



PUBLIC MEDIA BRIDGE FUND

A Public Media Company Initiative

Impact Report

January 2026

Public Media Bridge Fund

Announced in August 2025, the Public Media Bridge Fund is a strategic philanthropic initiative designed to guide local public media through a crisis moment to **a more sustainable and impactful future.**

The Bridge Fund is a project of Public Media Company (PMC).

What Are We Bridging To?

Today it can be easier to learn about events around the globe than around the corner. *We are becoming strangers to our neighbors. At incredible cost.*

The Bridge Fund seeks to balance public media's extraordinary national and international programming with a robust local presence that drives **trust, connection, and belonging.**

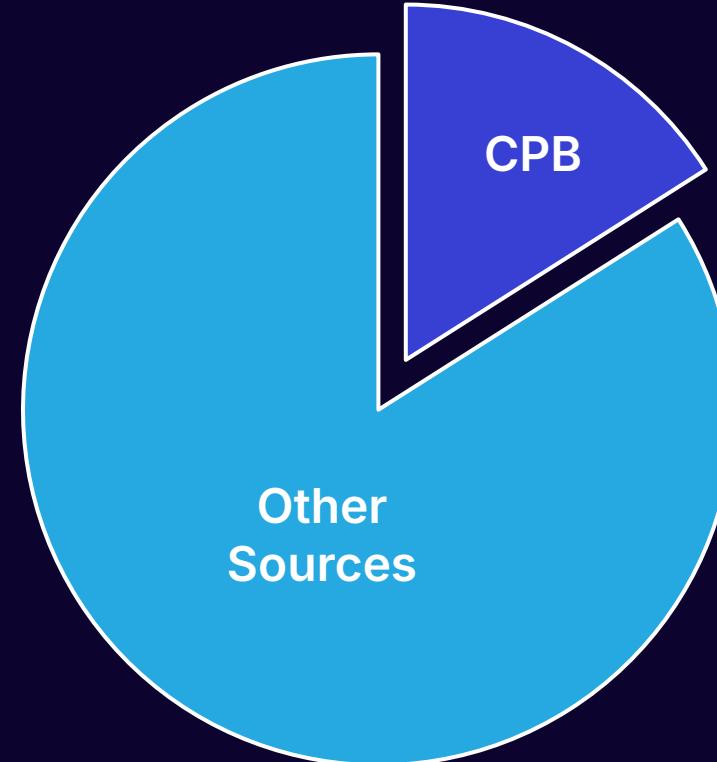


The Challenge

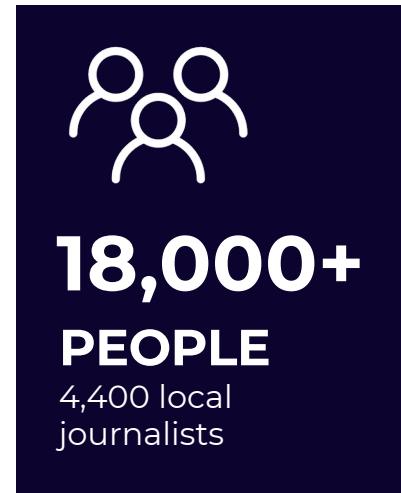
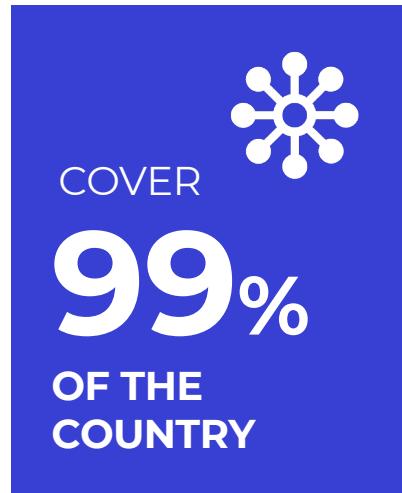
In July 2025, the federal government **eliminated funding** for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

CPB was the largest source of public media funding, providing approximately **\$600 million annually** — 16% of the system's total revenue.

Every part of the public media system has been destabilized. **But not equally.**



Public Media Network: What's at Stake



Data from CPB's Report: "State of the System: FY24 Financial Results, CPB CSG Grantee Stations," May 2025

Our Focus: The Most At-Risk Local Organizations

WHO?

