

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Stabilization Funding Request and  
Justification FY 2021**

*Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget  
and to the House and Senate Appropriations  
Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies*

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# **Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) FY 2021 Stabilization Funding Request**

## **STATEMENT OF NEED AND REQUEST**

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (“CPB”) is very appreciative of the \$75 million in stabilization funding in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act of 2020. This financial assistance was vital in providing stability to our nation’s public media system during the early months of the crisis.

Today, we request an additional \$175 million in stabilization funding to ensure the continued viability of public media stations during this period of extraordinary economic hardship. Although our data indicates that public media’s stabilization needs exceed \$400 million, we are mindful of the difficult decisions the new Administration and Congress must make during this time.

CPB’s mission is to ensure universal access to high-quality, non-commercial content and telecommunications services that educate, inform and enrich the public. Further, in many states and local communities, public media stations’ digital and broadcast infrastructure provide the backbone for emergency alert, public safety, first responder and homeland security services. If stations are forced to cut additional jobs or further reduce content and services, their ability to deliver emergency alerts, essential information, and educational services, especially in underserved areas, will be significantly impacted.

## **APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE REQUEST**

For an additional amount for “Corporation for Public Broadcasting,” \$175,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including for fiscal stabilization grants to public telecommunications entities, as defined by 47 USC 397(12), with no deduction for administrative or other costs of the Corporation, to maintain programming and services threatened by declines in non-Federal revenues: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## **GOAL**

To ensure continuity of local and national educational, news and public safety services provided by public media stations to all Americans.

## **PUBLIC MEDIA STATIONS’ SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Americans have been asked to maintain social distance and limit in-person gatherings. Families are sheltered with children whose access to traditional in-school learning has been compromised. With the daily life of millions of Americans upended, public media stations and national

organizations are providing a lifeline to community resources, health and safety information, and the education needs of our nation's children.

### Educational Services

As schools across the country shifted to remote learning in the face of the pandemic, local public television stations rolled out new education initiatives to support schools, teachers, parents and students. Most public television stations altered their daytime broadcast schedule to air educational programming grouped by age level and curriculum and matched to state standards. In addition, some stations are exploring how the public television broadcast spectrum can be used to deliver digital educational content to students that live in areas unserved by broadband through a technology called datacasting. The extraordinary response by public television stations, many of which partnered with state and local education agencies and utilized local educators, has provided much needed educational resources and support in communities across the country.

Beginning last April in Southern California, PBS SoCal, KCET, and KLCS partnered with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to create and broadcast a programming schedule designed to support learning for children in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These televised programs are critical in bridging the equity gap in distance education because cable and internet access among low-income families is low. The LAUSD estimates that 50 percent of its students lack access to their own computer or tablet, and 25 percent lack access to home internet. The At-Home Learning broadcast serves over 200,000 daily viewers in 140,000 homes in the Los Angeles area.

Following suit, stations in 47 states adopted the At-Home Learning model to address the equity concerns and distance learning needs of local students and educators. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Texas PBS stations partnered on a joint initiative to air state curriculum-aligned, educational programming across the state during the pandemic. The initiative supports the TEA's efforts to promote distance learning, regardless of internet access. The free service reaches 96 percent of Texas students.

As stations have continued to work with local and state education agencies, many have modified the At-Home Learning broadcast to include localized and curated content schedules that contain programs aligning more closely with local textbooks. For example, Vegas PBS launched a statewide website for parents that curated engaging educational modules from its online resources to support At-Home Learning. The station worked with Clark County School District Food Services to include printed educational support materials with the take home food boxes. Extensive communications with teachers and educators have led to nearly 14.75 million instructional interactions with the station's broadcast and online content.

On public television, PBS, PBS KIDS and World channels are delivering more than 335 hours a week of educational programming to support At-Home Learning. World Channel, the national public media broadcast and web-based platform from WGBH, is broadcasting a daily, five-hour At-Home Learning Service for students in grades 6-12. Sixty-three stations in 35 states are

offering the WORLD Channel's At-Home Learning. The service offers a lineup of science, history and English language arts programming with related learning assets from PBS LearningMedia. Many public television stations are curating and aligning the PBS LearningMedia content to their state's curriculum standards.

Over the summer, WNET-TV in New York produced and distributed CAMP TV, a daily broadcast series that provided a virtual summer camp experience to elementary school students nationwide. CAMP TV was a limited broadcast series (one hour daily for four weeks) featuring content from the nation's leading educational, arts, and cultural organizations, including museums, libraries, nature centers and performing arts centers. As literacy skills are some of the first to slide during summer, WNET included many reading activities. Keeping with the long-held library tradition of summer reading challenges and book clubs, CAMP TV features daily read-alouds, including segments in which librarians read excerpts from books, discuss themes, and feature comments from kids.

Further, 32 stations in 16 states are working with local teachers to produce and broadcast instructional segments and lessons from the state's leading teachers. These services bring instructional continuity and increased access and opportunity to students across the viewing area. Idaho Public Television is partnering with Idaho State Department of Education and Idaho Business for Education to broadcast Classroom Idaho: Learn @ Home. Each weekday morning, the station airs classroom instruction for grades 3-6 taught by Idaho teachers. The same lessons are available in playlists for students on IdahoPTV's YouTube channel.

Many stations have also developed online services to offer customizable video clips aligned to state educational standards for teachers to use in classrooms. This locally-driven approach to creating standards-aligned, digital content for classroom use has served as a best practice for states and educators wanting to tailor content to the unique learning needs of their students.

In January 2021, after many months of coordination and planning with the Michigan Department of Education and local education associations, Michigan public television stations launched the "[Michigan Learning Channel](#)," a statewide public television partnership offering instructional content to support the education of students and to provide alternative resources for families and teachers. The weekly calendar of on-demand, educational content and resources can be used in a fully-remote learning environment or a hybrid learning model. All of the content is free to school districts and parents.

South Carolina ETV, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), is piloting datacasting to send education content to the home computers of students who do not have access to broadband. In South Carolina, 193,000 households lack access to broadband, and SCETV's datacasting technology could allow them to receive the same content that broadband-enabled students can access over the internet. Educational datacasting delivers content to students' home devices, and then students can navigate through the content as if they were connected to the internet. Educational datacasting is an innovative solution public television stations can offer to help bridge the digital divide. Public television stations in Indiana, Pennsylvania and several other states are also rolling out educational datacasting models.

The additional costs related to stations' educational efforts include:

- Increased capacity for PBS LearningMedia, the free online repository of standards-aligned videos, interactive lessons, lesson plans, and more for educators and homeschoolers. As schools closed due to COVID, PBS LearningMedia hit record-breaking numbers in March, April and May 2020, serving more than 7.5M million users across those months. It was double the number of users in the three months prior and double the average monthly users compared to the previous 12 months. PBS LearningMedia again surpassed two million users per month in fall 2020 and winter 2021, which was approximately one million per month for the same timeframes a year prior. In addition to teacher use, student reach is growing with triple the number accessing and registering on the platform from September to December 2020 as compared to September to December 2019.
- The duration of site visits to PBS LearningMedia has doubled during COVID when comparing October to December 2020 to the same months in 2019. With distance learning now a public health imperative, LearningMedia is playing an important role in supporting teacher's educational workplans. The additional costs associated with increased streaming and distribution of digital media during COVID, including content and services for remote learning, are continuing and will soon total in excess of \$500,000.
- Staff to coordinate with local and state education agencies to develop the most helpful resources and plans.
- Staff to develop new curriculum-aligned broadcast schedules to provide K-12 standards-based content over-the-air and accessible to families without internet connections;
- Acquisition of rights to make more curriculum-aligned programming available.
- Enhanced distribution capacity to ensure that every station in the country has access to these new curriculum-aligned broadcast feeds.
- Production of learning prompts to integrate into curriculum-aligned programming schedule.

### News and Public Affairs

In all 50 states, public media stations are playing a vital role informing the local community about the latest coronavirus pandemic and vaccine developments, delivering critical reporting and spotlighting local resources intended to help Americans navigate these uncertain times.

At a time when local newspapers are in free fall, and local public media stations and program producers are compensating for the loss of news coverage, the coronavirus pandemic is creating

additional challenges for the thousands of reporters who are gathering news, editing and publishing. Expenses for public media entities are increasing as staff telework. In order to continue to provide high-quality, trusted, local and national information at this extraordinary time, public media is moving to equip their journalists with editing software and online tools that can be downloaded and used from their home office space. Stabilization grants will help support these unexpected costs and allow them to continue their critical role in providing information to their communities.

