

# Digital TV Grant Awards 2009

## **Arkansas Educational Television Commission**

Amount: \$749,417

Counties Served: Clay, Craighead, Crittendon, Cross, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp, Woodruff (Arkansas); Dunklin, Pemiscot, Ripley (Missouri)

Contact: Allen Weatherly, Executive Director

Telephone: 501-682-4153

Congressional Districts: Marion Berry (AR-1), Vic Snyder (AR-2); Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8)

Summary: This grant will fund the upgrade of the existing low power digital transmitter. This power upgrade is necessary in order to replicate the full analog service area, large parts of which could not receive a digital signal. The existing antenna, transmission line and broadcast building will continue to be used with only minor modifications due to increased power.

## **Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network, Inc. (Colorado)**

Amount: \$345,480

Counties Served: Costilla, Rio Grande, Huerfano, Las Animas, El Paso, Chaffee, Fremont, Saguache, Park, Conejos, Garfield, Ouray, Montrose, La Platta, San Miguel, Mesa, Delta

Contact: Douglas Price, President and Chief Executive Officer

Telephone: 303-620-5662

Congressional District: Diana DeGette (CO-1), Jared Polis (CO-2), John T. Salazar (CO-03), Doug Lamborn (CO-5), Mike Coffman (CO-6)

Summary: This grant will fund the purchase and installation of equipment for 24 rural translator upgrades to digital, including: transcoders, antennas, and filters. These translators will reach many Colorado residents living in rural and remote regions of the state. In addition to a variety of PBS programming, Rocky Mountain PBS is also part of the statewide emergency notification system.

## **Idaho Public Television**

Amount: \$481,770

Counties Served: Boise, Elmore, Gem

Contact: Peter Morrill, General Manager

Telephone: 208-373-7220

Congressional District: Walt Minnick (ID-1), Michael K. Simpson (ID-2)

Summary: This grant will fund digital fill-in translators for three rural Idaho communities: Idaho City, Glenn's Ferry, and Emmett to maintain service to areas. Prior to the digital transition, these communities received good service from the main analog transmitter signal. But because of terrain and the propagation attributes of digital television, the signal from the main digital transmitter signal will no longer reach them.

### **Vincennes University (Indiana)**

Amount: \$596,000

Counties Served: Knox, Daviess, Pike, Martin, Gibson, Sullivan (Indiana); Lawrence, Wabash, Crawford (Illinois)

Contact: Andrew Shepard-Smith, Director of Grant Development

Telephone: 812-888-4933

Congressional District: Brad Ellsworth (IN-8), Baron P. Hill (IN-9); Timothy V. Johnson (IL-15), John Shimkus (IL-19)

Summary: WVUT is owned and operated by Vincennes University which is located in rural southwestern Indiana. This grant will fund the purchase of equipment necessary for field acquisition and editing of content in HD (cameras, studio editing facilities, infrastructure to support the equipment). This project will complete the conversion of the main production studio to HD. Residents benefiting from this project live in the entirely rural coverage area of southwestern Indiana and southeastern Illinois.

### **Louisiana Educational Television Authority**

Amount: \$745,000

Counties Served (Parishes): Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, La Salle, Natchitoches, Rapids, Vernon, Winn

Contact: Steve Graziano, COO/Deputy Director

Telephone: 225-767-4215

Congressional District: John Fleming (LA-4), Rodney Alexander (LA-5)

Summary: The grant will fund the replacement of the analog transmitter with a new digital transmitter for KLPA-DT in Alexandria, Louisiana. The Alexandria area suffered much damage during the past years from several hurricanes, and this makes it all the more important that rural residents continue to receive emergency alerts, news and information provided by KLPA.

### **Central Michigan University (CMU)**

Amount: \$750,000

Counties Served: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau,

Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Wexford

Contact: Dr. Edward Grant, General Manager Public Broadcasting

Telephone: 989-774-3105

Congressional District: Bart Stupak (MI-1), Peter Hoekstra (MI-2), Dave Camp (MS-4)

Summary: This grant will fund the purchase of digital program production equipment, including: cameras, editing, mixing, and storage equipment. The coverage area of this grant includes three digital stations serving central and northern Michigan, a large rural area isolated by the Great Lakes. The CMU coverage area is one of the largest university coverage areas in the nation, larger than 13 states – and it reaches many underserved rural populations with a variety of useful broadcasts ranging from health to education.

### **Northern Minnesota Public Television, dba Lakeland Public Television**

Amount: \$496,899

Counties Served: Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Morrison, Todd, Wadena

Contact: William (Bill) Sanford, General Manager

Telephone: 218-333-3015

Congressional District: Collin C. Peterson (MN-7), James L. Oberstar (MN-8)

Summary: This grant will fund the replacement and upgrade of microwave equipment interconnecting the following: the Brainerd studio with the KAWB transmitter, and the Bemidji studio with both the KAWB and the KAWB transmitter site. The project will also fund replacement of analog studio production equipment in the Brainerd studio with digital equipment. Lakeland Public Television provides essential broadcast services to underserved rural areas of central Minnesota.

### **Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network, Inc. (Nevada)**

Amount: \$265,800

Counties Served: Clark, Lincoln

Contact: Thomas Axtel, General Manager

Telephone: 702-799-1010

Congressional District: Shelley Berkley (NV-1), Dean Heller (NV-2), Dina Titus (NV-3)

Summary: This grant will fund the digital conversion of six rural translators. Currently these rural translators are only receiving the primary program from the main transmitter and are down-converting it to analog for redistribution. This grant will fund translator equipment that will enable the regeneration and rebroadcast of the entire digital transmission of Vegas PBS, including, all three channels, TV Guide on Line services,

Electronic Program Guides, and other ancillary data, including Digital Emergency Alert Service (DEAS) information.

**Vermont ETV, Inc. dba Vermont Public Television**

Amount: \$352,094  
Counties Served: Bennington  
Contact: John King, President and CEO  
Telephone: 802-655-5274  
Congressional District: Peter Welch (VT- at large)

Summary: This grant will fund the digital upgrade of two television translators in Bennington County. The translators serve the towns of Manchester and Bennington. The county of Bennington is entirely rural and this project will keep its residents connected with the public TV services that the rest of the state receives. The broadcast TV customers tend to be older, rural, and lower income – and other TV options are often not feasible because of geography (in the case of cable) or personal economics (in the case of satellite). The grant will help rural Vermonters in Bennington County stay connected.

**Central Wyoming College**

Amount: \$304,000  
Counties Served: Sheridan, Johnson, Carbon, Teton, Park  
Contact: Jo Anne McFarland, President  
Telephone: 307-856-6944  
Congressional District: Cynthia M. Lummis – At Large

Summary: This grant will fund the installation of eight translators at existing analog translator sites and upgrade a ninth translator to fully licensed power. All nine translators will carry the digital multicast signal of Wyoming PBS, a statewide public television network. Most of the translators serve small rural populations and for most there are no other terrestrial DTV broadcast signals.