PUBLIC MEDIA BRIDGE FUND

A Public Media Company Initiative

Stabilization Grant — Application Questions

INTRODUCTION

The Public Media Bridge Fund Stabilization Grant (Stabilization Grant) is a one-time opportunity designed to help small local public media organizations facing immediate financial challenges following the loss of Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) support.

The Stabilization Grant opportunity is limited to qualified CPB Community Service Grant (CSG) grantees as of September 30, 2025 that have historically depended on CSG as a significant share of their revenue. Future Bridge Fund support opportunities will focus on sustainability and transformation and will use different eligibility criteria. We encourage you to register for updates so that you'll be informed as additional funding and support opportunities are developed.

If your organization operates more than one CPB grantee, please complete a separate application for each grantee you believe is eligible for stabilization funding.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To be eligible for a Stabilization Grant, applicants must be qualified CPB Community Service Grant (CSG) grantees as of September 30, 2025.

The PMBF is designed to support local public media organizations most at-risk of going dark due to the loss of CPB funding, and we are targeting stations for whom CSG's made up 30% or more of total revenue in FY2025 as potential grantees. However, we understand that the loss of CPB funding potentially threatens a broader range of local organizations. Therefore, we are accepting applications from stations for whom CSG's made up 25% or more of total revenue in FY2025. It is important to note that this lower threshold does not guarantee a grant from the PMBF. Individual grant amounts and the total number of station grantees will depend on available resources and the aggregate demonstrated need through this open process, as well as additional eligibility criteria.

In rare cases, a public media organization may have unusual or significantly changed circumstances that affect how CSG reliance appears in reported data (for example, state funding cuts since the FY2024 AFR/FSR data was submitted). To ensure fair and timely review, public media organizations with exceptional circumstances will be set aside for a separate review once standard applications are complete and as funding allows. If you believe this applies to your station, please briefly describe the circumstances below.

Please note that misrepresentation of financial data may result in disqualification.

Did your station receive an FY2025 Community Service Grant (CSG) from CPB?

☐ Yes – Please proceed to the next question.

☐ No – You are not eligible for funding. The Stabilization Grant application is only open to stations that were CSG-eligible in the most recent fiscal year. Please register for updates on the Public Media Bridge Fund website to be informed of future phases.

What percentage of your total grantee revenue in your most recently submitted AFR or FSR came from CSG? See below for instructions on how to calculate your percentage.

☐ 25% or more – Please proceed to the application. Please note that a 25% CSG dependency is the minimum requirement for eligibility. Meeting this threshold does not guarantee funding. Decisions will take into account your full application as well as the size of your organization and the limited resources available in the stabilization fund.

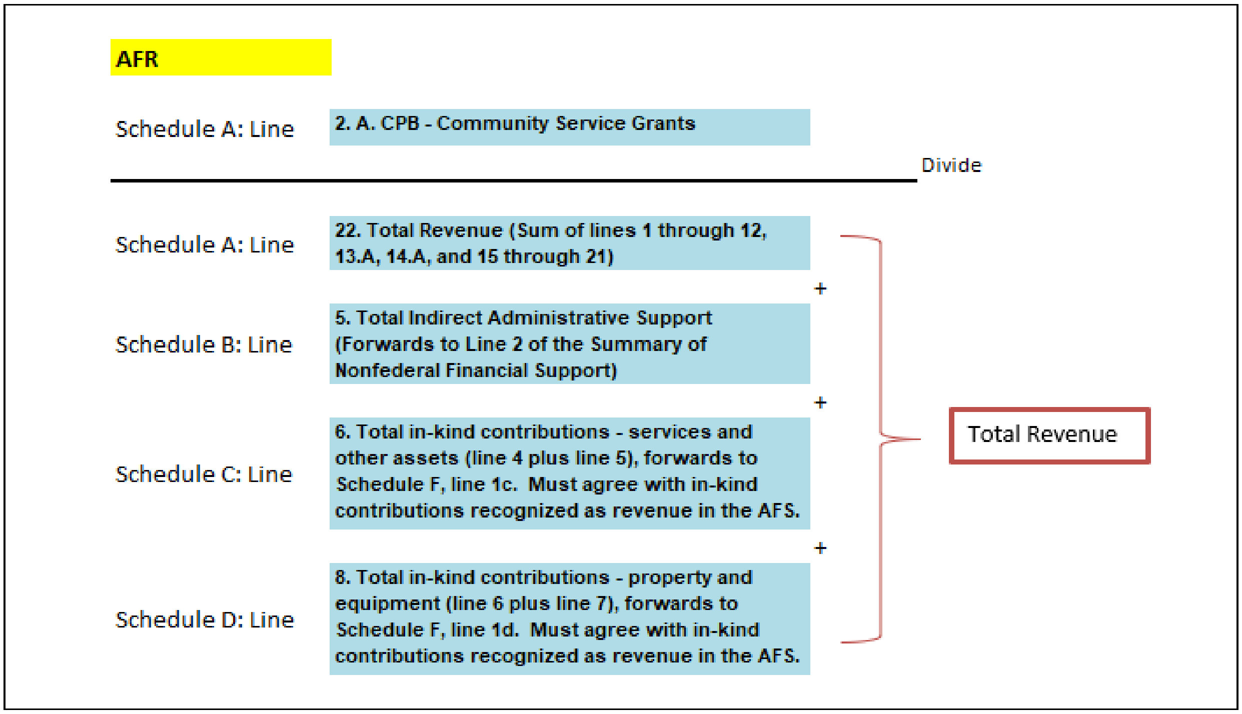
☐ Less than 25%. You are not eligible unless you believe you meet the criteria for an exception — see next question.