Further, public radio's digital audiences grew tremendously at the beginning of 2020 - and station sites, streams, and on-demand audio have continued to serve a highly elevated audience. At the beginning of the pandemic, station sites grew 250 percent in audience due to Americans urgently looking for updates on how coronavirus was affecting their localities. Now after a year with those efforts, these new audiences have continued increased engagement on public radio websites. In fact, local public radio station sites continue to see a faster growth rate than local news sites overall. By the end of November 2020, public radio stations' average monthly users are up by 31 percent year on year, average monthly loyal users are up 41 percent, and monthly newsletter traffic is up 67 percent. Also, public radio station streams have set new records for weekly audiences during 2020. Stations of all sizes and formats are seeing growth despite a turbulent year.

### Public Safety

The often unseen, but vital role of public media in states and local communities across the country is public media stations' deployment of their digital and broadcast infrastructure to provide the backbone for emergency alert, public safety, first responder and homeland security services.

Public media is the only national broadcast network covering nearly 99 percent of our nation's population, making public radio and television stations an unparalleled national public health and safety communications partner amid the current pandemic, especially for hard-to-reach and underserved communities. As just one example, through PBS WARN, the public television interconnection system and local station transmitters serve as the redundant pathway for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) throughout the country. Between March 12, 2020 and January 25, 2021, more than 6,470 WEAs have been issued by state and local authorities and transmitted over the PBS WARN system in different parts of the country. Approximately 524 of those alerts were for COVID-19, harnessing for the first time the reach and ubiquity of mobile device communications to address a pandemic. If stations are forced to cut additional jobs or further reduce services, the nation's ability to reliably deliver emergency alerts and other essential public health and safety information to some parts of the population will be diminished.

### COVID Collaborative

CPB is playing a key role in an initiative called the [COVID Collaborative](#). The Collaborative is a national assembly that has brought together leading experts and institutions across health, education, and the economy to develop consensus best practices to support state and local leaders in their efforts to end the pandemic. It is co-chaired by former Governor, Mayor, and U.S. Senator Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho and former Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts. The Collaborative started working with the Biden transition team immediately after the election and is currently working with the new Administration. CPB is considering ways in which public

television and radio stations can play an enhanced and active role in their communities to help end the pandemic.

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The economic toll of the virus on our nation's public media system has been devastating. Our initial March 17, 2020 estimates, based on a crisis that was projected to last six to eight weeks, indicated that public media station FY 2020 losses could exceed \$200 million. By April 2020, the public media system had lost approximately \$84 million.

As of January 22, 2021, CPB has received Audited Financial Reports (AFRs) from public television and public radio stations whose fiscal year ends on June 30.<sup>1</sup> These AFRs represent approximately 60 percent of the public media system and reflect approximately four months of the pandemic's economic impact. A preliminary, conservative analysis of this data indicates that the total cash revenue losses for all television and radio stations in FY 2020 could exceed \$196 million.

CPB's analysis is supported in part by research conducted by public radio organizations that estimated public radio stations in FY 2020 will lose at least \$120 million. Revised forecasts by public media's national organizations indicate that the public media system will lose an additional \$200 million in non-federal funding in 2021.<sup>2</sup> This will bring the system's total revenue loss for the period March 2020 to December 2021 to \$400 million.

This revenue loss would be exacerbated by a loss of support from the 36 states that currently provide funding to public media stations, accounting for \$216 million of the public broadcasting system's annual revenue. Following the 2007-2008 "Great Recession," state funding for public media declined by approximately \$90 million. Today, 13 years later, state funding for public media has rebounded significantly, but it is still lower than pre-financial crisis levels.

Public media is justifiably proud of its public-private partnership model, where, the majority of funding for the system comes from non-federal sources. However, in these unprecedented times of economic crisis, locally-sourced (or non-federal) funding is declining rapidly. This additional stabilization funding request to Congress is critical for ensuring universal access to high-quality, non-commercial content and telecommunications services that educate, inform and help protect the public.

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<sup>1</sup> Two-thirds of public media stations have a fiscal year that ends on June 30. The remainder of the stations have a fiscal year that ends either September 30 or December 31.

<sup>2</sup> Public radio organizations project that in FY 2021 public radio stations alone will lose an additional \$88 million.

## Appendix A

### Examples of Public Media Stations' Content and Services in Response to Covid-19

#### Public Media Stations Delivering Educational Content to Families at Home

- [Alabama Public Television](#) was recognized during Governor Ivey's press conference by Alabama State School Superintendent, Dr. Eric Mackey: *"Alabama Public TV has stepped up and they're going to be offering courses at different times of the day to different age levels and subjects, so we will have their delivery mechanism which can get into many more homes than just internet."* APT announced their [Learn at Home with Alabama Public Television initiative](#), which modifies their regularly scheduled programming to offer specific pre-K-12 resources. APT's resources are Alabama standards-aligned, customizable, and can be fully integrated with digital teaching platforms like Google Classroom and Remind.
- KBRW-AM/FM in Utqiagvik, Alaska (Barrow) partnered with their local school district to provide audio-based educational programming. The radio station serves everyone in the school district. Many homes do not have internet so online or digital schooling is not a reasonable alternative.
- [Alaska Public Media](#) launched a 12-hour educational broadcast schedule in partnership with the Anchorage School District.
- Arizona Public Media and Arizona PBS are partnering to offer Arizonans grade-specific, broadcast programming and accompanying digital resources that adhere to the state curriculum and provide continued at-home learning.
- Arkansas PBS is assisting teachers and parents with kids who are learning at home through [ArkansasIDEAS](#). Instructional packets including lesson plans and other resources are available, searchable by grade and subject.
- California public television stations, including PBS SoCal, KCET and KLCS in Los Angeles, and KQED in San Francisco, in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, created the At-Home Learning service - a California Public Education Partnership. This partnership offers broadcasting programming and accompanying digital resources that adhere to California's state curriculum to provide continued at-home learning. Additionally, the stations provide educational bumpers, wraps and interstitials available to PBS stations nationally in English and Spanish to complement their own at home learning programs.
- [Rocky Mountain Public Media](#) (RMPM) partners with Denver Public Schools to offer a [Colorado Classroom At-Home Learning](#) service with free educational resources, on-air and online, including STEAM-related programming for K-12 students from 8am to 5pm weekdays. The station also broadcasts instructional lessons from Colorado teachers, providing K-3 learners with access to direct-to-home lessons in literacy, science, art and math. Lesson plans and/or digital materials are provided weekly. Resources are also



provided through RMPM newsletters, social media posts, school district communications, and via public radio stations, KUVO and The Drop.

- Connecticut Public is combining broadcast and digital educational tools to support at-home learning, including offering the WORLD At-Home Learning programming; curated PBS and other learning tools via a customized educational newsletter for pre-K through Grade 12; and [Thinkalong](#), an online media literacy and critical thinking tool for middle grades. The station is also working with the State Department of Education and community-based partners as well as engaging with teachers and students through two new advisory boards.
- [WETA](#), MPT ([Maryland Public Television](#)) and WHUT ([Howard University Television](#)) have joined together to launch an At-Home Learning service. This coordinated schedule of educational programs is available over-the-air, through cable and satellite, and in the case of MPT via livestream at [mpt.org/livestream](http://mpt.org/livestream). The broadcast schedule across all three stations includes 11 daytime hours of educational programs. The weekly slate of programs is structured to support Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Middle (grades 4-8), and High (grades 9-12). In conjunction with the broadcast, At-Home Learning includes tools designed for parents, caregivers, teachers and children.
- As part of the Florida Public Media Partnership, and in consultation with educators, including Duval County Public Schools, [WJCT](#) (Jacksonville), is working with its partners across the region to ensure teachers receive weekly programming updates that can be paired with discussion questions, worksheets, hands-on projects and experiments. The station is also hosting webinars to help teachers inspire and instruct effectively as the format and style of learning changes amid school closures.
- WUCF and Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) partnered to provide the “OCPS Education Channel,” engaging instructional lessons broadcast for K-2nd grade students. From superhero math solvers to exploring the world through books, six elementary teachers created instructional videos that entertained and taught state math and language arts standards. The videos complement the workbook materials all OCPS students in K-2 received for summer enrichment. The collaboration will continue through the school year and new videos are uploaded monthly.
- [WSRE](#) (Pensacola) launched an At-Home Learning service for students with curriculum-related educational programs and a web page with links to online resources for students from Pre-K through Grade 12. The At-Home Learning broadcast, which is aligned to state and national school standards, airs from 6am to 6pm on the main WSRE channel and will continue during the government-mandated school closures.
- Georgia Public Broadcasting, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Education, launched Let's Learn GA!, a collection of instructional, teacher-led videos designed for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Covering all subject areas, these lessons are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence, taught by Georgia teachers, and are captioned in English and Spanish. Let’s Learn GA! is designed to support students who

are learning at home or in the classroom. They can be used to introduce, supplement or extend learning. Let's Learn GA! is part of the Georgia Home Classroom, a robust resource that offers free learning opportunities for families, teachers and students. Content provided through the Georgia Home Classroom includes educational television programming, lesson plans, daily activity calendars, digital learning resources, games, the Georgia Studies Digital textbook, virtual field trips, meal pick-up information and more.