Local public media organizations — largely in rural and underserved communities — most at risk of closing.

WHY?

The loss of these organizations would leave tens of millions of Americans without access to local public media.

Our Solution

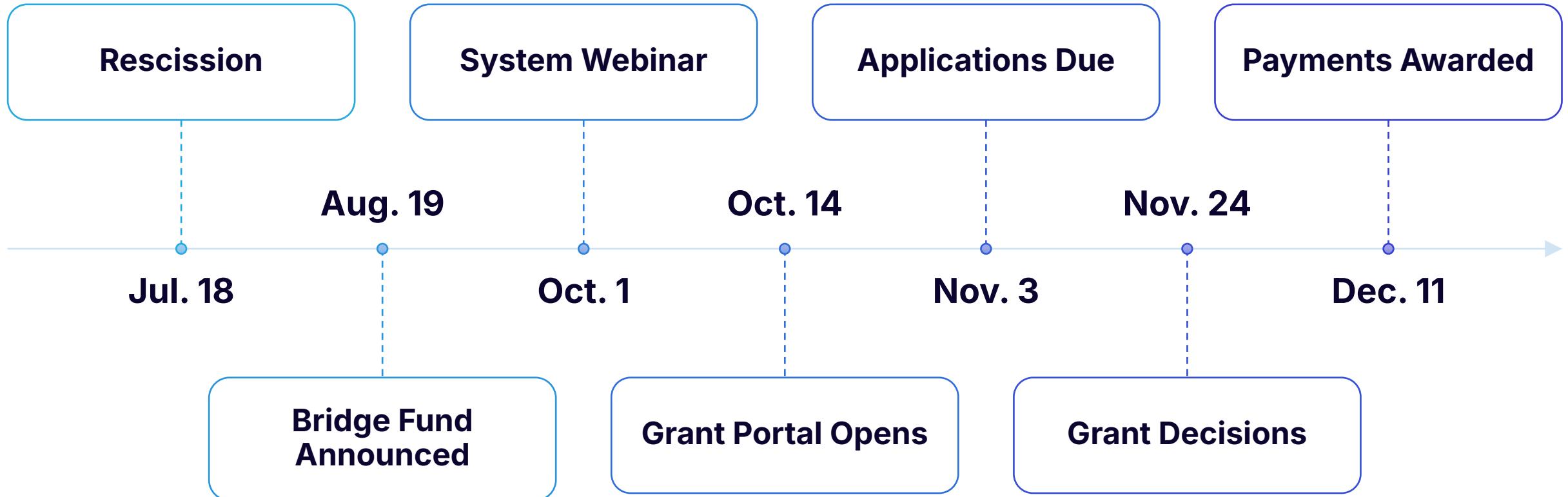
- **Secure local service** in as many at-risk communities as possible
- **Protect vulnerable infrastructure** so it remains within local control
- **Assist local stations as they transition** to sustainable models
- **Pursue system-level opportunities** for efficiency & impact
- **Help stabilize public media's national network**



