

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Administration**  
**Public Communications Services**  
**Budget Request Unit Budget Summary**

## **Public Communications Services Budget Request Unit**

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### **BRU Mission**

To provide the most effective and efficient use of Alaska's satellite based public telecommunications infrastructure, and to support cost-efficient, statewide access to information.

(Differs from CH124, SLA2002).

### **BRU Services Provided**

The Public Communications Services budget supports the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, provides funds for operating grants to public radio and television stations throughout Alaska, and ensures satellite infrastructure is in place for the dissemination of information statewide.

### **BRU Goals and Strategies**

**PROVIDE EMERGENCY ALERT SERVICES TO ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE.**

· Ongoing collaboration with the Division of Emergency Services and the appropriate Federal agencies to provide Emergency Alert System notification through the satellite infrastructure.

**IMPROVE PUBLIC BROADCASTING'S ABILITY TO DELIVER COST-EFFICIENT PROGRAMMING.**

· Ongoing improvements to the Satellite Interconnection Project to better enable the delivery of distance education, public radio and television programming, and community outreach services.

**REDUCE THE STATE'S ROLE AND COST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING FUNDING AND SUPPORT.**

· Support the consolidation of management and other overhead; support the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission's adopted operating model.

### **Key BRU Issues for FY2003 – 2004**

Continue to provide quality public broadcasting and community telecommunications services despite diminishing funding. Many stations are unable to staff local news and information, and many others are struggling to maintain those services. Stations are threatened with the loss of federal funds as their state matching funds decrease. There are inadequate funds for maintenance of the over 220 earth stations and low power television transmitters owned and operated by the State of Alaska. At any one given time approximately 15 to 20% of the system is out of service.

Stations continue to become more efficient in the delivery of their programs, especially critical local services such as news, public information, weather, cultural programs and emergency alert notification.

The satellite plays an important role in being the only means by which all of Alaska is connected. It is a basic piece of the state's communication infrastructure.

### **Major BRU Accomplishments in 2002**

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Inc. (APBI) in its fourth full year of operation has saved the public broadcasting system over \$7.5 million and assisted the grantees in generating an additional \$2.2 million dollars in federal support for public broadcasting, of which over 80% stays within Alaska.

In close cooperation with the Information Technology Group APBI has accepted the responsibility for the management and coordination of the statewide ARCS television program. The APBI also has the responsibility for the Satellite

Interconnection Project Management Governance and satellite system technical oversight.

Since APBI accepted the responsibility for the ARCS Technical System in August 2000 we have directly handled 2,644 technical service calls from Rural Alaskan communities. These calls have come from 201 individual communities. As a result of APBI's work 103 individual communities has had their ARCS community television system returned to service.

APBI, working directly with communities has purchased and assisted in the acquisition and installation of 13 new TV transmitters, the repair and installation of 26 TV transmitters, the purchase of 37 new TV integrated digital receiver/decoders, the repair of 43 TV integrated receiver/decoders and the purchase/repair of 9 radio integrated receiver/decoders. Additionally we have installed the spare TV satellite uplink suite and have repaired the failed unit and

On May 1, 2002 when APBI began work under the TPA and the inception of USD for ARCS and SIP issues 228 tickets have been opened. Of those tickets 174 have been resolved and 54 remain open pending resolution. APBI has logged 708 calls/contacts since operating under the TPA in response to the 228 USD tickets to date.

As of November 15, 2002, a total of 10,654 tickets have been opened in the USD system statewide, the 228 ARCS/SIP tickets represent 2% of the system total.

APBI coordinates the activities and efforts of Alaska Public Radio, Public Television, the Satellite Interconnection Project, the Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS), and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. During the spring of 2002 the Joint Venture held an on-air fundraiser to support the ARCS service, which raised \$44,000 from viewers around the state. The APBI staff has expanded their Internet web site that provides program schedules, basic troubleshooting tips for communities, and online forms for service requests.

APBI has replaced many of the functions formerly provided by the State, including management assistance, engineering and technical advice, training of local staff and boards, and liaison with numerous governmental entities including the TIC.