- [Idaho PBS](#) has created a distance learning ecosystem providing instructional broadcast programming on the CREATE channel for grades 4-12, and bilingual resources for all grade levels pre-K-12 to help support families, educators and communities during this crisis. Idaho's PBS LearningMedia includes national and local collections, such as [Idaho Experience](#) (social studies for grades 4-6) and [Idaho Science Journal](#) (for grades 9-12).
- Illinois Public Media is broadcasting a daily lineup of pre-K-5 educational programming from 6am-5pm and will also launch a block of at-home educational programs specially tailored towards older students, grades 6-12 on WILL-TV Create/World to be finalized in consultation with local school districts. Families can access online learning resources, including free games and apps, on-demand videos, and articles for parents to support at home learning at [will.illinois.edu/athomelearning](http://will.illinois.edu/athomelearning).
- WTTW partners with Chicago Public Schools to provide educational programming and to increase the accessibility of educational resources for students. Through the partnership, WTTW has reorganized its digital subchannel to focus on educational content geared toward students in middle grades.
- The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS) partner to offer [at-home learning](#) experiences for K-12 students, aligned to Indiana curriculum standards. Their free resources include grab-and-go activities, lesson plans, interactive lessons, and media that illustrate specific topics or themes, as well as support materials on multiple subjects. IPBS stations ([WFYI \(3&1\)](#), [WIPB](#), [WVUT](#), [WTIU](#), [WYIN](#), [WNIT](#), [WFWA](#), [WNIN](#)) have published programming schedules and corresponding curriculum resource materials focusing on math, science, social studies, literacy, and other subjects. Television program schedules are augmented with appropriate grade-level information, subject area focus, and learning objectives.
- Iowa PBS collaborates with state agencies and organizations to provide access to education enrichment resources for students, parents and educators. These resources include a weekly online story time engagement, and an online arsenal of [educational resources](#). Iowa PBS is also broadcasting a daily, 4.5-hour At-Home Learning Service for students in grades 6-12 statewide. Between 11:30am and 4pm weekdays, Iowa PBS WORLD .3 offers programs on science, history and English language arts. Each week Iowa PBS provides an online guide to related resources and activities to continue the learning after the television programming. Iowa PBS also has a partnership with the Science Center of Iowa to create short-form video STEM demonstrations. Further, it is fostering community and [nurturing artistic expression](#) by asking kids and parents to print and color their favorite PBS character, send a photo of it

to be shared online and on air, and to hang it in a street facing window to show their neighborhood they are Iowa PBS kids!

- Kansas public radio and television stations work closely with the Kansas Department of Education to provide an educational programming schedule for K-12 throughout the state. [Smoky Hills PBS](#) (Bunker Hill), [KTWU](#) (Topeka) and [KPTS](#) (Wichita) are all providing online distance learning resources, including PBS KIDS content and games, PBS Parents resources and PBS LearningMedia, providing digital learning objects categorized by grade and subject and available to all teachers, parents and students for free. In addition, KPTS works with Child Start to produce a weekly 30 minute educational and activity program for children ages 1-5. Learning Across Kansas provides a weekly 30-minute segment to Kansas students featuring local high school teachers.
- KET launched [KET.org/learnathome](#) to provide a schedule of at-home learning programs geared towards students of all ages, including Pre-K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade (7-9am), grades 4-7 (9am-3pm), and grades 9-12 (3-5pm). The at-home learning programs and accompanying [online toolkit](#) provide families with free, high-quality educational resources.
- Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) partners with the Louisiana Department of Education to deliver educational content to teachers and families around the state, many of whom have limited or no internet access. Specifically, LPB has dedicated from noon-5pm on its main weekday broadcasting schedule to carrying middle and high school educational programming. They are also working to provide instructional math content, an identified need, on their LPB-3 channel. LPB also created an [educational resource page](#) for Pre-K through 12th grade teachers and families, with free resources accessible across its digital platforms.
- Maine Public Broadcasting provides a daily, five-hour At-Home Learning for students in grades 6-12. Utilizing on-air broadcast, Maine Public has [adjusted its WORLD Channel \(.3 subchannel\) schedule](#) to deliver a lineup of science, history and English language arts programming from noon – 5 PM each weekday. Through “The Learning Space,” Maine Public, the Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine partnered to create original, educational programming for students in grades 3-5. Teachers from across Maine have developed original video lessons, pulling content from their own lesson plans and sources to provide exceptional learning opportunities for Maine students.
- Maryland Public Television (MPT) has created the [Thinkport At-Home Learning Toolkit](#), an interactive tool connected to the PBS KIDS content block. Parents and teachers can use the toolkit as a guide to free digital learning media and education resources for early learners and students in grades Pre-K through Grade 12.
- WGBH introduced [AHA! Island](#) – a new early education resource to engage families in practicing computational thinking. This preschool resource was developed under a multi-year NSF grant by WGBH working with Maryland Public Television, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, and their state systems to pilot different outreach models for dissemination.

The AHA! Island site also includes Pre-K resources to share with parents. In the coming months, WGBH will offer station webinars.

- [Q-TV](#) (Delta Broadcasting in Flint, MI) serves students in the Great Lakes Bay Region, Flint and the Thumb with educational programs, regardless of access to digital and online services. Q-TV World offers programs that enhance education for students in grades 4-8 each weekday from 8am to noon. At noon, Q-TV daily offers World Channel At-Home Learning for grades 6-12. Further, Q-TV offers educational programming for preschool and elementary students every morning and weekday afternoons on broadcast and online via [Q-TV Kids Video Player](#).
- [Pioneer PBS](#), [Twin Cities PBS](#) and [WDSE in Duluth](#) have amassed resources to help teachers, students and parents with remote learning as well as to talk to kids about the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources include free over the air educational kids programming, access to PBS LearningMedia, a collection of digital learning objects sorted by grade and subject matter, and distance learning training tools for teachers.
- Mississippi Public Broadcasting, in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), created a new television channel – MPB Classroom TV. The channel provides instructional content to Pre-K through 12th grade students and was developed to support and address needs of Mississippi students, teachers and parents as they navigate educational challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. MPB Classroom TV content was developed in collaboration with MDE and includes pre-recorded 25-minute lessons taught by certified teachers aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards.
- Nine PBS (St. Louis) distributed 900 PBS Playtime Pads and early literacy kits across 44 elementary schools. Implemented through a collaborative effort by leading local literacy organizations, Turn the Page STL (the St. Louis chapter of the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading) and St. Louis Black Authors of Children’s Literature, the project prioritizes the need to address existing literacy gaps through books and digital devices. The selected books are featured on Nine’s Teaching in Room 9 on-air classroom series and are written by local Black authors. The project supports Nine’s goal of supporting literacy for young learners, where one in three children across the community are without the reliable internet or digital devices they need to participate in remote learning.
- KMOS (Sedalia, MO), in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has modified its weekday broadcast schedule to include three hours of programming from 11am to 2pm daily to assist students and families while schools are closed. The “[KMOS Classroom](#)” schedule includes: math and technology (Monday); history and social sciences (Tuesday); performing and visual arts (Wednesday); foreign languages (Thursday); and nature and science (Friday). Career-related content for students, including Roadtrip Nation, will also air on Monday and Friday afternoons.

