
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA PUBLIC BROADCASTING BOARD APPROVES FY 2022 STATE BUDGET REQUESTS

Meeting. The Iowa Public Broadcasting Board met on August 12, 2020, by teleconference. The meeting opened with the Board discussing the impact of COVID-19 on operations; an update on finding a replacement for Susan Moritz Scharnberg, the current president of the Iowa PBS Foundation, who will be retiring in October 2020; and the re-election of Gary Steinke as president of the Board, and Courtney Maxwell Greene as vice president of the Board.

FY 2022 Budget Requests. For FY 2022, the Board is requesting an increase of \$100,000, and 1.0 FTE position for historical preservation of visual archives. The request would allow Iowa PBS to restore, catalogue, digitize, and preserve video archives and potentially allow educators, students, and the public access to footage from the last 50 years. In addition, the Board is requesting \$2.0 million for technology and capital improvements projects, which includes KQIN transmitter/mask filter replacement.

Re-brand Report. Susan Ramsey, Iowa PBS Director of Communications, provided an update on the continuing work for the name change of Iowa Public Television to Iowa PBS. Multiple data points were provided including tracking across multiple media platforms and decision-making regarding changes in using budgeted resources in the midst of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Response and Support. Governor Reynolds has been using the Iowa PBS location in Johnston, Iowa, to broadcast weekly press conferences. Iowa PBS is also providing programming and support statewide. Several programs have been aired to historically document COVID-19 responses across the State and Iowa PBS has provided multiple online educational resources including working with the Science Center of Iowa and the Blank Park Zoo to provide local educational content. The Board also discussed the statewide connectivity issue and potential opportunities for Iowa PBS to provide support, and the beginning work being done at the federal level regarding how the Public Broadcasting Service could fill the infrastructure gap into remote or rural areas.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

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