APBI conducted a complete system-wide inventory of each public broadcasting licensee in the state which included on-site inspections of 13 stations located throughout rural Alaska. These inspections were conducted by a broadcast engineer and, in many cases, were the first engineering visit stations have had in several years. The results of the inventory project have been entered into an interactive data base and distributed to the system for use. This database will be maintained by APBI. The inventory project was funded with private, non- state funds.

APBI wrote and received a competitive planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Public Facilities Program, to design a digital-broadband interconnection system for the State's public broadcasters. The work product from this grant will provide the blueprint for the public broadcasting system to integrate into the State's Telecommunications Partnering Agreement. The ultimate goal is to provide a digital program and information distribution system to every community served by a public broadcasting licensee.

APBI implemented a technical plan it developed in the prior year to reduce the required bandwidth for the satellite delivery of the four television services, thereby reducing costs. This plan saves the state approximately \$750,000 annually. This technical change was implemented at the states three satellite uplink sites in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks by an outside contractor at no cost to the State of Alaska.

In May of 2002, APBI, working closely with ITG and the State's TPA vendor assumed full responsibility for Bundle 6, Earth Station Maintenance and Repair. This transition was made without any difficulties at all, without interruptions to service, and was on time and on budget.

APBI continued to drive an examination the opportunities for public broadcasters in the Anchorage area to cooperate in a number of basic operational areas. APBI, in cooperation with a consortium of ten remote rural public radio stations, secured funding for consulting services for planning. Funds for these projects were provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to APBI.

## Key Performance Measures for FY2004

**Measure:**

**The number of communities without public radio service.**

Sec 12 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

The number of communities without public radio is approximately 111.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmark information for this performance measure.

**Background and Strategies:**

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission will continue to allocate funding to public radio stations to provide public radio services.

**Measure:**

**The number of communities without public television service.**

Sec 12 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

The number of communities without public television is approximately 276.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmark information for this performance measure.

**Background and Strategies:**

The Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission will continue to allocate funding to public television stations to provide public television services.

**Measure:**

**The number of communities served by public radio with access to commercial radio.**

Sec 12 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

The number of communities served by public radio with access to commercial radio is approximately 26. Commercial radio is licensed to 26 Alaska cities/communities. Public Communication Services does not have information regarding the total coverage areas. That information is proprietary to each station and is available through a subscription to one of the commercially produced rating service reports such as Arbitrator.

Public radio stations are licensed in 88 cities/communities providing service to 244 cities and communities in total serving an Alaskan population of 480,000.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmark information for this performance measure.

**Measure:**

**The number of communities served by public television with access to commercial television.**

Sec 12 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

**Alaska's Target & Progress:**

The number of communities served by public television with access to commercial television is approximately 56.

**Benchmark Comparisons:**

We currently have no benchmark information for this performance measure.

**Public Communications Services  
BRU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2002 Actuals				FY2003 Authorized				FY2004 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b><u>Formula Expenditures</u></b>	None.											
<b><u>Non-Formula Expenditures</u></b>												
Public Broadcasting Commission	53.7	0.0	0.0	53.7	54.2	0.0	0.0	54.2	54.2	0.0	0.0	54.2
Public Broadcasting - Radio	2,469.9	0.0	0.0	2,469.9	2,469.9	0.0	0.0	2,469.9	2,469.9	0.0	0.0	2,469.9
Public Broadcasting - T.V.	754.3	0.0	0.0	754.3	754.3	0.0	0.0	754.3	754.3	0.0	0.0	754.3
Satellite Infrastructure	1,269.1	0.0	364.6	1,633.7	1,382.3	0.0	1,223.7	2,606.0	1,382.3	0.0	1,223.7	2,606.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,547.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>364.6</b>	<b>4,911.6</b>	<b>4,660.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,223.7</b>	<b>5,884.4</b>	<b>4,660.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,223.7</b>	<b>5,884.4</b>

**Public Communications Services**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004**

Changes to services in FY2004 will center on continuing efforts to provide quality services at the authorized funding level while continuing to seek additional non-state funds to support the system.

**Public Communications Services**

**Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component**

**From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	4,660.7	0.0	1,223.7	5,884.4
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	4,660.7	0.0	1,223.7	5,884.4