- Ozarks Public Television, Springfield (MO), is offering [OPT World](#), a five-hour at-home learning programming schedule for middle and high school students on the station's WORLD channel.
- MontanaPBS has partnered with the Montana Office of Public Instruction to air Learn-at-Home programming with free online resources for students from pre-K-8 from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm. Topics include social studies, STEM, Montana History and American Literature. In addition to this curriculum-based programming schedule, the station provides educator and family resources, including on-air promos, unplugged learning menus, writing contests and virtual professional development for teachers.
- Nebraska Education Television (NET) launched an [At-Home Learning service](#) providing free, over-the-air broadcast of five hours of educational programming for students in grades 6-12 via NET's World Channel. NET also created a [Learn At Home webpage](#) to provide students of all ages, parents and teachers with useful resources to support their remote learning. These resources are grouped by the student's age and include videos, teacher resources, virtual field trips, and the Nebraska Studies collection that puts the history of the state at students' fingertips.
- As over 30% of children in Nevada have no home internet connectivity, worksheets drawn from resources provided by Vegas PBS's [Classroom Cast](#) are being printed and distributed at 40+ drive-through meal stations in the state's school districts. Meal stations operate five days a week and can serve approximately 35,000 cars a day.
- [Camp Curiosity](#) is the umbrella under which PBS Reno (NV) houses its Ready to Learn programs, PBS Learning Media, and the at-home learning content running on the station's kids channel each school day between 8am-4pm—to mirror the school day. The state school superintendent and local superintendent are including the schedule and links in their communications to parents, students and teachers.
- [New Hampshire PBS](#) provides parents, caregivers, teachers and students access to a variety of learning and teaching resources – updated daily – while schools are closed.
- New Jersey Public Media (NJTV), in partnership with the New Jersey Education Association and the New Jersey Department of Education, launched [NJTV Learning Live](#). The 2019-20 NJ State teacher of the year, is joined by some of New Jersey's best public school teachers in teaching on-air classes for grades 3-6 (9am to 1pm). Further, NJTV provides educational kids programming for free over-the-air, as well as access to PBS LearningMedia.
- New Mexico PBS/KNME in Albuquerque, KENW in Portales and KRWG in Las Cruces partnered with Albuquerque Public Schools to broadcast classes for all of New Mexico's students. From 8am until noon, [APS@Home](#) provides K-5 students with a schedule of televised classes, featuring Albuquerque Public School educators in short segments, supporting a variety of subjects and grade levels. The segments include a Sign interpreter and bilingual lessons are also available. For grades 6-12, New Mexico PBS is

providing the WORLD channel feed of content and, working with state educators, is using online PBS LearningMedia resources to reinforce the WORLD channel curriculum. New Mexico PBS has also created a curated [Parent Resource Page](#), including information on how to talk to young children about the coronavirus and a list of meal sites in school districts throughout the state.

- In addition to their Learn at Home schedule, WXXI in Rochester (NY) has made variations of question-based TV spots (:15) for scheduling after their 4-12<sup>th</sup> grade programming block. It has also created printable discussion cards for students to use with any program or document. WXXI's documents are available in a Google Drive for other stations to share and modify as needed. In addition, WXXI created [one-sheets](#) promoting PBS LearningMedia Virtual Field Trips for Elementary Classrooms, and a monthly, PBS KIDS activity calendar. The station also launched a new YouTube series that gives kids a sneak peek into STEAM careers. Geared towards students ages 7 to 11, "[I Can Be What!](#)" provides a portal to career exploration. The series [Educational Resources website](#) provides online content and resources to help parents and educators advance their students' career exploration process.
- WNET and the New York City Department of Education (NYDOE) have expanded Let's Learn, the one-hour daily public television series for children in 3-K through second grade with 130 new episodes featuring lessons taught by NYDOE instructional leaders and coaches with expertise in teaching young learners. The episodes air in the New York metro area and episodes and segments stream nationwide at [letslearn.org](#). All programming has English and Spanish captions. Episodes of Let's Learn will air on public television stations nationwide via a distribution partnership with NETA (the National Educational Telecommunications Association.)
- WCNY Syracuse, in partnership with Syracuse City School District, launched the TV Classroom Network, a series of K-12 classes taught by district teachers and administrators on WCNY's Global Connect Channel, simulcast from [wcnny.org](#), WCNY's Facebook page and on-demand.
- [UNC-TV](#) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction partnered to support children learning at home by providing free curriculum-informed, over-the-air content that is widely accessible to students – especially those with limited or no internet access. Each weekday, two blocks of programs air on UNC-TV's North Carolina Channel to serve students in grades 4-8 (8am – 1pm), and students in grades 9-12 (1pm – 6pm). The partnership has also created related materials for online access and printed for distribution at food distribution sites around the state.
- [PBS Charlotte](#) (NC) created an At-Home Learning community resource toolkit for families and educators. The toolkit includes broadcast programming and accompanying digital resources that adhere to state and national standards. The station is also adapting its seven-week high school career pathways and leadership "3D Project Dreamers-Doers-Destiny" into a virtual American Graduate video series, and having weekly Virtual Story Times for children through Facebook watch parties.



- [Prairie Public](#) (ND) has curated resources for Pre-K-12+ students that are available on television broadcast as well as on digital platforms. The resources include [materials](#) that can be downloaded and printed. The station offers programming for younger children on their main Prairie Public PBS channel in addition to PBS KIDS, as well as a new programming lineup for middle and high school students on the Prairie Public World Channel.
- [RSU Public TV](#) (Roger State University) worked in partnership with Tulsa Public Schools and Sequoyah Public Schools to offer learning experiences to northeast Oklahoma school children through [RSU TV's @HomeLearning](#) programming. It features a range of academic and physical education options, delivered in 30-minute segments, taught by certified classroom teachers and community education partners. The station is also partnering with Tulsa City County Library to offer early childhood activities with Build-A-Reader.
- [OETA](#) has collaborated with the Oklahoma State Department of education to adjusted its [daytime schedule](#) and provide curriculum-based programming for students over-the-air on OETA World. Each episode or series directly correlates to lessons and resources made available online through PBS LearningMedia.
- [Southern Oregon PBS \(SOPBS\)](#) has partnered with the Medford School District and radio stations the Dove, KDRV and KTVL to broadcast lessons taught by local teachers for grades K-12. In addition, SOPBS WORLD channel offers a block of educational programming for grades 6-12, with accompanying lesson plans and activities on PBS LearningMedia.
- Pennsylvania's seven public television stations have partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide resources for educators to support distance learning through [Learning at Home with Pennsylvania Public Television](#).
- In the new Rhode Island PBS short film series, [Kids Want to Know](#), teens ask questions about the coronavirus COVID-19 and medical professionals provide thoughtful, informative answers. Episodes range from 2-3 minutes in length. Three new short films are released each week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays on the station's website and its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) accounts @RhodeIslandPBS.
- [South Carolina ETV](#) is partnering with the S.C. Department of Education to broadcast streamlined, curriculum-based programming for the state's pre-K through 12th grade students in response to mandatory school closures due to the coronavirus. The station will continue to provide virtual professional development opportunities for educators to help them learn more about the [free educational resources](#) and broadcasting programming available.
- South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) is broadcasting At-Home Learning programs for grades 6-12, Monday – Friday at 11am-4pm (10am-3pm MT) on SDPB2-TV. In

recognition that not all students have access to broadband internet, these daily free-over-the-air broadcasts will feature the best in public media science, history and other educational programming. The station is also offering [SDPB Learners Connection](#) – a suite of free educational resources for learners from preschool through high school to help with at-home learning.

- The Tennessee Department of Education is partnering with the state’s six public television stations to deliver daily instructional content for Tennessee students during COVID-19 school closures. This partnership provides all students with access to daily learning opportunities right in their own homes. Tennessee’s six PBS stations — [Nashville Public Television](#), [East Tennessee PBS](#) (Knoxville), [WCTE Upper Cumberland PBS](#), [WKNO](#) (Memphis), [West TN PBS](#) (Martin), and [WTCI-PBS](#) (Chattanooga)— deliver two hours of programming with high-quality instructional content from 10am to 12pm CST. Four hours of content are streamed overnight, which viewers can watch live or record. The content is developed and provided by Tennessee educators in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education and meets a critical need to ensure all students have access to high-quality learning opportunities, regardless if their home has internet connectivity or capable devices. Additionally, [WCTE Upper Cumberland PBS](#) provides curated PBS and PBS KIDS content starting at 6am until 10am and then again at Noon until 4pm daily Monday through Friday. The designated blocks of time have been broken down into Pre-K through 12th grade focuses. All programming has corresponding digital materials for extended learning that lives on the WCTE website.
- [Austin \(TX\) PBS Learning at Home Resources](#) includes an educational content schedule, conversation guide, links to Austin PBS LearningMedia, Bright By Text, Austin PBS doodle book and more.
- [KAMU](#) (College Station, TX) is providing access to educational instruction through its primary TV channel. Specifically, the station offers students in Pre-K through 12th grade access to free, educational PBS daytime programming and accompanying digital resources that adhere to an approved at-home learning curriculum.
- PBS El Paso ensures that learning continues during school closures by broadcasting educational content from 5am – 5:30pm each weekday. The station has also partnered with [Bright by Text](#) to provide bilingual research-based tips and messages that focus on ways to talk to their children about COVID-19, as well as at-home activities, tips on how to manage stress during an outbreak, and other local resources and information for parents and caregivers. The station also [compiles a list](#) of safe, trusted and free resources for families to use during this time.
- [Basin PBS](#) (Midland/Odessa, TX) launched a weekday at-home learning daytime TV schedule with supplemental digital learning content for each grade level.



