

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. 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 98% of the state. State grants provide between three and 21% of individual stations’ operating budgets.

Public Radio

State funds are used to support the capital and operating needs of Association of Minnesota Public and Education Radio Stations (AMPERS) and capital projects (but no operating costs) for Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). Biennial grants to public radio stations are made pursuant to the underlying program established by M.S. 129D.14-16.

AMPERS - State funds are used to support radio stations operated by the 12 organizations belonging to AMPERS. These organizations serve Minnesota residents through radio programming that is local, unique in their communities, broadly educational, and serves underserved audiences. They provide programming designed to appeal to audiences not generally served by commercial broadcasters. In addition to their 12 main stations, they operate nine translators at other locations.

The AMPERS stations cover approximately 95% of the population and 90% of the geography of the state and serve 293,000 unique listeners per week. State grants provide between four and 60% of the individual stations’ total annual budget.

MPR – State funds are used to maintain, improve, and expand the Minnesota Public Radio Network (the “Statewide Network”), which provides virtually the entire state with both news/information and classical music programming. A third service, the Current, is broadcast in the Twin Cities and Rochester, providing new music programming with an emphasis on civic engagement and music by Minnesota artists. MPR’s three program services are also available online at www.mpr.org.

MPR broadcasts on 34 stations and 19 translators in Minnesota, reaching 750,000 listeners each week.

This network is unique as a broadcast service because it is relied upon by the state to provide vital security, safety, and public services including:

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ 1.2 million people per week view programming of the Minnesota Public Television Association.
- ◆ Public Radio stations provide news, information, cultural programming, and public services.
- ◆ Approximately 293,000 people listen one or more times per week to AMPERS public radio stations.
- ◆ 750,000 people listen to MPR stations weekly. Programming distributed by MPR reaches 15.4 million people nationally each week.
- ◆ MPR provides the state with infrastructure and services for the Emergency Broadcast System, for the Amber Alert System, and for the blind and visually impaired.
- ◆ Metro Cable Network reaches 600,000 cabled households in the seven-county metro area.

ADMINISTRATION DEPT

Program: FISCAL AGENT

Activity: PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Narrative

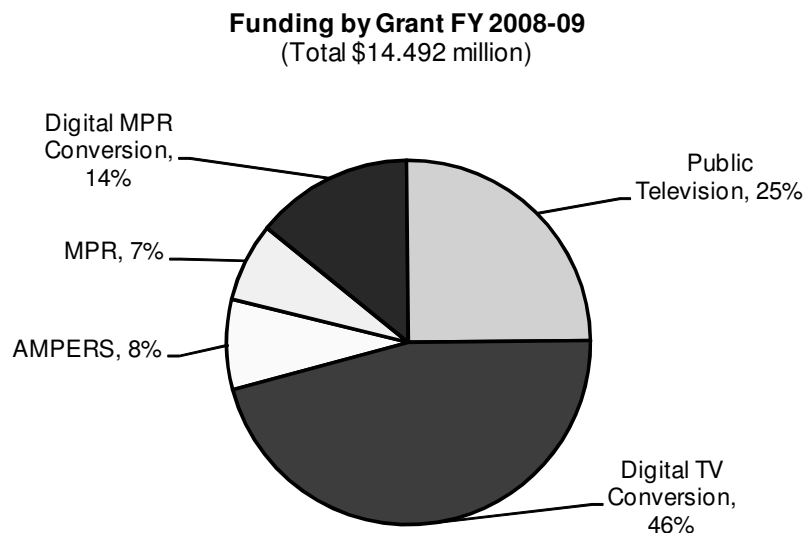
- ◆ The backbone of the statewide **Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)** providing emergency signals to all other radio, television, and cable stations in Minnesota;
- ◆ The backbone of the statewide **AMBER alert** system (child abduction warning system);
- ◆ The statewide broadcast infrastructure for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

Support from the state provided approximately 2% of MPR’s total capital and operating revenue during the FY 2007-08 biennium.

In addition to its regular capital and operating needs, public radio faces the immediate technical and ongoing financial challenge of converting to HD broadcasting. MPR has completed the digital conversion of 27 Minnesota stations, utilizing a \$2 million investment from the state matched by federal funds. MPR hopes to convert the seven remaining stations to HD during the FY 2009-10 biennium, also using state funds to match federal funds.

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.

Contact

Director
Phone: (651) 201-2563
www.admin.state.mn.us

ADMINISTRATION DEPT
Program: FISCAL AGENT
 Activity: PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	2010-11
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	12,971	1,955	1,955	1,955	3,910
Forecast Base	12,971	1,955	1,955	1,955	3,910
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	12,319	2,605	1,955	1,955	3,910
Total	12,319	2,605	1,955	1,955	3,910
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Other Operating Expenses	(2)	0	0	0	0
Local Assistance	12,321	2,605	1,955	1,955	3,910
Total	12,319	2,605	1,955	1,955	3,910