Grantee Information

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<th>ID</th>
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<td>Grantee Name</td>
<td>KHNS-FM</td>
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<td>City</td>
<td>Haines</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<td>Licensee Type</td>
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6.1 Telling Public Radio's Story

The purpose of this section is to give you an opportunity to tell us and your community about the activities you have engaged in to address community needs by outlining key services provided, and the local value and impact of those services. Please report on activities that occurred in Fiscal Year 2022. Responses may be shared with Congress or the public. Grantees are required to post a copy of this report (Section 6 only) to their website no later than ten (10) days after the submission of the report to CPB. CPB recommends placing the report in an "About" or similar section on your website. This section had previously been optional. Response to this section of the SAS is now mandatory.

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Joint licensee Grantees that have filed a 2022 Local Content and Services Report as part of meeting the requirement for TV CSG funding may state they have done so in the corresponding questions below, so long as all of the questions below were addressed as they relate to radio operations in such report.

1. 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.

KHNS's mission is to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain. To inform listeners, we provide daily community calendar listings of government, library, pool and other local events, as well as weather, marine and road reports which are vital in a remote region with dynamic, often dangerous, weather. To educate, we provide weeknight local newscasts plus statewide, national and international news programs from our partners at Alaska Public Media, National Public Radio, Public Radio Exchange and more. We also air local and regional public service announcements detailing everything from community theater productions to voting instructions. To enlighten, we host weekday 15-minute radio segments that cover community resources, local history, fire safety, gardening advice, avalanche preparedness, health tips, book recommendations and more from a variety of nonprofit and governmental organizations and local professionals. To entertain, our volunteer deejays produce up to 24 locally-hosted music programs per week ranging from gospel and country to jazz and rock. In gauging community needs, we rely on our Community Advisory Board to relay suggestions and adjust our programming accordingly. We also encourage direct listener submissions of news story ideas and other feedback in person and by phone, email or social media. In a region with only 3,500 people, listeners are familiar with our station and able to readily engage resources. Internet streaming of KHNS allows access to rural residents of our community who live where broadcast signals don't reach. It also provides continuity and a connection to home for locals and others who are traveling or listening from points distant. Podcasts of KHNS newscasts, as well as website posts of news stories and text, enable on-demand access to important local news in more accessible formats. Southeast Alaska and specifically, the Upper Lynn Canal, has been the home of the Tlingit before it was populated by people moving north seeking space and adventure. KHNS is aware of the need to continue making progress and being sensitive to the wholeness of our communities by introducing more original and diverse programming in the Haines, Skagway and Haines towns. KHNS news and programming works closely with all of our partners in Skagway, Haines and Haines to keep us all in-the-know about the the towns and lands around us from providing production space for the new program Watershed Weekly or reaching our to the Skagway Traditional Council for updates on the latest projects.

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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.

Local news has been key to KHNS since its inception and is highly valued by listeners. However, it's challenging to cover the 3 remote communities we serve (Haines, Skagway and Haines) when travel between them mostly occurs by ferry and small plane. That's why we were pleased to welcome a Skagway-based reporter for the first time in a decade in spring 2021. His familiarity with local issues has been invaluable in covering economic impacts of the pandemic and establishing relationships with local officials. Maintaining our news program proved difficult in the aftermath of the pandemic. Our Skagway-based reporter switched to part-time, contract work and our Haines-based reporter departed to advance her career away from small-town Alaska's geographic isolation and modest pay scale. KHNS worked with partners at Coast Alaska, Alaska Public Media, and national journalism jobsites to recruit reporters, facing stiff competition amid state and nationwide reporter shortages. Alaska's high cost of living and state budget cuts to public transportation serving our remote region reduced the desirability of local reporting positions. Ultimately, we hired a local resident without reporting experience, enlisting veteran reporters to train him and Coast Alaska for editorial support, and supplementing his position with contributions from our Skagway-based, part-time reporter and
another contract reporter. We also worked with Haines High School to provide a media scholarship and hire a summer reporting intern who gained valuable experience to apply to her college studies. We’re glad to have local hires whose insight into current issues informs our reporting. In an effort to expand programming relevant to our indigenous Tlingit community, KHNS has partnered with Chilkoot Indian Association to produce a bi-monthly history and culture segment called L’Koot Yei Jeneiyi (“the work of the Chilkoot”). Through equipment recommendations and technical support, we’ve also facilitated their ability to produce independent podcasts and segments. Finally, we added our support to their grant application for a Tlingit language class in hopes of collaborating on newly-produced segments of Tlingit Time, a long-running Tlingit language tutorial program aired on KHNS. To connect listeners with local government, KHNS collaborates with the Haines Borough and Skagway Municipality to disseminate information by hosting live streams of assembly meetings on our website, listing meeting dates on our community calendar, providing public service announcements to voters, and airing government job postings. We also live-broadcast emergency government meetings. Additionally, we manage the Chilkat Center for the Arts on behalf of the Haines Borough in exchange for studio and office space here, providing scheduling and technical support for theater productions, public meetings, exercise classes, and other events. Our news department, in collaboration with the Chilkat Valley News and Skagway News, co-hosts two annual, live-broadcast Borough Candidate Forums to inform voters of assembly and school board candidates’ views on a wide range of local issues. Finally, KHNS live broadcast two town hall meetings with state representatives and features regular news stories about federal and state representatives’ visits to and initiatives for our region. Our biweekly Nonprofit Spotlight series, produced in collaboration with Chilkat Valley Community Foundation, highlights the work and offerings of a wide variety of community nonprofit entities, connecting seniors, businesses, residents with disabilities, and others with financial support, transportation services, meal delivery, healthcare, and cultural activities. Participants include Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Southeast Senior Services, Southeast Alaska State Fair, and the Haines and Skagway Economic Development Corporation. To address our community’s isolation and a landslide natural disaster in Haines, KHNS hosted a series of mental health-oriented Health and Wellness Talks with Hospice of Haines bereavement counselors and Dahl Memorial Clinic’s licensed clinical social worker. In collaboration with the Haines Long Term Recovery Group, Haines Ministerial Association, and the Red Cross, our news department also produced an hour-long Lynn Canal Voice special on the anniversary of the disaster to discuss storm recovery effort and strategies for coping with trauma.