- [KLRN Learning at Home](#) (San Antonio, TX) includes a daily schedule of broadcast programs with digital resources such as family resources, parent and educator newsletters, discussion questions and activities.
- KERA TV partnered with the Dallas Independent School Districts to offer “Summer Bridge to Math Success,” a broadcast of math lessons created and presented by Dallas Independent School District teachers. Lessons were broadcasted in 30-minute blocks on weekdays between 12 noon and 2:30pm for grades K-8, plus Algebra 1. The lessons for each grade were about 14 minutes long and aired from July 6th through August 7th. The video classes provided targeted, engaging instruction, with short breaks between the lessons.
- UEN [partners](#) with [Nearpod](#), an instructional platform that merges formative assessment and dynamic media for collaborative learning experiences. Teachers throughout Utah’s 41 school districts will be able to use Nearpod to provide 658,000 K-12 students with livestreaming and self-paced lessons that can be accessed on any web-enabled device.
- The U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education has partnered with WTJX Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System and local radio stations to launch the eTeacher Network offering educational programming for students in Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- [Vermont PBS](#) has partnered with the Vermont Agency of Education to provide continuity of learning for Vermont students and school communities through the broadcast of free educational resources while schools are closed. The Vermont At-Home Learning service provides pre-K-8 programming from 7am – 3pm on the main channel and programming for Grades 6-12 from noon-5pm on the PBS Plus Channel.
- Four Virginia public media stations, Blue Ridge PBS, VPM, WETA and WHRO Public Media, work closely with the Virginia Department of Education to create [“VA TV Classroom,”](#) broadcasting teacher-led classroom instruction aligned with the commonwealth’s academic standards. The “VA TV Classroom” broadcast lessons from 1-3pm, Monday through Friday to provide instruction to students in grades K-10 who are unable to access other distance learning options due to a lack of high-speed internet.
- Virginia Public Media (VPM) worked with the First Lady of Virginia, a former early childhood educator, to speak directly to children and parents with the help of the Fred Rogers Center. Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittycat visited the Governor’s Mansion in Richmond to help VPM create short interstitials about the importance of handwashing, staying active and sharing their feelings with an adult. [This content](#) will be shared with all Virginia PBS stations.
- WHRO Public Media (Norfolk, VA) is offering nationwide [free access to their 25 high school online courses](#). These award-winning, media-rich, customizable courses have been developed by highly qualified educators and are aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning. Each course has the entire year of content available for free and accessible by students, teachers, parents and administrators nationwide. WHRO Public Media is

also offering [webinars to parents and teachers](#) to help them prepare for successful distance learning via eMediaVA.

- WETA's (Arlington, VA) [Reading Rockets](#) looks at how young children learn to read, why so many struggle, and what can be done to help. The station's website includes a special feature on learning at home when schools are closed. [Start with a Book](#) offers free resources for parents and educators to help children build literacy skills and prevent learning loss.
- To support learning during school closures, all PBS stations in Washington state, including [KCTS/9, Seattle](#) (and sister station KYVE, Yakima), [KBTC, Tacoma](#), and [Northwest Public Broadcasting](#) (KWSU, Pullman) are providing the daily WORLD channel At-Home Learning programming for students in grades 6-12.
- [KSPS in Spokane \(WA\)](#) provides teacher-approved, standards-based home learning activities for pre-K-12. Resources and activities are updated daily by KSPS Education staff.
- West Virginia Public Broadcasting has partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to deliver student [Learn-at-Home](#) content on the statewide television network, addressing the need to provide students ongoing access to learning opportunities, regardless of internet connection or device. In addition, the station created "[Education Station](#)" on YouTube, airing from 9-930am on Tuesdays and Thursdays with teachers from across the state providing instruction for students at home.
- Wyoming PBS, in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Education and the state's 48 school districts, is offering virtual teacher training regarding the use of [Wyoming PBS LearningMedia](#) in virtual classrooms. Two sessions per week are held via Zoom. In May and June, Wyoming PBS will partner with the PBS series "Prehistoric Roadshow" and "Nature Cat" to create virtual outreach events with discussion panels, educational content and program clips.

#### National Education Resources for Stations

- PBS Learning Media has posted resources on [Source.pbs.org](#) for stations seeking to integrate their features into their local pandemic response. They are available using the search term PBSLMCOVID19 and materials include webinar recordings for stations on how to localize content and co-brandable slides. Stations can share PBS' webinar for educators, [Distance Learning with PBS Learning Media](#). PBS also offers [Resources for Emergency Closures Collection \(English\)](#) in a newly translated [Spanish language edition](#). Stations can create a free account and access fully translated videos, lesson plans, and activities that support learning at home. Additional content for educators is available on [PBS TeachersLounge blog](#).
- To encourage family engagement and a love of reading during this time at home, PBS KIDS offers families a place to come together and read along with fan-favorites on

YouTube and Facebook. Initiated in the spring and continued during the summer, nearly 30 [PBS KIDS Read-Alongs](#) have included story-times with [Brad Meltzer](#) (XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM), [Marc Brown](#) (ARTHUR), [Victoria Kann](#) (PINKALICIOUS & PETERRIFIC), [Angela Santomero](#) (DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD) and more, on the [PBS KIDS Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel. Along with story-time of a beloved book, each PBS KIDS Read-Along is designed to encourage engagement among families who tune in, with activity ideas and questions that spark conversation.

- Vision Maker Media has partnered with PBS Learning Media to bring Native American storytelling and content into family homes, with [curated lesson plans](#) and discussion guides free for online use.
- The PBS TeachersLounge, a curated digital resource for educators to share ideas, includes posts on "[Strategies to Build Engaging Distance Learning for High School Students](#)" and "[5 Virtual Ways to Build a Classroom Community](#)".
- PBS is offering a three part Virtual Professional Learning Series to educators and caregivers on "[Teaching with Molly of Denali](#)" on April 16, 23, and 30<sup>th</sup> and a four-part series [Virtual Professional Learning Series](#) for teachers to learn how they might use [American Portrait](#) in their classrooms. Educators will be introduced to subject matter experts, storytellers and artists and provided with detailed lesson ideas to engage their students around American Portrait's specific question prompts.
- Four new ODD SQUAD short-form videos will roll out over the next four weeks on PBS KIDS digital and social media platforms, and later this spring on national broadcast. The first one, "[How to Stay Away from Germs](#)," is now available to public television stations on the Source.
- [EcoSense for Living](#) (produced by Kentucky Educational Television) is now available on PBS LearningMedia, adding to the platform's online resources for middle and high school students to explore science-based environmental challenges, solutions and conservation topics.
- Sesame Workshop has launched a new [Health Emergencies](#) topic page on Sesame Street in Communities, including animations and printable activities, articles for caregivers, and family activity bundles.
- NETA, in collaboration with PBS, is sharing station-created COVID-19 resources such as on-air interstitials, communication templates, and imagery via PBS Source and Station Exchange. Promo spots directly address COVID-19 and/or support At-Home Learning, distance learning, and other similar responses to school closure.
- [The Moth's Education Program](#) is publishing a weekly storytelling activity in response to school closings around the world. Every Tuesday and Friday, a story from The Moth's

archive paired with activities such as how to write or tell your own story, journal prompts, word searches and reflection questions.

- Roadtrip Nation (RTN) has aggregated [a collection](#) of free RTN resources for educators, parents and caregivers. Resources include an interview archive with thousands of video interviews with people from all walks of life discussing their career pathways, RTN documentaries with viewing guides, RTN on YouTube and links to RTN resources on PBS LearningMedia.