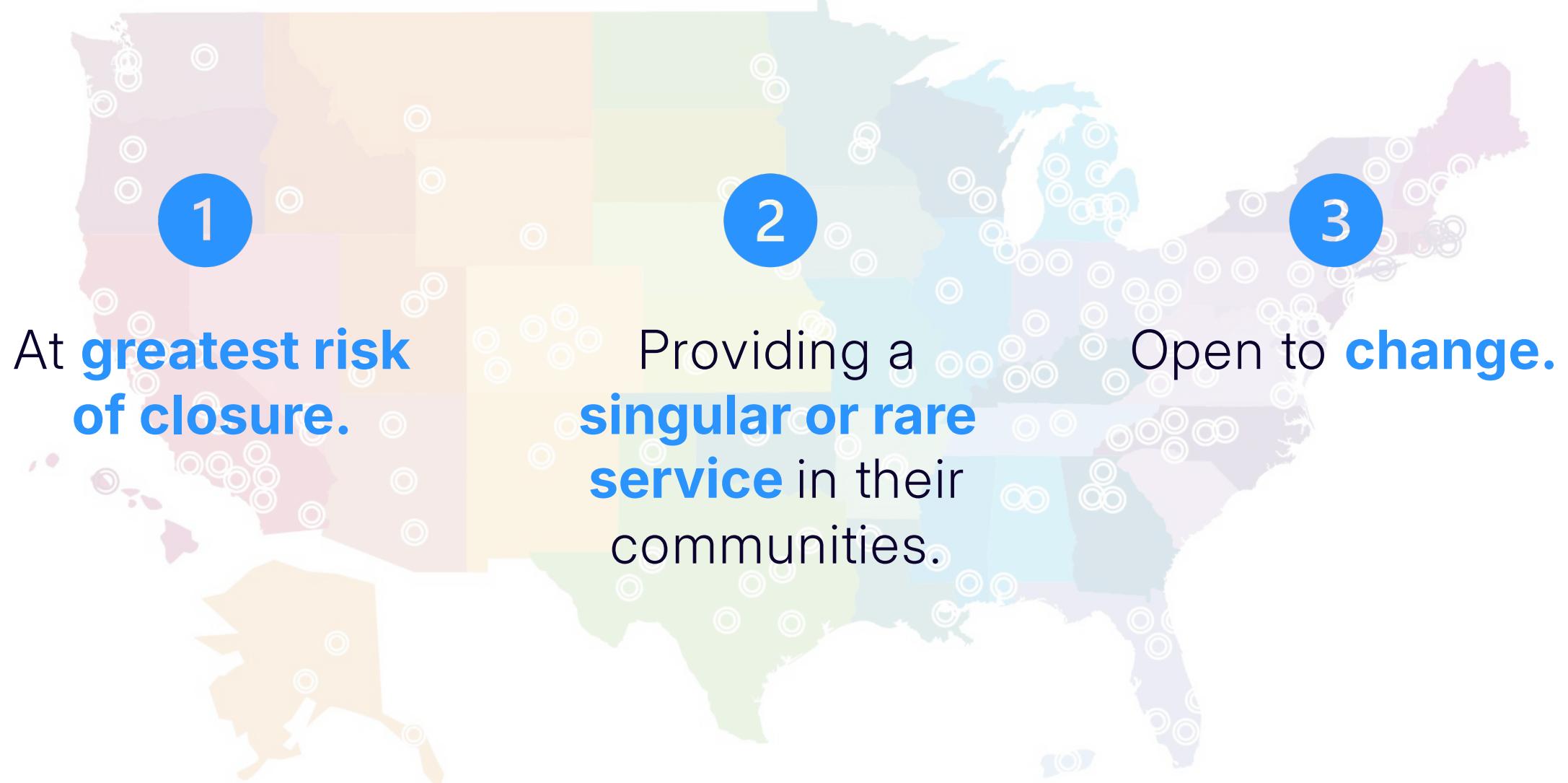
Public Media Cannot Go Silent

Work to Date

“Moving at the Speed of News”



Phase 1 Priorities: Local Organizations...



