1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station’s vital local services, such as multiphase content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

KHNS’s ongoing goal, our top priority is to serve and entertain our listeners with the best quality audio in the most accessible format to listen to our content. This past year we have brought on three young staff members who are conversant in up-to-date technical opportunities and working with our engineer, we have implemented a number of their suggestions as well as ideas that were just waiting in the wings for the right person to manage and launch them. New resources to listeners include: 1) the local news is now a podcast and can be directly subscribed to at https://KHNS.org/feed. 2) we are available on Stitcher where you can save the podcast and listen at any time 3) our local news can also be heard on the NPR One app. 4) we now have a music archive available at radiofreeamerica.com/khns. 5) you can see the playlist for any show at Spinitron.com and our website has links to all of these resources as well as showing the most current track playing at the station. These improvements make what we do more accessible and it is working. In another attempt to make it easy on volunteers and staff, we adopted an audio recognition service that listens to our stream, collates our music playlists and organizes them into a program that be sent directly to the NPR Music site to fulfill our quarterly reporting requirements. In a rural station like ours we have many luddites who resist using the computer so this was an elegant solution to wrangling volunteers and those unable or willing to input the data themselves. Previously staff had to monitor volunteers and then input data which was time consuming. We also added a music database to our list of tools giving volunteers better access to new music and musical archives.

2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you’re connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.

KHNS regularly works with the non-profits in our communities to keep listeners up to date and to support our community friends in their endeavors through regular public service announcements. This past year, KHNS wrote a letter in support of Jamie Katzeek of the Klukwan library, offering to provide support and training in equipment and production for her work to document and preserve the experiences of elders and tribal members before those stories are lost. Jamie is a filmmaker and has focused on preserving Tlingit culture through much of her work but didn’t have a lot of training on audio. The library was awarded the grant and we helped her research and choose the best equipment and gave her tech backup on how best to get the stories in broadcast-ready shape for KHNS to air.

The seven key Southeast Alaska community radio stations regularly get together via conference call, skype and once a year in person to provide peer support for news, development and managerial work. Sharing how innovation works in one place is helpful as each of us cope with the lack of engineering, equipment and funding that many lower 48 stations have better access to. Monday through Friday we broadcast morning modules of programming from various non-profit and community board and groups, highlighting the fair exhibits, the library, snow conditions, wellness, history, safety, garden talk, art matters and more. We work with the Arts Confluence to highlight monthly First Fridays and the different local artists who show their work at various venues each month.

Our news team works diligently to provide local and regional news and listed below is a sampling of the stories from this past year that show the breadth of our coverage: Students learn survival skills over winter break in Haines Two community institutions working together to enrich children’s lives with useful skills. It relates a seemingly small event to a larger concern—safety and self-reliance in a remote area. Sgt. Preston’s Lodge to become housing. A complex housing shortage in a growing community illustrating the broader tension tourism and year-round residents and cost and availability of housing in Skagway. Haines birders collect data for Audubon Society. A long-standing conservation tradition that tracks changing migration patterns as climate becomes more variable. https://khns.org/in-rural-communities-jails-house-psychiatric-patients-awaiting-transport-to-hospitals. Our clinic doesn’t have a safe room in our small clinic to place patients who may hurt themselves or others, so they are housed in the rural jail. It is one of those problems that only happens in a rural community like this and doesn’t have an easy solution, but it’s a reality that people should know about. https://khns.org/skagway-responds-to-the-loss-of-mayor-monica-carlson. The Skagway Mayor was killed with her mother on a trip to Wash DC in Dec and was mourned deeply by our communities. We reported the news as soon as we were able to confirm it with D.C. metro police and then gave updates throughout the week as more information was available, through until the bus driver who hit her was charged. We allowed time to reflect on her life while reporting the facts of her death. https://khns.org/centuries-old-rattle-carved-by-tlingit-artist-sells-for-500000-at-auction-in-california. A story about a 200-year-old shaman’s rattle carved by a famous Tlingit artist that was sold at an auction in L.A. The artist had a profound influence on wood carving in the Southeast region. He carved a very famous set of house posts that are now on display at the Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage center. It raised some interesting questions about the ethics of the sale of native art.
The KHNS news department has benefited greatly from being able to brainstorm and consult lately with talented veteran reporters on everything from ethics to best practices and beyond. That the Alaska group is so well networked and generous with information and resources is inspiring.