### Public Media Stations Delivering Vital News, Information, and Official Communications on COVID-19

- In response to the pandemic, during 2020 NPR launched a daily podcast, [Coronavirus Daily](#) (now called Consider This). NPR also launched and distributed two critical programs: a nightly live national show ([The National Conversation with All Things Considered](#)), and a weekly one-hour special (Coronavirus – A Weekly Report from NPR News), featured on more than 430 local stations. These special offerings were essential to our work covering the virus in 2020, and paved the way for other offerings. Today the virus and its impact remain a major area of focus for NPR’s newsroom, crossing every show and beat and platform. Of note, NPR has [a liveblog](#) capturing the latest updates and is also offering to all member stations video embeds of White House briefings on the coronavirus. The [U.S. coronavirus map](#) is NPR.org’s most viewed story of all-time, with nearly 32 million page views to date.
- Public radio stations such as [KUOW](#), [KQED](#), [BPR](#), [KWIT](#), [WBEZ](#) and [WFDD](#) provide in-language resources to their communities – truly meeting communities where they are.
- [Native American Calling](#), the weekly national call-in show produced by Koahnic Broadcast Corporation (Anchorage, AK), is airing programming that takes a close look at the impact of the coronavirus on native populations, including an early show dedicated to how to [talk to children about the crisis](#).
- [KTOO](#) (Juneau, AK) is offering Alaska coronavirus and COVID-19 [news updates](#) from around the state.
- [KCAW](#) (Raven Radio-Sitka, AK) has a Coronavirus Information Hub with local, regional and state COVID-19 case counts, vaccine information, public health and news updates.
- [KJZZ-FM](#) (Phoenix, AZ) has a [landing page](#) with the latest coronavirus coverage updates, including an Arizona map with county-level information on confirmed cases.
- [Arkansas PBS](#) aired a special one-hour episode of “Arkansas Week” Friday to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on education in the state featuring three state education officials.

- Southern California Public Radio (KPCC) is interviewing local and state health officials daily, including Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of LA County Public Health, on their public affairs call-in program *AirTalk with Larry Mantle*. The station sent 10,000 mailers with critical information about COVID-19 to families who have low broadband and can't easily access online information. They have answered 1,100 questions about the pandemic through Hearken and Groundsource and are exploring machine learning tools to greatly reduce the time it takes to process these questions and identify trends in what people want to know. They are sharing information with ethnic and in-language media partners, as well as the *Los Angeles Times*, which is critical to ensuring communities across the region receive accurate, fact-based information about COVID-19.
- KIXE PBS (Redding, CA) is working on PSAs for its local Chamber of Commerce, and its local Health and Human Services Agency to solicit donations for medical supplies for its local medical community, blood bank and Veteran Services Organizations. It is also hosting a Facebook Live children's story time event with "General Manager Dave" where he reads a book and discusses all that is currently happening.
- KIXE PBS (Redding, CA) is working on PSAs for its local Chamber of Commerce, and its local Health and Human Services Agency to solicit donations for medical supplies for its local medical community, blood bank and Veteran Services Organizations. It is also hosting a Facebook Live children's story time event with "General Manager Dave" where he reads a book and discusses all that is currently happening.
- Valley PBS (CA) has developed a [Coronavirus](#) resource page styled as "Your Valley Resource for current updates, news and information regarding the Coronavirus."
- KEET's (CA) [COVID-19 page](#) includes links to PBS coverage and learning resources. Starting Friday, April 10 they started airing a weekly live update featuring information from the [Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services](#), the [Humboldt County Sheriff's Office](#) and other sources.
- Capital Public Radio (CA) offers [California Coronavirus Updates](#), including a [coronavirus tracker](#) dashboard listing cases by California county, [Your Coronavirus Questions, Answered](#) and a daily coronavirus email newsletter. Cap Radio has taken the lead in a programming, engineering, and administrative collaboration with NSPR (Chico, Redding) and KHSU (Humboldt, Arcata).
- North State Public Radio (CA) offers [Coronavirus News](#) including comprehensive coronavirus coverage, vaccine updates, and [What You Need To Know: COVID-19 Resource Links](#).
- Rocky Mountain PBS [Coronavirus \(COVID-10\) in Colorado](#) includes links to PBS stories, health official websites, resources, advice and a curated Twitter list.
- Colorado Public Radio's [Coronavirus in Colorado](#) page offers timely coronavirus data and news updates.

- Four Corners Public Radio offers daily local and national reporting about the COVID-19 pandemic, a [feed of ongoing coronavirus coverage](#), and links to [valuable COVID-related resources](#).
- [Connecticut Public: What Connecticut Needs to Know about the Coronavirus](#) is a dedicated page updated with guidance on symptoms and resources, and an interactive map of New England's confirmed cases.
- Jazz station WCLK in Atlanta (GA) launched [Real Money-Real Talk: Powering Through the Pandemic](#), a four-part series to provide individuals and businesses with information to take advantage of the \$2 trillion stimulus. In addition, they are running PSAs and have engaged with one of Atlanta's longest running charitable organizations, Hosea Feeds the Hungry. WCLK is also airing interviews on the popular local public affairs show, The Local Take, with health care professionals and mental health workers to inform the community on how they can get help during this critical time.
- WABE-FM (GA) has a [dedicated page](#) to the coronavirus in Georgia, which offers a blend of the station's and NPR's content.
- [Georgia Public Broadcasting \(GPB\) News](#) is the exclusive media access point for most of Governor Kemp's press conferences and briefings with state officials on COVID-19, fed live across broadcast and digital platforms; coproduced an unprecedented statewide live televised Town Hall with the governor and state officials; and reports daily on the impact of the virus in Georgia on Political Rewind and other programs. GPB also started two new features, What You Need to Know: Coronavirus, featuring interviews conducted by GPB's Virginia Prescott; and [True or False?](#), a Q&A style column addressing myths about coronavirus. All of these programming reports and resources are available on a specially created website, [gpb.org/coronavirus](#). In addition, GPB recorded a PSA with the governor running across its broadcast and digital platforms and facilitates production and distribution of state agency communications on COVID-19. GPB's Coronavirus (COVID-19) News and Resources page includes a Georgia COVID-19 vaccine locator and the latest pandemic news.
- Hawaii PBS produced, broadcast and streamed [COVID-19: Stay Alert, Stay Informed, Stay Healthy](#). The call-in show allowed viewers to ask questions of the Hawaii Lieutenant Governor, the Hawaii Health Director, and others.
- Boise State Public Radio (ID) has a [Coronavirus In Idaho Live Blog](#) with the latest resources and news updates. Readers can submit questions to inform the station's reporting.
- Illinois Public Media's daily talk show, [The 21st](#), is devoted to the COVID-19 crisis. The program is carried on five downstate NPR stations serving small markets and rural areas. Guests have included state political leaders, public health officials, and medical experts. IPM's [newsroom](#) is providing essential reporting for rural communities— in many places



the only local news coverage there is. They provide daily local updates inserted on PBS NewsHour and carry the governor's daily press briefings live (radio and streaming).

- WBEZ's [Coronavirus in Illinois webpage](#) is continually being updated with case counts, vaccination updates, FAQs, and more.
- Lakeshore Public Media is doing [weekly updates](#) to the services it provides regarding COVID-19 and built a [COVID-19 resource](#) web page. It is also presenting on [social media](#), and on Lakeshore PBS, a series featuring "[the helpers](#)." The station has a partnership with WBEZ in Chicago that provides critical news coverage on the public radio station in Northwest Indiana. In addition, LPM is airing special programming on both radio and television, including educational spots for both adults and children regarding COVID-19 as well as all of the Governor's press briefings.
- Iowa PBS's weekly public affairs show, Iowa Press Special, focused on COVID-19 during a [special episode](#) that received more than 150 calls, 100 emails and 40 questions online. Iowa PBS is also providing the pool feed for the Iowa Governor's daily news conferences from the state's Emergency Command Center, sharing satellite coordinates and embed codes with national and local radio and television stations across four states.
- Iowa Public Radio is offering [The Latest on COVID-19](#), with resources, a link to IPR's Life Blog, [Your Coronavirus And COVID-19 Questions Answered](#) and a sign-up for [Iowa Public Radio's COVID-19 newsletter](#).
- In Sioux City, Iowa, it is estimated that 18.8% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. However, there was not a local, daily source of news in a language other than English. [Siouxland Public Media](#) worked with a local non-profit to begin delivering their COVID-19 coverage in Spanish, Oromo and Somali via internet making it possible for people to better hear vital information such as school lunch delivery or information about the state's response to the pandemic.
- WKU Public Radio (Bowling Green, KY) has a [Coronavirus Live Blog](#) with the latest resources and local reporting. Blog readers can [submit stories and questions](#) to inform the station's reporting.
- Louisville Public Radio (KY) has maintained [a Kentucky COVID-19 Tracker](#) since April which provides a dashboard for listeners/users to track cases by county.
- Louisiana Public Broadcasting, the pool feed for all television and radio in the state for daily briefings on the coronavirus, produced a one hour live special "[COVID-19: Louisiana's Response](#)," with Governor John Bel Edwards and state health, business and education officials to give a status update on the State's response to the crisis. It was carried in every market by public and commercial broadcasters. LPB solicited and received more than 3,000 viewer questions from across the state, some of which were answered live on the air. On Tuesday April 7th, LPB produced a follow-up to the initial

broadcast and on April 23, LPB will dedicate a special episode of the Emmy award-winning program "[Louisiana: Public Square](#)" to the COVID-19 response.