Phase 1 Applicant Pool

217

ORGANIZATIONS
EXPRESSED
INTEREST

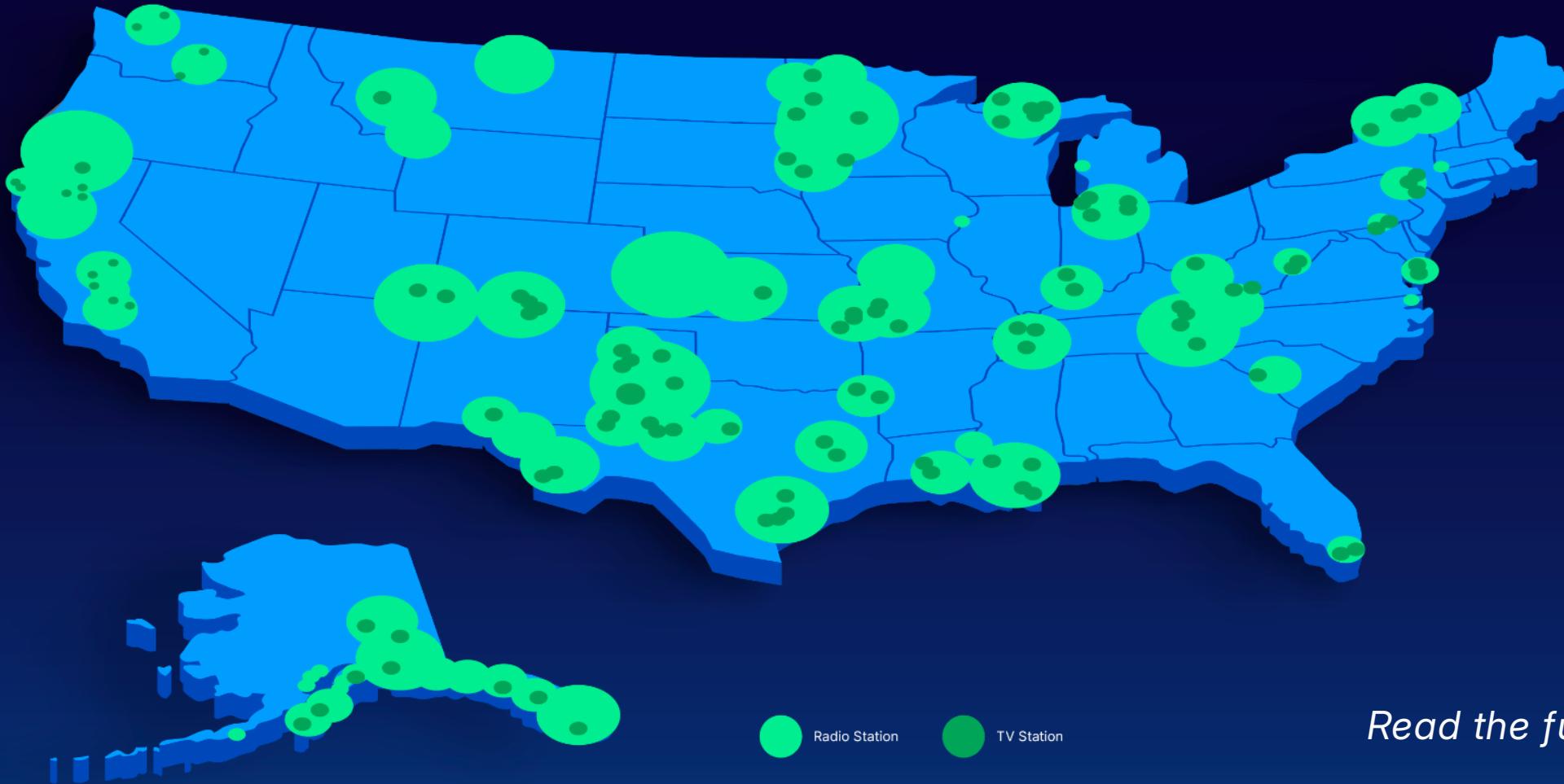
122

APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED

29

U.S. STATES &
TERRITORIES
REPRESENTED

Committed \$26M in Stabilization Grants



Read the full announcement [here](#).

74
Grantee Organizations
44 Radio & **30** TV

186
Radio & TV Stations

30M
People Reached

Our Grantees serve
29 U.S. States & Territories

Grantee Organizations

KUAC-TV (Fairbanks, AK)

KHNS-FM (Haines, AK)

KBBI-AM (Homer, AK)

KTOO-TV (Juneau, AK)

KDLL-FM (Kenai, AK)

KRBD-FM (Ketchikan, AK)

KMXT-FM (Kodiak, AK)

KFSK-FM (Petersburg, AK)

KCAW-FM (Sitka, AK)

KTNA-FM (Talkeetna, AK)

KCHU-AM (Valdez, AK)

KSTK-FM (Wrangell, AK)

KEET-TV (Eureka, CA)

KVPT-TV (Fresno, CA)

KWMR-FM (Point Reyes Station, CA)

KIXE-TV (Redding, CA)

KMUD-FM (Redway, CA)

KRZA-FM (Alamosa, CO)

KSJD-FM (Cortez, CO)

WDNA-FM (Miami, FL)

KGTF-TV (Barrigada, GU)

KPRG-FM (Mangilao, GU)

WGVV-FM (Rock Island, IL)

WNIN-TV (Evansville, IN)