3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

Working with the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation is a rich and productive collaboration. The foundation has an exciting match they are working on which in turn allows the foundation to fund many of our non-profit projects each year. As noted below, one of the ways we partner with CVCF is by highlighting all of our community non-profits for a fifteen minute segment on successive Mondays. CVCF program manager, Sara Chapell, said it best: “The Chilkat Valley Community Foundation relies on collaborations with our partners to spread the word about grant opportunities and the important work of the nonprofits in Haines and Klukwan. One of the ways we partner with KHNS is through a regular “Nonprofit Spotlight” on Monday mornings. CVCF recruits the nonprofits to speak about their work, and KHNS hosts and guides the discussion for the benefit of listeners, and the nonprofit alike. It’s not unusual to overhear conversation in the coffee shop about an event or issue the nonprofit is working on once they’ve appeared on KHNS. Last year, after promoting the opening of our grant cycle on KHNS, I received three times as many queries in the week following the appearance. Hearing about the opportunity on KHNS sparked an idea in one brand new grantee who went on to win a fully funded grant award for an arts project that will benefit the community for many years to come. I am very thankful that we have KHNS as a community collaborator in Haines and Klukwan.” Sara Chapell (Program Manager CVCF)

As Sara noted, it’s hard to go anywhere without having a conversation that doesn’t harken back to a radio moment whether it is NPR, an independent production or KHNS local content. Listeners love to feel heard and for the local news to actually reflect their experience.

4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2018, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2019. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

This past year KHNS wrote a letter in support of the Klukwan Library, offering to provide support and training in equipment and production for the librarian, Jamie Katzeek’s work to document and preserve the experiences of elders and tribal members before those stories are lost. Jamie is a filmmaker and has focused on preserving Tlingit culture through much of her work but didn’t have a lot of training on audio. The library was awarded the grant and we helped her research and choose the best equipment and gave her tech backup on how best to get the stories in broadcast-ready shape for KHNS to air. “Partnering with KHNS for the Klukwan Library’s audio story sharing project has been immensely helpful because they can offer great promotion for the project which helps encourage people to participate. KHNS Staff was really knowledgeable about equipment and interview and recording techniques and that really helped library staff prepare for this project.” Jamie Katzeek (Klukwan Librarian)

KHNS continues to air Tlingit Time, a Tlingit language teaching module. We air National Native News, INDIGEFI, a Native hosted and inspired music program and try to add in specials as they come by that address diversity and seem relevant to our communities which are not highly diverse in demographics apart from Tlingit Natives and Caucasians.

5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

Without federal money to subsidize our member donations and state funding, the station would depend largely on volunteers for everything from administration to engineering. It takes a staff with operational savvy to provide daily information and to be prepared to respond at any time.

National funding for community radio stations is the most fundamental and grassroots commitment to making sure that all Americans have access to information that is critical and up-to-date and can be a lifeline to the world for rural Alaskans who can often live in isolated situations with only radio for information.
Federal funding makes the difference from being able to provide interesting and challenging content and going to a shorter day reliant on more volunteers to provide free programming - without the staff to manage it. We monitor our choices daily based on our bare bones budget juggling income from the state, the federal government and local donations.

Without federal funding, KHNS would be not be a station of local service and in an area beset by strong, often dangerous weather, road and survival conditions, this group of communities striving to stay connected to each other and to the greater state and nation would be seriously disadvantaged.

KHNS is at the northern tip of the Lynn Canal. We serve the communities of Haines, Skagway and Klukwan and are the only station with the capacity to bring local information and emergency reporting to the communities we serve. KHNS is first and foremost, a local, hands-on source of information and updates to our area.