Minnesota Public and Education Radio Stations (AMPERS). These organizations serve Minnesota residents through radio programming that is local, unique in their communities, broadly educational, reaching underserved audiences. One AMPERS station is the only local radio service in the community and assists in times of county emergencies or 911/Internet technology failures. The stations provide programming that is a diverse mix of community news, public affairs programming, and music designed to engage, inform, and interact with listeners. In addition to their 12 main stations, they operate ten translators/repeaters at other locations and one station broadcasts HD Digital radio.

The AMPERS stations cover approximately 95% of the population and 90% of the geography of the state serving 276,000 unique listeners per week. State grants provide between four and 60% of the individual stations' total annual budget.

The *Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment* through the Laws of 2009, Chapter 172, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5, appropriated funding from the arts and cultural heritage fund for grants to AMPERS for production and acquisitions (\$2,650,000). This funding allowed AMPERS stations to collaborate and share programs to reach new audiences, develop and deploy a new website that gives the public free access to programming, and build a vast archival source of arts, cultural, and history programming spotlighting the stories of Minnesota's rich heritage.

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)

Through its 41 stations and 39 translator stations, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) provides a broadcast signal to more than 95% of the state's population and most of its geography. Every week, 900,000 people tune into one of

ADMINISTRATION DEPT

Program: FISCAL AGENT

Activity: PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Narrative

MPR's three regional services (News, Classical Music, and The Current) for an average of six hours. Collectively, Minnesotans spend 5.7 million hours listening to MPR each week.

MPR's general fund investments – MPR's network is unique as a broadcast service because Minnesotans through the state can rely on MPR to provide vital security, safety, and public services including:

- the backbone to the statewide Emergency Broadcast System providing emergency signals to all other radio, television, and cable stations in Minnesota;
- the backbone to the statewide AMBER Alert System (child abduction warning system);
- the statewide broadcast infrastructure for *The Radio Talking book* – a reading service for blind and visually impaired persons in the state – in cooperation with the Minnesota State Services for the Blind;
- *Hmong Language Services*, serving the Hmong language population (on a subcarrier of KCMP in the Twin Cities) – in cooperation with Hmong Minnesota Radio;
- *Hybrid Digital (HD) Services*, including programming for children and young families (limited currently to Twin Cities stations until distribution of HD to other stations is funded).

Support from the state provides less than 2% of MPR's total capital and operating revenue during the FY 2010-2011 biennium. Over the past several years, state General Fund support has enabled MPR to build and maintain critical infrastructure in Greater Minnesota communities where population density is not amenable to other fundraising. Some of these communities include St. Peter, Roseau, Warroad, Granite Falls, Saint James, Windom, and several others.

The *Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment* through the Laws of 2009, Chapter 172, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5, appropriated funding from the arts and cultural heritage fund to Admin for grants to MPR to create new programming and events, expand regional news service, amplify Minnesota culture, and document Minnesota's history (\$2,650,000). This funding enabled MPR to expand its arts and cultural programming in innovative ways. With these funds, MPR has brought Minnesota artists and performers to the attention of previously underserved communities across the state. Measured by audience, MPR is the state's largest cultural nonprofit. Through its broadcast and web audiences, MPR is uniquely positioned to engage Minnesotans in art, arts education, and the preservation of Minnesota's history and cultural heritage. Since first receiving *Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment* funds, MPR has developed 15 unique projects that focus on expanding Minnesotans' access to art, arts education, Minnesota's history, and Minnesota's cultural heritage.

Twin Cities Regional Cable Channel - State funds are used to provide grant-in-aid to Twin Cities Regional Cable Channel, Inc., a nonprofit organization operating the Metro Cable Network. These state funds provide for approximately 5% of the Metro Cable Network operating budget. The network appears on Channel 6 on all metropolitan area cable systems presenting a wide range of programs about issues and activities of regional interest and significance as mandated by state statutes and designated by the Minnesota Cable Communications Board in 1985.

Activity Funding

This activity is funded through a General Fund appropriation and some of the entities receive funding, beginning in FY 2010, through the *Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment*.

Contact

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ADMINISTRATION DEPT
Program: FISCAL AGENT
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Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Governor's Recomm.		Biennium
	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	2012-13
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	2,015	1,866	1,866	1,866	3,732
Technical Adjustments					
Biennial Appropriations			66	66	132
Subtotal - Forecast Base	2,015	1,866	1,932	1,932	3,864
Total	2,015	1,866	1,932	1,932	3,864
Arts And Cultural Heritage					
Current Appropriation	5,100	6,500	6,500	6,500	13,000
Technical Adjustments					
One-time Appropriations			(6,500)	(6,500)	(13,000)
Subtotal - Forecast Base	5,100	6,500	0	0	0
Total	5,100	6,500	0	0	0
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	2,015	1,866	1,932	1,932	3,864
Arts And Cultural Heritage	5,049	6,435	0	0	0
Total	7,064	8,301	1,932	1,932	3,864
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Local Assistance	7,064	8,301	1,932	1,932	3,864
Total	7,064	8,301	1,932	1,932	3,864