Iowa Public Radio

FY 2021 Infrastructure Request
IOWA PUBLIC RADIO BACKGROUND

• Formed in 2004 to manage stations owned by, and licensed to, Iowa State University, University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa

• Serves 220,000 listeners each week with award-winning News, Classical and News/Studio One programming

• Per Public Service Operating Agreement, IPR manages 26 stations and $11M+ in public radio infrastructure

• FY 2021 capital request includes two projects, totaling $1.2M of technology reinvestment
STATEWIDE IOWA PUBLIC RADIO SERVICE
WOI-FM

- Largest audience in the statewide network; 60,600 listeners each week with News/Studio One programming
- Owned by Iowa State University
- 25-year old transmitter is living on borrowed time. Expected life is 15-20 years
- Transmission line is obsolete; replacement parts no longer manufactured
- $875,000 project includes transmitter, transmission line and antenna
- Essential public service station:
  - WOI-FM is the back-up to WHO for Iowa’s Emergency Alert System (EAS).
  - IPR delivers Iowa Radio Reading Information Service, (IRIS), Iowa’s reading service for the blind, on a sub-carrier of WOI-FM
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

• Per FCC, all broadcast stations required to relay national emergency alerts
• In Iowa, IPR’s Jim Davies and KICD’s Joe Schloss are co-chairs of system
• WHO-AM is primary entry point for emergency alerts and WOI-FM is the back-up station in central Iowa
• The public radio satellite system also distributes emergency alerts to public radio stations, so IPR stations voluntarily provide an additional back-up for national alerting in Iowa
• IPR also serves as distribution system; if stations cannot pick up their designated primary station, they are instructed to pick up alerts from one of IPR’s 26 stations statewide.
• On state level, the system is used for Amber Alerts, Tornado Warnings and Flash Flood Warnings, etc.
IOWA RADIO READING INFORMATION SERVICE (IRIS)

• IPR stations deliver IRIS on subcarriers of 10 of our signals, helping to serve 3,000 print-disabled listeners throughout Iowa, serving Ames, Des Moines, Cedar Falls, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Ft. Dodge and more

• Volunteers in 7 locations read aloud from their local newspapers

• Readings are heard on custom receivers provided to listeners at no cost to them by IRIS

• IRIS service keeps listeners connected to their communities – and their world
KSUI-FM

- IPR’s largest Classical signal
- Serves 48,000 listeners each week
- Owned by University of Iowa
- Provides Iowa Radio Reading Services on its subcarrier
- Delivers emergency alert system to eastern Iowa
- Transmission line failed catastrophically in 2015
- Line is compromised
- Cost: $325,000 for transmission line and studio to transmitter link