- WWNO (New Orleans, LA) presents each day's live blog at the top of [WWNO.org](#), and currently features information on where to find a COVID-19 vaccine provider along with the latest local developments.
- Maryland Public Television offers a [dedicated page](#) with coverage, links and a video from its president and CEO.
- WYPR-FM has a [dedicated webpage](#) with all of its local reporting on COVID-19 and launched a nightly podcast, [Daily Dose: Maryland Confronts COVID-19](#), an daily roundup of essential state and local updates.
- WBUR (Boston, MA) offers [Coronavirus Coverage](#), currently including a state map, case count, coronavirus risk assessment by community, vaccine updates, [Mass. Town-By-Town Data](#), as well as *WBUR Today*, a daily morning newsletter. [WBUR CommonHealth](#), WBUR's Health vertical, is dominated by coronavirus coverage.
- Detroit Public Television partnered with commercial and public television stations in the Detroit market to produce and broadcast a "[Governor's Town Hall](#)" to provide viewers the opportunity to ask questions of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer during this crisis.
- Michigan Radio resources include ongoing [COVID-19 coverage](#) with full coverage of the coronavirus outbreak, [Michigan tracking data](#), and a dedicated [Coronavirus page](#) with local information that [asks readers](#) to submit story ideas and tips.
- Twin Cities PBS (MN) is offering coronavirus coverage targeted to seniors on their [What You Need to Know](#) page. [TPT NOW](#), a public service channel with weather, health, and safety information has kicked into high gear, working directly with governor's office to convey important messages via social media, web and PSAs, including producing 12 videos for the Minnesota Department of Health on Isolation/Quarantine, Social Distancing, and Mental Health in ASL and ESL. The channel is taking state government COVID-19 media briefings and news conferences live daily and is broadcasting and streaming up to 20 hours weekly of COVID-19 content in up to 8 languages for diverse communities regionally and in rural Minnesota.
- [MPR News: COVID-19](#): Minnesota Public Radio's coronavirus page features the latest Minnesota data, guides and tips, on demand audio news stories, a link to submit questions about COVID-19 via [Hearken](#), along with a mix of local, state and national articles and advice. The [Minnesota Today](#) podcast offers daily COVID-19 updates.



- Mississippi Public Broadcasting has a [dedicated webpage](#) guiding viewers to local resources, updates from the Governor and the Mississippi Department of Health, testing locations, local reporting and a map with case counts in Mississippi counties.
- Nine Network (St. Louis, MO) created a YouTube playlist, [Coronavirus Messages](#), which includes interviews and information on topics such as the symptoms of COVID-19, education resources and tips for working from home. They also have a standing page, [What You Should Know About The Novel Coronavirus](#), that features PBS NewsHour coverage, a real-time coronavirus case tracker, and a playlist of coronavirus related clips.
- St. Louis Public Radio maintains [Local Updates: COVID-19 In The St. Louis Region](#), with a coronavirus blog, COVID Data Dashboard, and Curious Louis: COVID-19 FAQ.
- KCUR (Kansas City, MO) public radio station has a page dedicated to ongoing [coronavirus coverage](#), KMUW (Wichita, KS) also has [COVID-19: Resource Center](#), and KCPT's (Kansas City, MO) [Continuing Coronavirus Coverage and Resources](#) combines PBS NewsHour coverage and resources with coverage from the station's Flatland magazine.
- WNET (New York) [Take on Fake](#) is a new YouTube series that debunks claims seen or shared online to show people how to stay informed. The program follows the Internet rabbit hole of COVID-19 misinformation, reading beyond a single headline to find credible sources to uncover the truth. The first episode was "[COVID-19 Fake Cures and False Diagnoses](#)."
- Montana Public Radio's [Montana Coronavirus And COVID-19 News](#) blog includes a daily 10-minute audio update, news updates and links to the Montana health department and CDC.
- [NET: COVID-19 in Nebraska](#) is NET's dedicated page, which includes news, resources, and explainers distributed by Side Effects Public Media, including Spanish language resources. One-minute news updates by NET News Director are embedded.
- KUNR (Reno, NV) is continually updating [a live blog](#) with the latest updates on coronavirus in Nevada. The station produces [Spanish-language versions](#) of its reporting, beyond coronavirus, and is especially useful in reaching an underserved local demographic.
- Nevada Public Radio's blog, [Coronavirus: What You Need To Know](#), offers updates, a COVID-19 Tracker, and links to Southern Nevada and statewide resources.
- NHPR launched a pop-up call-in show about COVID-19, [New Hampshire Calling](#), that aired at 7 pm Monday-Thursdays in the spring and early summer.

- NJTV has a [dedicated page](#) that tracks all their latest coverage, including state preparedness and response, school district planning, financial impacts, and health guidance.
- Charlotte PBS (NC) is providing COVID-19 updates during its three weekly shows, including [Carolina Impact](#) (news magazine), [Off the Record](#) (reporter round table ZOOM) and [Carolina Business Review](#) (business discussion Zoom).
- In its continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to expedite vital information to North Carolinians, [UNC-TV Public Media North Carolina](#), in addition to sharing Governor Roy Cooper’s live press briefings concerning the coronavirus pandemic to all television stations statewide and beyond, is also offering live video and multi-language audio feeds to the broadcast community from the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center.
- [WOUB Public Media](#) (Athens, OH) broadcasts Ohio Governor Mike DeWine’s daily coronavirus update news conference on both radio and television, providing critical news and information to the region. The station also partnered with the Southeast Ohio History Center to help build an online collection of stories from southeast Ohio and Appalachia, including oral histories, photographs, video recordings, diaries, letters, clothing, and historical objects that speak to the experiences people in the region are having during this time.
- [WQLN](#) (Erie, PA) is [broadcasting PSAs](#) voiced by the leadership of Erie’s three hospitals and the city’s health department. They are also covering the Erie County Health Department’s biweekly news conferences.
- KAMU (College Station, TX) hosted a [Town Hall on Facebook Live](#) that enabled concerned students, parents, faculty and staff to question university leaders about actions regarding the current pandemic. The show aired 10 times over the next 8 days on KAMU TV. In addition, Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp [interviewed leading experts about COVID-19](#), including [Dr. Peter Hotez](#) of the Baylor College of Medicine, who is the developer of a potential COVID-19 vaccine through his research into the SARS outbreak in 2002-03.
- Texas Public Radio launched [Petrie Dish](#), a weekly coronavirus pandemic explainer podcast hosted by science journalist Bonnie Petrie. Each week, Ms. Petrie talks to scientists and other experts about the coronavirus and how it is being studied.
- Milwaukee PBS (WI) is capturing how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the communities they serve in their new series [Stories of our Pandemic](#). It will be streamed on WORLD Channel and FRONTLINE is adding it to their COVID-19 website. PBS NewsHour also shared one of these [stories](#). Milwaukee PBS is asking people to [submit](#) their stories of hope or help.

- Wisconsin Public Radio's year-old [WHYsconsin series](#) invited its audience to submit questions about COVID-19 and the state's response to the pandemic. The 1,200 plus questions submitted ranged from how the virus affects a pregnancy, concerns about evictions, and the impact of the virus on the state's election planning. More than 500 questions have been answered on air or online.
- Virginia Public Media (VPM) is the sole broadcaster for the governor's thrice-weekly COVID-19 press conferences and provides the uplink for any broadcaster in the state to use them. VPM streams these briefings live on its website and on its Facebook page every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and airs them on its main channel at 6:30 pm.
- [Vermont Public Radio](#), posted an updated programming schedule for COVID-19 special coverage. One change included its daily show 'Vermont Edition' expanding to two hours a day to amplify listener voices. The additional hour focused on audience experiences and COVID-19 resources. VPR also provides a daily email news briefing, which includes the latest Vermont coronavirus numbers and updates.

