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

The last couple of years we have been supporting a producer from Klukwan. Jamie Katzeek wanted to record stories of some of the Tribal Elders. KHNS partnered to support the grant, offering the technical and broadcast expertise of our Program Director and News Team. Chilkat River Stories produced by Jamie Katzeek features Jones Hotch and Nick Kokotovich, elders of the tribe and we hope to have more stories periodically that we can air.

One of our volunteers is working closely with our Program Director to produce a regular podcast featuring live music and interviews with musicians. The PD is also working with one of our local volunteers as part of the "podcast Club" with Junior High School students. The teachers are working to open up a new format for expanding the tools volunteers need to create their own podcasts, for fun or broadcast. We also now have news available as a podcast to stream or download to personal devices on demand. It has been hosted on our website and broadcast on air but now, on demand!

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 partnered with the KTOO Energy Desk this year to provide content from our news department. One of our reporters provides stories for the Energy Desk which broadcasts to the state. In return, the Energy Desk pays KHNS $10,000/year for what amounts to about 25% of our reporter’s time. Apart from being a great partnership, it provides editing and production mentorship to our reporter.

Our news team works closely with Alaska Public Media out of Anchorage - they carry KHNS stories that have regional relevance and are always available to answer questions and for editorial challenges. We also work closely with Coast Alaska, a Southeast Alaska collection of community stations that work together and share resources. We hired them to manage our membership data which takes a huge toll off the staff. They manage the data input & mailings. The collective have been very generous including the KHNS News team in conferences and working with KHNS Development in facilitating regional underwriting buys.

We work with local non-profits every day, interviewing, broadcasting public service announcements, and generally being supportive in any way we can. All of our staff sit on at least one nonprofit board volunteering their time. One example is the Haines Arts Council who work closely with KHNS. Their events are promoted and supported by interviews in the studio, the events are generally held in the same building where the radio station lives. Tom Heywood, President of the Council says that, "KHNS has been a great community partner in getting cultural, theater and musical events out to the public, we love them!". 
KHNS broadcasts local high school basketball every season and we work closely with the other Southeast teams to broadcast live. This year we have a new announcer for the games and hope to continue to work with the school to make the broadcasts as clean a sound as possible given the varying digital capacity of the various schools.

This year our Program Director and News Team are working with a new teacher at the high school, Giselle Williams. They have created a journalism class as one of the one-week elective classes this winter. The kids are learning news production and are helping to produce a segment.

We work with the Chilkat Valley News and the Skagway News to broadcast the local candidate forums in the fall and then KHNS covered live the elections in both towns as well as snapshot interviews before the election.

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.

This year we were relentless in following up with contact emergency information and as a result our communication with both Skagway and Haines Police has improved dramatically with noted greater participation from Skagway PD with regard to their road closures and road conditions. This is critical as we can't access Skagway easily in the winter. The road access is a 7-hour drive and the winter boat access has been crippled by our state legislature so regular communication is critical. In the past it has been the station always reaching out but the Skagway PD has been much more proactive.

This past winter we identified an antenna problem that was causing the station to suffer random broadcast disconnect during certain types of slushy wet weather. Just when we needed our broadcast signal the most, it could go off the air to interference and we heard about it from listeners. This year, we worked with the Rasmuson Foundation and a local contractor to make a major adjustment to the STL antennas. This seems to have eliminated the problem by about 95%. We had one short episode in a winter of just the kind of weather we used to dread and otherwise were able to continue to provide a clear broadcast in good weather and bad.

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 2019, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2020. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

The listenership of KHNS covers three main areas, Skagway, Haines and Klukwan. We are a very rural area and our demographic is made up of Caucasians and members of the Tlingit tribe. We work directly with the Chilkoot Indian Association and the Jilkwaat Kwaan Tribe in Klukwan. We work with both to highlight cultural events, broadcast podcasts of Elder stories as they are released and we have aired Tlingit Time, a locally produced language module for a number of years now. Because of its unusual sounds, we repeat and it is appreciated by our audience, especially as elders with the language skills are ageing. Tlingit culture does not always welcome promotion but we have forged a working relationship of respect and outreach that is working.
We have three minority hosts on air regularly, two as music hosts, one as a morning news host. We also have two staff with significant disabilities of hearing loss and cognitive/mobility issues.

We air Making Contact which highlights to us some of the bigger issues between our rural communities and the urban and more African American population that are included in the issues addressed by that program. Most of us are familiar with urban issues but there is a surprisingly large part of our listening (or non-listening) audience who can't relate to what they don't experience.

We also air Indigified, a wonderfully diverse music and cultural program and we work hard to provide diversity in the way of political programs and breaking news.

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?

Since having lost State support in Alaska (2 years now) our ability to serve our communities has been made even more difficult and has meant that CPB funding is even more critical to our maintaining an on air presence in the Upper Lynn Canal. It takes a staff with operational savvy to provide daily information and to be prepared to respond at any time and this is not something that volunteers can provide on a consistent and reliable basis.

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 is a lifeline to the world for rural Alaskans who can often live in isolated situations with only radio for information.

NEWS

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.