WFWA-TV (Fort Wayne, IN)

WNIT-TV (South Bend, IN)

WVUB-FM (Vincennes, IN)

KOOD-TV (Bunker Hill, KS)

KRPS-FM (Pittsburg, KS)

KPTS-TV (Wichita, KS)

WMKY-FM (Morehead, KY)

WMMT-FM (Whitesburg, KY)

KRVS-FM (Lafayette, LA)

WLAЕ-TV (New Orleans, LA)

WESM-FM (Princess Anne, MD)

WNMU-TV (Marquette, MI)

WUVS-FM (Muskegon, MI)

KAWE-TV (Bemidji, MN)

KWCM-TV (Granite Falls, MN)

KSRQ-FM (Thief River Falls, MN)

KJLU-FM (Jefferson City, MO)

KOZK-TV (Springfield, MO)

KMOS-TV (Warrensburg, MO)

WURC-FM (Holly Springs, MS)

WPRL-FM (Lorman, MS)

KGLT-FM (Bozeman, MT)

WRVS-FM (Elizabeth City, NC)

WJFF-FM (Jeffersonville, NY)

WCFE-TV (Plattsburgh, NY)

WPBS-TV (Watertown, NY)

KSYS-TV (Medford, OR)

WQLN-TV (Erie, PA)

WLCH-FM (Lancaster, PA)

WSSB-FM (Orangeburg, SC)

WTCI-TV (Chattanooga, TN)

WCTE-TV (Cookeville, TN)

WETP-TV (Knoxville, TN)

WLJT-TV (Martin, TN)

KACU-FM (Abilene, TX)

KACV-TV (Amarillo, TX)

KAMU-TV (College Station, TX)

KEDT-TV (Corpus Christi, TX)

KEDT-FM (Corpus Christi, TX)

KTTZ-FM (Lubbock, TX)

KTTZ-TV (Lubbock, TX)

KRTS-FM (Marfa, TX)

KXWT-FM (Marfa, TX)

KPBT-TV (Midland, TX)

KTXK-FM (Texarkana, TX)

KDNA-FM (Granger, WA)

KSVR-FM (Mount Vernon, WA)

WVLS-FM (Dunmore, WV)

WVMR-AM (Dunmore, WV)

Notes of Gratitude

“

This support will make a real and lasting difference for our listeners and the community that depends on us. We are truly grateful for your confidence in our work, and we are excited to continue serving our community with renewed energy and purpose.

- GM in New York / Pennsylvania

”

“

Your partnership allows us to maintain the public-service journalism, community engagement and educational programming that our audience depends on. Just as importantly, the programs and services included with this grant will help us strengthen our operations and build a more sustainable future. Thank you for believing in the public media mission, for standing with us all in a moment of real uncertainty and for giving us the opportunity to keep serving the public with integrity and purpose.

- GM in Texas

”





“

You might be the most effective organization in the history of public media. You saw a problem, envisioned an ambitious solution, and accomplished it in record time ... We'll use [your support] wisely to strengthen our revenue-development capacity ... I'm confident that we're not only going to be good, but better than ever in our nearly 40-year history.

- GM in Maryland

”

“

As I begin to wrap my head around what this funding means for [our station], I feel like a weight has been lifted ... The ideas that have been generated by this crisis will be much more achievable now that it doesn't feel like the rug was pulled out from beneath us.

- GM in California

”

What We Are Learning

Percentage of lost funding is an initial but incomplete measure of "at-risk."

A disrupted system is unpredictable and emergency-prone. We must be adaptive.

The path to sustainability isn't linear.

We are not alone. PBS, NPR, BIA, New Mexico, Alaska, and others are rallying to the cause.

What Comes Next

Getting Started

In **1Q 2026**, the Bridge Fund will:

- **Fund 10 – 12 demonstration projects** modeling new operating structures for locally-owned and operated public media organizations
- **Focus largely on the middle three sustainability strategies** (hub & spoke, cluster models, and mergers & acquisitions)
- Design a **transition from demonstration projects to scaled response**

Core Sustainability Strategies



Shared Services & Pilots

Back-office membership, accounting, engineering, sponsorship, etc.