#### Public Media Newsrooms Strengthening COVID-19 Coverage through Collaboration

- The Editorial Integrity and Leadership Initiative at Arizona State University's Cronkite School held a webinar featuring the Acting News Director at WNYC. He shared with his peers what it has been like to operate within a COVID 19 hotspot and discussed the station's critical early decision to move everyone, except a single board producer, out of the newsroom. He further discussed the steps WNYC is taking to limit COVID-19 exposure to their journalists. All reporters have been sent "go-bags" with masks, gloves, sanitizer, and a full-body gown for situations where they must go out in the field.
- [Illinois Newsroom](#), led by Illinois Public Media in Urbana, has a [Coronavirus Information Center](#) and is soliciting coronavirus questions through its [Ask the Newsroom](#) Hearken platform. They have posted [a list of locations](#) in Central Illinois where residents can get tested for COVID-19, along with guidance on how to qualify for testing. The daily call-in show *The 21<sup>st</sup> Show* has been producing "Therapy Thursday" segments to help the community navigate the mental health stresses associated with the pandemic.
- [IPB News](#), the statewide journalism collaboration led by WFYI Indianapolis, has produced more than 100 distinct stories covering all aspects of the COVID-19 in Indiana. The stories have helped stations with smaller newsrooms focus their resources on hyperlocal reporting. Stations are also sharing guidance and best practices to help keep journalists and the public safe, and the distributed nature of the team across the state has made the sudden transition to remote working smooth and transparent. IPB News digital FAQs are available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). IPB News is also partnering with Spanish-language and African American news outlets, in addition to connecting with the community through live Q-and-As on air and online, Facebook Live events, and social media platforms. The [statewide talk show \*All In\*](#) is [informing](#) and connecting communities. IPB News recently hired a videographer who has played a critical role in

establishing a statewide feed of COVID-19 updates from the governor and state officials to every public radio and TV station in the state.

- Side Effects Public Media, the public health journalism collaboration led by WFYI Indianapolis, is leveraging its experience working with various partners to serve communities in the MidWest and Great Lakes Regions. In addition, Side Effects is collaborating with New America and The Indianapolis Recorder, an Indianapolis newspaper serving African-Americans. On March 31, New America Indy and The Recorder kicked off a new series called "[COVID and the Black Community.](#)" Side Effects is promoting it and helping to answer questions.
- [Ohio Valley ReSource \(OVR\)](#), a journalism collaboration among stations in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia led by WFPL Louisville Public Media, quickly changed the focus of their America Amplified engaged journalism efforts from convenings to digital outreach and [deployed Hearken](#) to solicit and answer local questions about coronavirus. Ohio Valley ReSource's data reporter also worked with her public media colleagues to develop local dashboards tracking COVID-19 cases by county, including data on underlying risk factors like diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- In partnership with engaged journalism initiative America Amplified, the [New England News Collaborative](#) has launched a series of live regional call-in shows about the pandemic. The initial shows focused on the [impact school closures are having on family lives](#), [health care workers on the front lines](#), and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic [on the local economy](#). Station partners are also using their own local call-in shows to address the outbreak and to ask the public what they want to know.
- [Mountain West News Bureau](#), led by Boise State Public Radio worked with its collaboration partners to provide staffing capacity during this marathon crisis. With a regional team of nine journalists across Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and New Mexico, Mountain West News Bureau is offering their coverage free of charge to all 30 stations across their coverage area, many of them small and rural. This is helping stations focus their resources on hyperlocal coverage.
- The Radio Bilingüe National Latino Public Radio Network has been providing coverage of the Coronavirus – Covid-19 public health emergency since February. This includes regular extended hours of the weekday national Linea Abierta news-talk show, and many additional weekly public service programs and short educational messages in Spanish, English and Mixteco. Links to the coverage are housed on a Radio Bilingue Coronavirus Coverage [webpage](#). Public media stations may air the programs and messages on their own signals or post the programming on their websites. Topics include: the needs of low-income Latinos regarding preventing infection spread, advice from medical and science experts, sheltering orders, job loss, sick leave, access to health care, unemployment eligibility, job protection for essential workers, food insecurity, eviction, and relief packages.

- The Texas Newsroom is leading coordinated joint coverage on air and online. Eight Texas newsroom staff based at KERA Dallas, KUT Austin, Texas Public Radio in San Antonio, Houston Public Media, and KTEP El Paso are working to produce content for six statewide newscasts each weekday, as well as the statewide magazine [Texas Standard](#), national NPR newscasts, and for stations across Texas.

#### Public Media Stations Providing Content to Address the Impact of Social Isolation

- Developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [StoryCorps Connect](#) is a first-of-its-kind platform that enables anyone to record a StoryCorps interview with a loved one remotely using video conference technology. The audio and a still photo from each interview will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- Sesame Workshop has created a program to help children and families feel connected in this time of uncertainty. The half-hour special, [Sesame Street: Elmo’s Playdate](#), aired on the PBS KIDS 24/Channel and livestream and was repeated throughout the week. Celebrity guests included Anne Hathaway, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Tracee Ellis Ross who will join Elmo and friends for a virtual playdate.
- [The Colorado Sound](#), the Triple-A station in Ft. Collins, told their audience, “[We’re in this together, so let’s collaborate](#),” asking them to send in their favorite songs that lift their spirits and altering their music programming to soothe local souls. They read those submissions on air and strengthen connections among listeners.
- Classical [WSMR](#) is rebroadcasting and streaming performances from the Florida Orchestra and the Sarasota Orchestra in an Evening Masterwork series.
- Since all music venues are temporarily closed in New Orleans, WWOZ has implemented an [OnlineWire](#), a calendar of virtual gigs, in the place of the regular WWOZ Livewire. These are happening on a variety of platforms—mainly social media. In addition, a beta version of the new [WWOZ GROOVAPEDIA](#) portal contains thousands of compelling and unique performances, interviews, history, photos, videos, and audio programs.
- WTMD (Baltimore, MD) has increased the frequency of NPR News headlines while still serving their music-focused audience. It [reprogrammed](#) its HD2 channel, which had been all music to serve parents and kids at home. From 6am-12pm, WTMD airs rebroadcasts of the popular family show “[Young at Heart with Lisa Mathews](#).” From noon to midnight, they are rebroadcasting “[Weasel’s Wild Weekend](#)” with radio host/musicologist Jonathan “Weasel” Gilbert. WTMD has also launched a new feature called “[A Sound Prescription](#),” where it plays listener-submitted sets of music they turn to for comfort during times of stress. In addition, WTMD has introduced a new feature called “Home School” with Professor Sam who plays music sets based on various subjects such as math, geography, science and biology. For example, a recent topic was science and Professor Sam played “The Sound of Science” by The Beastie Boys, “Show Me How This Thing Works” by Cracker, and “Stuck On You” by Josh Ritter.

- WGBH (Boston, MA) created a new [Facebook Live show](#) providing the public with a useful how-to on feeding a family in these precarious times. With over 43k views and 2,000 comments in the first few hours, the Lidia live stream was a hit. One of the challenges was that Lidia is self-isolating and no production team could enter her house. WGBH worked with Lidia to produce a remote live stream. WGBH is working with PBS's digital Food Channel to produce a second live stream.
- 90.5 WICN (Worcester, MA) is running PSAs to support the urgent need for PPE donations to UMass Medical Staff in the Greater Worcester area, and for medical staff recruitment at the new 250 bed temporary hospital set up in the DCU Center in downtown Worcester. It is also highlighting resources in the area as well as ways to support vital local institutions. WICN has built a [Community Resources page](#) that is updated frequently with local resource information and donation information for the PSAs.
- Charlotte PBS (NC) has created virtual engagement opportunities through national program screenings like the GENE: An Intimate History and a Q & A with their general manager in a virtual Coffee and Conversation. The station is also adapting its local arts and culture programming. The station has also created a music "Tribute" show to recognize excellence in high school musical theater from many of the 48 participating high schools.
- [WOUB Public Media](#) is providing a fun and educational activity for adults and families that are self-isolating. Each week, WOUB will premiere one of its local documentaries on YouTube on Fridays at 8pm. Viewers are encouraged to have a virtual discussion about what they watched and learned.
- Marfa Public Radio in Texas, [who started social isolation dance parties](#), is also producing 20 health and safety PSAs, and interviewing station leaders in rural places for their podcast [Our Show](#) to learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 on rural communities. They also produced a series of musical PSAs. Called "Tiny Porch" (a take-off on NPR's Tiny Desk), the show is a way to feature local musicians a shelter in place message. The station also has a hotline that allows people to share how they are doing or a moment of joy/connection in the midst of the pandemic.
- [WVIA](#) asks viewers to submit stories of how they are helping others during the pandemic.
- KUVO (Denver, CO) offers a [page of resources](#) of restaurants, food trucks, and vineyards offering delivery and take out. The station focuses on the local community and culture for its listener base in Colorado.
- WFUV (greater NYC metro area) DJs compiled a 60-song playlist specifically to help listeners find peace of mind through the COVID-19 crisis, "[WFUV's Stress-Free Playlist](#)".