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3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness or understanding of 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.

Our daily modules that feature Health and Wellness, Safety, History, Library Reviews, Events, Back Country Safety, Gardening, Fisheries, etc. are a perfect way to check in each morning and learn or be informed of events. These are each hosted by a rotating cast of staff from different organizations in Haines and Skagway and while it has been going on almost for the life of the station, it has been refined and expanded to include as many contributors as possible. When there is a particularly potent issue such as opioid deaths or avalanche issues, we tend to do longitudinal health and safety segments that are generally more focused. We have a segment called Chilkoot Korner that is reserved for community members to come to the library because of something they heard on the radio ... whether it’s checking out a new book that was discussed on The Book Show or Library Report, picking up one of our monthly Take-and-Go crafts after hearing it announced, or stopping by to meet the fish in our new aquarium. Hearing how KHNS programming inspires community members to visit the library and engage with our offerings is always a highlight! This from Mardell Gunn, host of the Garden Conversation: I think the impact of the Garden conversation has been two fold. First it serves an educational purpose. I constantly have people around town tell me they learned something new and interesting from the show. Secondly, it has a great impact in creating a ‘gardening community’ within our community. It lets listeners know what others are doing in their garden and food growing endeavors. I am succeeding at incorporating some Skagway gardeners and listeners. This is a wonderful way to connect our communities as many listeners have gardens in Haines, Skagway and Klukwan. Sierra Jimenez, Assistant Director at Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), “Public Radio is literally a lifeline for so many of the vulnerable residents (seniors and people with disabilities) in our community. While many people rely on the internet and technology to stay up to date on community news and local safety concerns, a large percent of the folks we serve do not have access to such technology. We get phone calls on a daily basis from folks who are calling about a story or piece of vital information they heard on the radio that pertains to them such as how to access rides to the local clinic for vaccines or that school is closed or that local public safety is advising people to stay off the roads due to icy conditions. It is hard for people who don’t live in rural Alaska to understand the true value of public radio and the important role it plays in our communities health and safety.” We have no doubt that KHNS played and continues to play a vital role in the health and well being of our community.

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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 2022, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2023. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

We have been working closely with the Chilkoot Indian Association. They are a landless tribe based in Haines, different from the Chilkoot Village (Klukwan) which has property outside the townsite but within range of KHNS and also different from the Skagway Traditional Council. They are all Tlingit but with different tribal councils and community goals. We work with all three but currently more with CIA as they are working on many projects. CIA has an active social outreach program and has been active in the community as a whole, providing consultations, classes on Native arts, language classes and more. KHNS has brought staff and members of the Tribal Council in to focus on some of those offerings as well highlight and expand their history during our weekly History Talks. We will continue to provide sponsorship and a voice on air as well as help and production advice for some of their projects going forward. Other groups we have had on air are Southeast
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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?

CPB funding, especially in small, isolated communities such as the ones in Alaska, is essential to our wellbeing. We don't have the population numbers that many urban and larger towns do so it provides a base for us to parlay matching funds from other grants; it gives us a reliable base of income that we build onto. Apart from the funding we receive from CPB, the solidarity of being part of a nationwide network and the resources that come with that is reassuring and part of our appeal. Listeners want worldwide and statewide news but they also enjoy the locally-told stories and music.

public service and safety component of having a public radio station is worth its weight in gold and is available when other services are not. You can have no electricity and still listen to radio. Ann Myren, resident, "Our cluster of homes on Lutak Road, 10 miles from Haines was cut off from the road and without electricity. We had a battery-operated radio and had to conserve battery power - for three days, we turned on every hour knowing we would get the updates. It saved us, knowing we could access up to date information". Without the CPB funding, we would be dependent for our total funding on our small demographic which would just not be enough. We are just now experiencing the post-Covid economy and our funding from members and grants is down. We hope to bring it back up but having the solid base of our annual CPB grant is a big part of that.

As we noted, Haines and Skagway have become more isolated with fewer travel options in the last 4 years as our state government has withdrawn support from our ferry system which is a key to getting to and from the large medical facility and interstate airport. Programming that we can afford as part of the CPB funding allows us a bigger view of the state, the country and the world and that is so important in understanding our choices. Skagway Assembly Member Deb Potter, "KHNS community radio served as a particularly invaluable resource during the 2020/2021 series of extreme weather events. We woke up early to the news of multiple road washouts in Haines. The day progressed with everyone tuned to the radio for live "as it happens" updates about the various disasters that were unfolding- quite literally the only way to get that news as many had also lost cell service. Once aware of the deadly landslide in Haines, and as the rain continued to come down, Skagway residents became extremely concerned about our own hillside stability and safety. Comfort came from knowing that if anything were to happen, we would hear about it on KHNS. Winters here are tough, extreme weather happens and changes quickly. Skagway is a remote environment bordered by the ocean on one side, and Canada on the other. There is one road out. KHNS is the critical lynchpin that keeps us informed as to current road conditions as well as closures. During the early stages of the pandemic, Skagway’s Mayor and the head of our Emergency Operations Control teamed up to broadcast weekly safety announcements on air. It still functions as the means to provide current information in this world of ever-changing conditions and protocols... as always, I have my radio tuned to local KHNS radio; The only place I know I can get up to date, possibly life-saving information about what the weather has to tell us."