

Grantee Information

ID	1267
Grantee Name	KOTZ-AM
City	Kotzebue
State	AK
Licensee Type	Community

6.1 Telling Public Radio's Story

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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.**

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. You must include the date the report was submitted to CPB along with the TV Grantee ID under which it was submitted.

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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.

Our goal, the one we can't back away from is suicide prevention. We didn't have a newsperson last year, producing such a sensitive subject was out of the question. We only had 4 people (including myself) here and none of us had the time or background to produce anything that needs to be so professionally done. Now that we have a newsperson (as soon as this storm clears) it can be looked into in depth. We'd like to produce our own children's program so we will be looking into that project beginning in March to have some programs under our belt before we release it. Of all the programs our listeners say they miss, the most popular answer is the The Reader. So, because we can't run that show anymore, we decided we'd bring back a small portion of the Reader with a local flavor. We have had a couple of authors give us permission to have their books read on the air AS LONG AS we didn't sell the audio copies which we would never do. The first book is being read, we will begin airing it when our reader has finished recording it. We'd also like to bring back "Wellness Wednesday" where staff from Maniiaq Mental Health would come on and discuss all things mental health.

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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.

The Northwest Arctic Borough allows KOTZ to air their Assembly meetings (monthly) in their entirety (except executive sessions of course) where they've discussed the Ambler Road Project. This road goes from Ambler to Fairbanks for mining purposes "only." Which caught peoples attention. They also have departmental reports for Search and Rescue, Fire Protection and Safety, Trail staking, among others and they go through financials. It's important to air this meeting because members of the Borough live in the 13 villages we serve outside of Kotzebue. The National Park Service gives us a bi-monthly update. They offer classes on painting, beading, skin sewing, and often show movies about this region's history and landscape. They also offer to go into classrooms to talk about the Fish and Wildlife come in with the Park Service and they give the community caribou herd numbers, where they can hunt and where is restricted. They have a BIG meeting coming up we will air, it's a two day meeting where hunters assists in guidelines for hunting caribou. The heard has declined by several thousand in the last few years and hunters here want to make sure they do their part in protecting the herd. The City of Kotzebue just began using a brand new water treatment plant, and as with all things brand new, there are kinks. The Water Treatment staff have been regulars on the air for boil water notices and drops in the water levels which lead to conserving water. The School District has a weekly 20 (max) minute update and reminders for the week ahead. They promote school board meetings as well as school sports and other happenings at the school

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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, 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.

From the Borough talking about the Ambler Road, people were beginning to recognize that it might be good for the mining company but it may negatively effect the caribou herd (the road intersects the path). People that live in the area and those who hunt in that area from other villages and Kotzebue began to ask questions and so FROM the Borough Assembly meeting a group against the Ambler Road was formed and is now very vocal about their opposition to the road. Selawik National Park and Preserve and the Kobuk Valley National Park, their classroom talks and museum visit requests rose as a result of their 30 minute show.

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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.

Kotzebue doesn't have a large immigrant community, most of our immigrants work at Maniliag Medical Center and quite possibly speak better English than we do. What we do have is a large elder population where English is their second language and they actually understand our native Inupiaq language better than they do English. Our announcers (as well as myself) can speak some Inupiaq on the radio so we use that, but of course, for news we need and are able to sometimes use an interpreter. There are a few here in town who interpret for free, some charge a minimal fee. We need to utilize those interpreters more, actually, we need to hire one for reliable daily interpreting.

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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?

Programming, the greatest impact is quality programming. Our listeners favorites come from NPR (Though we have quite a bit of programming from NPR, All Things Considered is the favorite), Alaska Public Media, Native Voice 1 and more. We are very remote, and having this kind of access to information from all over the world makes us feel like we're included. KOTZ has such a wonderful listenership and they love the radio, and aside from our staff it's the quality programming we have access to with your funding.

Comments

Question

Comment

No Comments for this section