1. **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.**

Local news is our primary mission and with Covid, our news team in particular began working remotely. As a small station we were used to working closely with each other in a small space so it was challenging on many levels to get the news team out and to then rotate other staff to provide on-site presence, be safe, yet stay connected to do our work and maintain an esprit de corps. We adopted a number of digital applications starting with Zoom for communication and we used group texting and emails, of course. Each reporter had to have a self-sufficient setup in their homes and be able to remotely send the program content to the studio so we utilized Logmein, Otter ai, Audio hijack. With Zoom, in addition to having staff meetings, we used it to host meetings with multiple on-air guests, news interviews and to host candidate forums and talk shows without having to gather in the same building. We utilized Zoom during our fund drive which was without volunteers we for the first time - we put many of our hosts and guests on Zoom rather than in the studio. We found that the sound quality was much higher than phone calls and have continued to use Zoom for the daily morning modules that would normally host a guest in studio. Mon - Fri we feature 15 min blocks featuring wellness, local non-profits, library news, local history, safety, avalanche safety, garden conversation & bear awareness, depending on the season. We alternate between Skagway and Haines with history, library and wellness hosts and the Zoom provided an unexpected quality upgrade. One bittersweet benefit of Covid is that Skagway, normally missing much of their population during the winter and too busy to participate in summer (due to tourism) have found it easier to participate in the radio which is a real boon to the station and the communities.

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 this area.**

KHNS continues to partner with the KTOO Energy Desk for the second 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.

As with everywhere in the world, the advent of Covid necessitated immediate changes. In order to continue broadcasting at such a critical time, KHNS staff started rotating days to have at most 2 people in the office/studio. The news team transformed their home offices to report remotely for months. Haines and Skagway are fairly isolated and our case numbers have been below a
dozen for all three communities but we continued to mask, disinfect and distance. We worked closely with the State dept of Health, the Local clinics and the local boroughs with mayoral announcements daily. We got public service announcements, meetings and all the information dispersed as it come thru.

All community events were cancelled on into the end of our fiscal year which put a crimp in our collaborations but we embraced zoom and learned to host guests to the studio and during our fundraiser on zoom instead of in the person. We took our annual fund drive online completely and we trained our Skagway volunteers to use their phones and zoom to send stories and interviews across the canal. The first fund drive in years where we were not live on the ground in Skagway and Haines both but everyone worked together and it was a successful drive despite the complications and the bottom falling out of the tourism industry in both towns.

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 relieves the small in-house staff allowing us to focus on more relationship building rather than data entry and mailings. The collective has 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. Five of our eight staff sit on at least one nonprofit board volunteering their time.

KHNS broadcasts local high school basketball every season and we work closely with the other Southeast teams to broadcast live. Last year the games went ahead but the regional and state playoffs were canceled due to Covid. 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.

We work with the Chilkat Valley News and the Skagway News to broadcast the local candidate forums in the fall and then KHNS covers live the elections in both towns.

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 or from a person served.

The Covid-19 virus and subsequent lockdowns brought the communities to a halt. KHNS was front and center in reporting on all aspects of the community response beginning with the daily
updates broadcast 2 - 3 times from the mayors of Skagway and Haines. Our news team was active in reporting daily on all aspects of the virus and produced two special public affairs programs, one on the mental health or residents which featured health care providers from Bartlett Hospital in Juneau, the Red Cross and the local SEARHC and DAHL clinics in Haines and Skagway. The second was on the on the alternate entertainment resources available, especially for children as they couldn't attend school. We worked closely with our libraries who went completely online with their programs. Tracy Wirak and Liam Cassidy produced a morning program reading chapters of a children's book, "Sideways Stories from Wayside School" complete with multiple character voices. Apart from our reporters working remotely, in a busy election year both locally and nationally, we hosted online candidate forums and election coverage utilizing Zoom. Town Hall meetings from our Governor's address to the local boroughs were broadcast live. In a normal year, we work closely with our community partners across our listening area but this last year also saw a spike in brown bear activity with over 40 bears shot in and around Haines, many in protection of life and property as a result of inadequate salmon and berry season. We worked with the Haines Bear Task Force to produce a program on the situation, including what constitutes bear attractants, the major source of friction. We put out announcements to promote meetings and events online addressing the issue. The library organized volunteers to harvest fruit in order to eliminate another bear attractant and we worked right along with them to feature them on the air and to promo the program. We have been working with the Haines and Skagway boroughs to stream their municipal meetings but this past year that became critical as the public meetings were closed or severely limited due to Covid distancing restrictions. In a time when when important decisions were being discussed and made, more people than ever utilized our streaming option and were still able to listen and participate in public meetings. And finally, the Mosquito Lake Community Center became even more active in growing and storing food and we followed them and reported on their process.

4. Please describe any efforts (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 FY20. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

The morning news host at KHNS is from the Tlingit tribe. He works 10 hours a week in the station and has a more unusual delivery on air although it is in English. We are trying to educate many of our listeners to the cadence and sounds that differ from our Caucasian announcers.

The listenership of KHNS covers three main areas, Skagway, Haines and Klukwan. We are a very rural area and our demographic is primarily comprised of Caucasians and members of the Tlingit tribe. We work directly with the Chilkoot Indian Association in Haines, The Skagway Traditional Council and the Jilkwaat Kwaan Tribe in Klukwan. We work with them to highlight cultural
events, broadcast podcasts of Elder stories as they are released and highlight the artwork our Tlingit neighbors. The KHNS t-shirt for this fiscal year was printed for us by a young Tlingit designer and we would often travel (before Covid), to Klukwan and Skagway to interview for events, cover new exhibits at the museum and generally be inclusive of all aspects of our communities. 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, one music host, our morning news host and our senior news reporter.

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 air Indigefi, Native Native News, Undercurrents and we work hard to provide diversity in the way of political programs and local, regional, national and international news.

5. Assess the impact 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?

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.

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.

This last fiscal year we saw dramatic changes in our community due to Covid 19. Our economy in this area is primarily tourism-based and with the lockdowns beginning in March and continuing through the summer, our economy is in an enormous slump with people out of work and looking at a second summer of no tourism. This means all of us down the line are not able to count on the same level of contributions. We depend on CPB to keep the network of public broadcasting running.

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.
In emergencies, the radio station is often the only line of contact between residents having access to information and being in the dark, literally. We received a listener visit recently talking about a group of residents outside of town who were cut off by landslides and road blockages and had no electricity or internet. They found a radio with batteries and tuned in hourly to get the updates from the Mayor - they would get the latest information and then turn off the radio to preserve batteries. Without the information we provided, they would have been cut off with no idea of rescue efforts or anything else and they were very grateful and again reiterated what an essential service KHNS is.

Federal funding makes the difference from being able to respond efficiently and responsibly to emergencies as well as provide interesting and challenging content. We constantly consider our choices based on our bare bones budget. With Covid job loss and the loss of income from the state of Alaska, the federal income provides a major source of stability. Without federal funding, KHNS would be not be a station of local service. In an area beset by strong, often dangerous weather, this group of communities striving to stay connected to each other and to the greater state and nation would be seriously disadvantaged.