
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa PBS

Purpose and History

Iowa PBS is Iowa's statewide public broadcasting network. The organization's mission is to present an unequaled array of programs of lasting value to Iowans regardless of where they live or what they can afford.

Iowa PBS changed its name from Iowa Public Television (IPTV) in 2020. Iowa Public Television began in 1967 when the State Educational Radio and Television Facility Board was created and charged with developing a State network to broadcast educational programs. The Board was composed of nine members selected in the following manner: three members appointed by the State Board of Regents, three members appointed by the State Board of Education, and three members appointed by the Governor, with at least one member from a private four-year college or university. The Board's name was changed in 1983 to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board. The membership now includes:

- Four citizen representatives appointed by the Governor, including representation from the business community, the television industry, and the Friends of Iowa PBS/Iowa PBS Foundation (see below).
- Five members representing the private colleges and universities, the community colleges, the area education agencies, the Board of Regents, and the Board of Education.

In 1982, the IPTV Foundation Board was established to solicit and manage gifts of money and property and to make grants and gifts to Iowa PBS. Also established around this time was Friends of IPTV, an organization established to solicit smaller donations from the general public to benefit Iowa PBS. In 2001, the two were combined and became the Friends of IPTV Foundation. In 2020, the foundation was renamed the Friends of Iowa PBS/Iowa PBS Foundation.

Funding

Iowa PBS receives an annual General Fund appropriation to support general operations. In addition, Iowa PBS receives State funding for infrastructure projects related to facilities, broadcast towers, and equipment. A significant portion of the organization's revenue comes from donor contributions through the Friends of Iowa PBS/Iowa PBS Foundation. Iowa PBS receives federal funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), as well as through other federal grants.

Funding is used to develop or purchase programming for broadcast, to develop and maintain a variety of websites related to various programming, and to maintain facilities and equipment that include nine towers around the State, among other purposes.

National Public Television Structure

The CPB is a private corporation created and funded by the federal government. Iowa PBS is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), a private, nonprofit media enterprise owned and operated by member stations. PBS is funded by the CPB and the member stations and distributes programming to more than 350 local public television stations around the United States.

More Information

Iowa PBS: www.iowapbs.org/

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections [256.80](#) through [256.90](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [288](#)

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