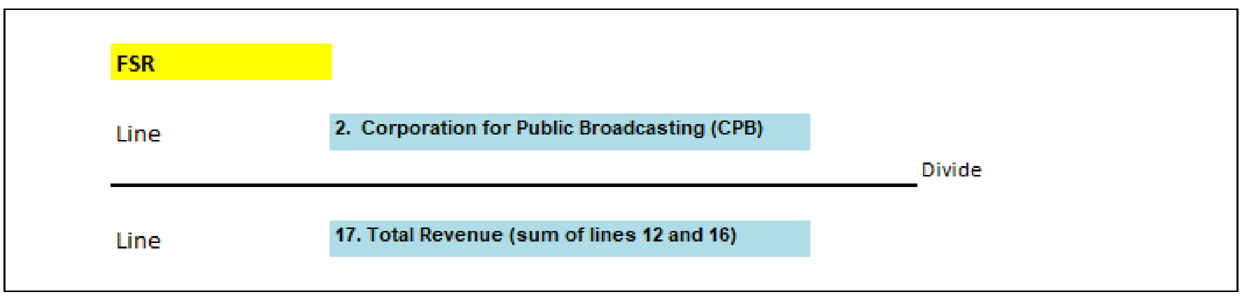
[If 25% or more, please show the calculation, including all relevant line items]

<u>CALCULATION INSTRUCTIONS</u>

Find your FY2024 AFR or FSR report that was submitted to CPB and follow the instructions below based on which report you completed. Note: Total revenue should reflect all forms of eligible indirect administrative and in-kind support in addition to direct revenue.

Please contact us at bridgefund@publicmedia.co if you don't have a saved copy of your FY2024 AFR or FSR and are unable to complete the calculation.





If your reported CSG dependency is below 25% (based on your FY2024 AFR/FSR), your station does not meet the minimum eligibility threshold for the Stabilization Fund grant opportunity.

We understand there may be rare, extraordinary circumstances that affect how CSG reliance appears in reported data (for example, state funding cuts since the FY2024 AFR/FSR data was submitted). If you believe this applies to your station, you will be asked to briefly describe the situation below.

Are there extraordinary circumstances that mean your CSG reliance is not accurately reflected in your FY2024 AFR/FSR?

☐ No. You are not eligible for the Stabilization Grant. Please register for updates on the Public Media Bridge Fund website to be informed of future support opportunities.

☐ Yes. Please briefly describe the circumstances and explain why your station should be considered for stabilization funding despite reporting less than 25% CSG dependency on your FY2024 AFR/FSR.
Please note: These cases will not be reviewed with standard applications but will be set aside for possible consideration after the main review process, subject to available funds.

[Open response (max: 250 words)]

Organization Information

Grantee name:

Grantee (CPB) ID number:

Licensee name:

Other organization names (if relevant):

Mailing address:

Personal Information

Your name:

Your title:

Your contact information (email, phone):

Are you the primary contact for your station? If not, please provide the name and contact information for the primary contact:

Head of Grantee name and contact information (if different):

Please note: Head of Grantee is the highest-ranking representative of the station's management responsible for station operations, such as its president, general manager, or chief executive officer.

