

State of Alaska FY2021 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Administration Satellite Infrastructure Component Budget Summary

Component: Satellite Infrastructure

Contribution to Department's Mission

To sustain the key satellite infrastructure used for the delivery of audio and video news, public affairs, legislative and other state government content, public service information, entertainment, education, and state and federal emergency alert services to communities statewide.

Core Services

- State and Federal Emergency Alert System (EAS) with real time delivery of emergency alerts and tests distributed statewide to rural and urban communities as provided for in the State of Alaska's plan for emergency preparedness.
- Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) as the rural low power television service, owned and operated by the state, delivers multifaceted program services including educational programming, news and information, sports and cultural events of statewide interest, from urban public and commercial stations into remote communities.
- Alaska Public Television is statewide public television distributed by satellite and broadcast throughout the state, providing rural viewers with Alaskan and national non-commercial programming.
- 360 North offers unique Alaskan programs, Gavel Alaska providing extensive coverage of the Alaska Legislature and government proceedings, originating at KTOO in Juneau, distributed by satellite to viewers across rural Alaska.
- UATV provides cultural, educational and informational programs from the University of Alaska.
- Public Radio Services in the form of content delivery by eight different public radio stations and Alaska Statewide News to the 27 individual local stations and their translators reaching 95% of Alaska's population.
- Technical monitoring and system maintenance of the satellite infrastructure is managed by Alaska Public Broadcasting Inc. APBI provides comprehensive management support and trouble-shooting services at the statewide and community levels. APBI also provides information and advice to the state's Office of Information Technology on public telecommunications policy issues, public broadcasting needs and issues and responds to requests for service from OIT on various other telecommunications issues.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2019

- Managed ARCS Digital Conversion Project for the state, overseeing ongoing acquisitions, testing, deployment and installation of new equipment resulting in conversion of over 105 village sites to digital multichannel television services. Successfully initiated and carried out acquisition of existing transmission systems and spares from Arizona to Alaska on behalf of the state, identified qualified subsequent vendor and executed purchase contract for additional transmitters to continue deployment of systems to hub community sites.
- Managed and coordinated the statewide satellite distribution systems and the ARCS television program service without any major system-wide shutdowns, failures or outages. This year APBI handled more than 500 contacts from sites around Alaska, assisting, aiding or directly working to restore service in more than 50 cases annually.
- As a State Satellite Relay Network, ARCS participated in and distributed all of the EAS emergency alerts including tsunami, wildfire, severe storm warnings, as well as all monthly and annual state and national level exercises, and all resultant analysis endeavors in association with the State Emergency Communications Committee.
- ARCS programming highlights include full coverage of the annual AFN convention, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, ASAA High School basketball tournaments, statewide elections coverage, Governor's addresses, and numerous special news programs. ARCS is delivered into the homes of thousands of Alaskans in communities where other alternatives are either too expensive or simply do not exist.
- Successfully managed the operation of the satellite infrastructure responsible for delivering ARCS, Alaska Public Television, 360 North, University of Alaska Television and multiple public radio audio channels including Alaska Statewide news. Assisted the Department of Administration with a request for interest (RFI) and intent to bid (ITB) process for information regarding satellite services.

Key Component Challenges

Alaska Emergency Alert System (EAS) - The collaboration between ARCS and the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management alerting systems for distribution of emergency alert and warning systems is critical. As a Satellite Relay Network, ARCS plays a central role in the state's EAS Plan as a "designated monitoring assignment" for Alaska broadcasters required to maintain compliance with FCC regulations, including new national level alerting protocols. Concurrently, the ARCS low power television signals in rural communities provide year-round 24/7 access to emergency information for rural viewers in their homes.

ARCS Digital Conversion Project - Capital Budget funds launched the ARCS Digital Conversion project to address the federally-mandated conversion of television services from analog to digital and significantly expand public service programming for rural residents. Major benefits of converting ARCS to digital include increased and improved digital services and replacement of obsolete analog electronics infrastructure with new digital systems.

Satellite Uplink Equipment Replacement - This core piece of infrastructure is past its 11-year service mark and is in need of replacement. This system is no longer supported by the manufacturer, as components fail, they are being repaired or replaced with spare parts acquired from the used equipment marketplace. Continued service is now dependent upon these secondhand components and in-place backup systems. Services may be significantly jeopardized if catastrophic failures occur, or if backup components fail.

ARCS Maintenance - Though owned and operated by the State of Alaska, it is rural communities that fund ongoing local maintenance while individuals at remote sites provide labor on a volunteer basis. Community organizations provide space and power for antennas and electronics. Costs of maintenance of satellite dish antennas, cables, transmission towers and antennas, and the electronics that support ARCS distribution remain the responsibility of local communities. The fleet of satellite dish antennas, some of which have been in service for 30 years, continues to serve as the distribution backbone of public communications services in rural Alaska.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2021

ARCS Digital Conversion Project - This project replaces all analog transmitters at remote ARCS broadcast sites with new generation digital equipment. As sites are converted to digital the full set of video services on the satellite carrier are broadcast through the new transmitters to viewers in their homes representing a 300% increase in service, going from one channel to four, with no increase in operating costs.

Satellite Downlink Equipment Replacement - Refurbishment work at satellite downlink facilities continues to improve service. Additional improvements to maintain the rural satellite downlink sites require additional funding. Deflecting costs of maintaining this set onto individual communities as they become affected by service outages may delay and/or prevent repairs from continuing.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 44.21.305-330 Telecommunications

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)
RDU: Public Communications Services (30)

Non-Formula Component

	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Conference Committee	FY2020 Authorized	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor	FY2020 Management Plan vs FY2021 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	819.0	719.5	719.5	719.5	719.5	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
77000 Grants, Benefits	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	979.0	879.5	879.5	879.5	879.5	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	779.0	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	0.0	0.0%
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)	200.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	779.0	779.5	779.5	779.5	779.5	0.0	0.0%
Designated General (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Other Funds	200.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Positions:							
Permanent Full Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Permanent Part Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Change Record Detail - Multiple Scenarios with Descriptions
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)
RDU: Public Communications Services (30)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		NP
										PFT	PPT	
***** Changes From FY2020 Conference Committee To FY2020 Authorized *****												
FY2020 Conference Committee												
1004 Gen Fund	ConfCom	879.5	0.0	0.0	719.5	0.0	0.0	160.0	0.0	0	0	0
1007 I/A Rcpts		779.5										
		100.0										
	Subtotal	879.5	0.0	0.0	719.5	0.0	0.0	160.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2020 Management Plan To FY2021 Governor *****												
	Totals	879.5	0.0	0.0	719.5	0.0	0.0	160.0	0.0	0	0	0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Administration
Services

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000	Services		819.0	719.5	719.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			819.0	719.5	719.5
3003	Information Technology	Software licensing and maintenance, training, and consulting	80.4	80.4	80.4
3004	Telecommunications	Local, long distance, and cellular telephone charges, television, data/network, telecommunication equipment, and other wireless charges from outside vendors	738.6	639.1	639.1

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Administration
Grants, Benefits

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
7000	Grants, Benefits		160.0	160.0	160.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
		7000 Grants, Benefits Detail Totals	160.0	160.0	160.0
7001	Grants	General government grants	160.0	160.0	160.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Administration

Component: Satellite Infrastructure (2349)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
5007 I/A Rcpts (1007 I/A Rcpts)			200.0	100.0	100.0
5301 Inter-Agency Receipts	Univ - Department-wide	University of Alaska Fairbanks transponder fee	200.0	100.0	100.0