Hub & Spoke

Larger station provides back-office capacity to smaller stations in region



Cluster Model

Seeding collaboration between multiple small or medium-size stations



Mergers & Acquisitions

Bringing two or more organizations together under a common legal & governance structure

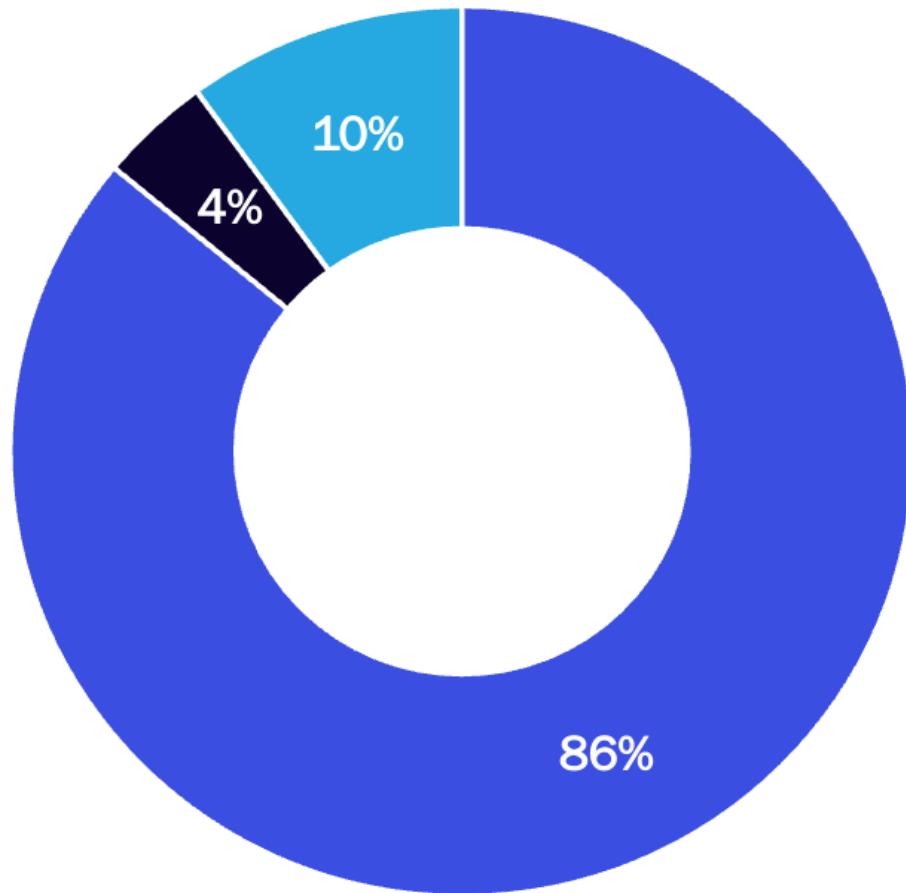


Break Glass

In emergency situations, stepping in to establish an entity to secure local service