Licensee Official name and contact information:

Please note: Licensee Official is the chair of the station licensee's governing board, or a designated senior level representative of the licensee who is not a member of the station's management and who has the authority to enter into binding contracts and agreements on behalf of the licensee.

Organizational Commitment

Do your station leadership and your Licensee Official plan to continue operating your station as a local public media organization?

☐ Yes – we (station leadership and Licensee Official) are committed to continuing operations

☐ No – we are not able to commit to continued operations

☐ Unsure / undecided at this time

[Please explain in fewer than 250 words]

Please note: As part of our stewardship of the Public Media Bridge Fund, grants are subject to a return-of-funds provision. Stations that are no longer operating or that shut down non-duplicative signals during the grant agreement period will be required to return the full amount of funding received.

Please note: As part of the grant agreement, we will require a signature from your Licensee Official to confirm your commitment to continuing operations.

Service Uniqueness

Does your organization provide unique geographic coverage (e.g., serves a market or other geographic area not otherwise covered by another relevant CPB-qualified local public media station)?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

[Please describe (max: 250 words). If relevant and available, provide additional information (e.g., signal coverage maps, engineering study insights, etc) that help illuminate your situation.]

Is your organization licensed to an HBCU or a Tribal Station?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

Does your organization provide unique coverage in terms of content or audience demographics (e.g., format)?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

[If yes, please describe (max: 250 words)]

Does your organization provide local news or information? (For radio stations only)

☐ Yes / ☐ No

[If yes, please describe the news/information provided and how it is shared with the community (e.g., broadcast, newsletters, website, social media, etc.) (max: 250 words)]

Please note: The local news and information insights collected from this question will be aggregated and not used to make individual funding decisions. The aggregated information will help the Public Media Bridge Fund better understand the local news focus of all applicant organizations.

Financial Context

Based on your current unrestricted cash and other liquid assets, how long can you continue operations? See below for instructions on how to calculate your runway.

- ☐ Less than 1 month
- ☐ 1–2 months
- ☐ 3–6 months
- ☐ More than 6 months

[Please show the calculation]

[Please describe/submit your most recent monthly or quarterly financials (if available)]

[Please attach or provide a link to your most recent audited financial statements]

<u>CALCULATION INSTRUCTIONS</u>

1. Find your unrestricted cash on hand. Use the amount of cash currently available for operations (do not include restricted funds, endowments, or board-designated reserves that can't be used for expenses).
2. Calculate your average monthly operating expenses. Take your total annual operating expenses (excluding one-time/capital costs) and divide by 12.
3. Divide cash on hand by monthly expenses. This gives the number of months you can continue operating at current expense levels without new revenue.

   Example:
   Unrestricted cash on hand = $75,000
   Annual operating expenses = $600,000. Monthly = $50,000
   Runway = $75,000 ÷ $50,000 = 1.5 months of cash

Have you secured or are you anticipating extraordinary financial support from another entity? For example, support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or from your state or local community foundation to help directly address and offset the loss of CSG.

☐ Yes / ☐ No

[If yes: Please describe amounts and sources]

Have NPR, PBS, and/or another national content provider reduced your dues payments for this fiscal year?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

[If yes: Please describe the percentage and dollar amounts]

Pathway to Transformation

Please note: The insights collected from the questions in this section will not be used to make individual funding decisions. The individual and aggregated information will help the Bridge Fund better understand applicants' long-term needs and inform future funding phases.

What changes have you made in the past 6 months to help grow revenue, reduce costs, and/or increase local engagement and impact?

[Open response (max: 250 words)]

How do you currently envision your 3- to 5-year pathway to continuing local public service?

[Open response (max: 250 words)]

To increase impact and/or efficiency, what partnerships does your station currently have, and are you exploring or open to new collaborations in the future?

(Potential examples: partnerships with news outlets, other public media stations, schools/universities, community institutions, etc.)

[Open response (max: 250 words)]

As your station works toward stability and long-term sustainability, what kinds of advisory and shared services would be most helpful to you in the next 12 months?

(Potential examples: financial planning, fundraising/development, governance/board support, strategy, operations, community engagement, collaborations, technology/engineering, digital transformation, etc.)

[Open response (max: 250 words)]