



NFCB Urgently Supports the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program

NFCB contests very strongly the Administration's and other legislative leaders unjustified attempts to eliminate the Department of Commerce's Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, administered by the National Telecommunications Information Administration. PTFP is a targeted matching fund of a modest \$20 million which focuses on the most urgent needs and which leverages local private dollars to support public broadcasting infrastructure.

Appropriate Support of CPB does not eliminate the need for PTFP.

- CPB's governing statute allocates its funds and does not support funding of public radio equipment. Additional dollars for CPB will not make up for eliminating PTFP.
- CPB does not fund new stations, it only funds stations that are already on the air and have reached a certain level of staffing, audience, and financial support.
- New stations expanding service to underserved and unserved communities will not be able to get on the air to become eligible for CPB funding without PTFP.
- For example, a 2004 PTFP study reported that of about 1,600 public radio stations and translators, over 700 were not eligible for CPB funding.

Eliminating PTFP Will Block Irreplaceable New Noncommercial Radio Stations.

- The FCC just authorized several hundred new noncommercial radio stations, many of which were counting on PTFP funding to construct their stations.
- Native Americans—historically, and vastly unserved community—are in a position to *double* the number of stations serving their communities, but without PTFP support many pending construction permits will expire.
- Newly authorized stations have only three years to construct their studios and transmitters. Without PTFP, the stations most likely to be hurt are those that serve communities with the fewest resources – rural communities, American Indians, and people of color.
- The chance for these new stations will not come again. The opportunities to apply for a new radio station occur very infrequently (once only in the last decade) and very little spectrum remains available.

PTFP is the Only Source of Federal Funding for Equipment Destroyed in a Disaster.

- PTFP maintains an emergency fund to replace equipment destroyed or damaged by fire, hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes, ice storms, wildfires or terrorist attacks.
- PTFP funds, for example, were used following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and after the September 11 attacks as well as many smaller emergencies around the country.
- Nothing is comparable to radio programming to assist all Americans during an emergency—radio is widely-deployed, battery-operated, portable, and instantaneous.

The National Federation of Community Broadcasters was founded in 1975 and is a national alliance of almost 200 radio stations and others committed to community radio. NFCB advocates for national public policy on behalf of its membership, while providing services to empower and strengthen community broadcasters and their core values of localism, diversity and public service.