Bridge Fund Capitalization & Deployment

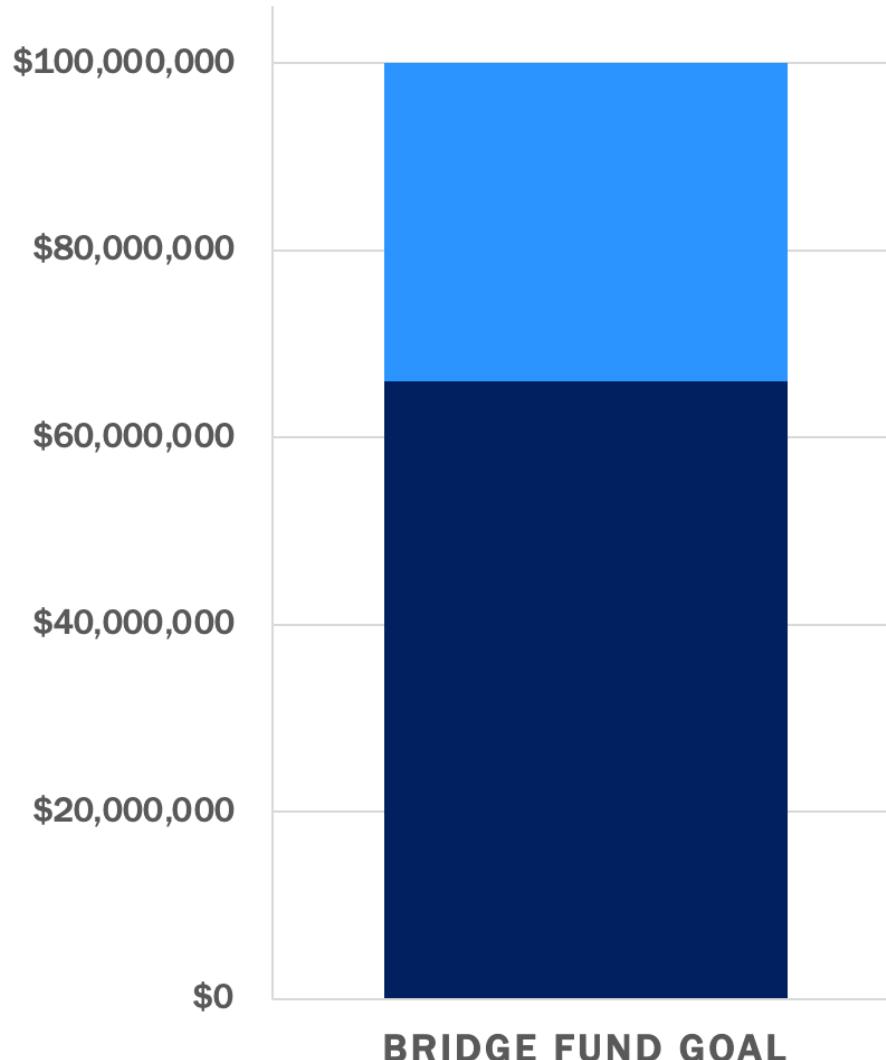
Projected Use of Funds



Working Goal: \$100,000,000+

- Direct Grants: 86%
- Advisory Services: 10%
- Fund Administration: 4%

Progress Towards \$100M+ Goal



- **Funds Committed: \$66M**
- **Funds to be Raised: \$34M**

** Reflects commitments as of December 14, 2025*

Philanthropic Partners to Date*

\$10,000,000

Knight Foundation

\$5,000,000

Pivotal Ventures

\$3,000,000+

Anonymous

The Dolby Family

MacArthur Foundation

Mellon Foundation

Schmidt Family Foundation

\$2,000,000+

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Anonymous

\$1,000,000+

Barr Foundation

Barbara & Amos Hostetter

Hewlett Foundation

W. K. Kellogg Foundation

Mallory & Diana Walker, Washington DC

Malott Family Foundation

Roundhouse Foundation

TruBob Fund

Walton Family Foundation

Anonymous (3)

** Reflects commitments as of December 15, 2025*

Philanthropic Partners to Date*

\$500,000+

Ford Foundation
Hellman Foundation
Kodama Foundation
Park Foundation
Sojourner Fund
Weissman Family Foundation

\$200,000+

Arthur Vining Davis Foundation
Democracy Fund
Joyce Foundation
Kate Capshaw & Steven Spielberg
Last Week with John Oliver Auction
Leon Levy Foundation
Chris & Melody Malachowsky Family Foundation
Press Forward
Proctor Family Foundation
The Woodtiger Fund

\$100,000+

Acacia Fund
Amy & Steve Louis Foundation
Argosy Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation
Coxe Family Fund
Lillian Lincoln Foundation
Pam & Pierre Omidyar
Susan Byrd Fund
Wyncote Foundation
Anonymous

Up to \$99,000

Many individuals & family foundations

Program Related Investments

\$10,000,000
Ford Foundation

** Reflects commitments as of December 15, 2025*



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In addition to raising and deploying critical dollars, the Bridge Fund has helped spark conversation about the role of local public media through coverage in *The New York Times*, *Variety*, and *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*.

To date, media coverage of the Bridge Fund has reached **1.3 billion people**.



Bridge Fund Advisory Committee

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Loan Bank of San Francisco

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Of Counsel, Garvey Schubert Barer

Angelica Das

Program Director for Equitable
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Strategy, Knight Foundation

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Engagement



Moustapha Abdul
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For More Information:

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