

CPB, PBS Partner With Alaska Public Media to Support Early Science and Literacy Learning

Alaska Public Media Receives Ready To Learn Grant to Form Community Partnership to Help Children in Low-Income Neighborhoods

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - December 12, 2018 - The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and PBS recently announced that public media station Alaska Public Media (AKPM) has been awarded \$175,000 to work with community partners to provide science and literacy resources for the youngest learners to underserved areas.

Alaska Public Media is one of 14 public media stations nationwide to receive a Community Collaboratives for Early Learning and Media (CC-ELM) grant this year, joining 16 other public media stations doing similar work through a community engagement model to help the youngest learners in their communities. This effort is part of a five-year Ready To Learn grant awarded to CPB and PBS through the U.S. Department of Education's Ready To Learn Initiative to advance new tools supporting personalized and adaptive content for children and parents, establish a network of community collaboratives, and conduct efficacy research on the educational resources provided.

"Since arriving at Alaska Public Media in the spring of 2016, our team has committed to building strong collaborative relationships with early childhood education partners in Anchorage," said Ed Ulman, CEO/General Manager of AKPM. "We look forward to working with leading partners including Best Beginnings, Anchorage Libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, and the Anchorage Museum to engage our youngest learners with high-quality PBS KIDS educational content."

The grant will enable AKPM to work closely with various community partners to maximize the impact of new PBS KIDS science and literacy-based programming, mobile apps and digital games from trusted series "Ready Jet Go!" and "Odd Squad" along with other media properties. Work will include Family and Community Learning workshops, which will demonstrate how parents and caregivers can use PBS Kids to extend the educational experiences beyond school. The workshops are designed to build children's science inquiry and informational text literacy skills, as well as boost the confidence of parents and/or caregivers in supporting and being a part of a child's learning experience.

"Public media's high-quality children's content has proven effective in helping our youngest learners make academic gains and experience social-emotional growth to get on the right track for school," said Deb Sanchez, CPB's Senior Vice President of Education and Children's Content. "Through these grants supporting community collaborations, public media can provide engaging learning opportunities - for free, anytime and anywhere - for all children and families, especially those living in low-income communities."



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“Together with community partners, PBS stations play an integral role in helping our nation’s most underserved kids,” said Lesli Rotenberg, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, Children’s Media & Education, PBS. “We fully support the work of 14 additional stations sharing impactful resources with their local communities through these new grants. Their work builds on years of research demonstrating that PBS KIDS content is effective in helping children learn critical school readiness skills, with kids in low-income households often making the greatest gains.”

For the past two decades, the [U.S. Department of Education's Ready To Learn Television grant](#) has funded the development of educational television and digital media targeted at preschool and early elementary school children and their families, especially those who live in low-income communities. [CPB](#) and [PBS KIDS](#) work with producers, researchers, local public media stations, and other partners to develop, distribute and evaluate PBS KIDS multiplatform content to engage children, families, and educators in learning experiences at home, in preschool, and in out-of-school settings. Information on other stations receiving Community Collaboratives for Early Learning and Media (CC-ELM) grants can be found in the 2015-2020 [grant announcement](#) and [2016 press release](#).

About Alaska Public Media

Alaska Public Media (AKPM) is a shared Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate and a 501(c)(3) organization. Committed to meeting the needs of our community and state, AKPM produces and presents news and content that provides lifelong learning opportunities in public affairs, health and leisure, science and nature, economic and social development, civic engagement and world events. The company is located in Southcentral Alaska and is comprised of KSKA radio, KAKM-TV, Create TV, PBS KIDS, PBS KIDS 24/7 and alaskapublic.org. Alaska Public Media also operates the Statewide News network and a shared television service with KTOO in Juneau and KYUK in Bethel.

About CPB

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government’s investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television and related online services. For more information, visit [cpb.org](#), follow us on Twitter [@CPBmedia](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) and subscribe for updates at [cpb.org/subscribe](#).



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About PBS KIDS

PBS KIDS, the number one educational media brand for kids, offers all children the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, digital platforms and community-based programs. Kidscreen- and Webby-award winning pbskids.org provides engaging interactive content, including digital games and streaming video. PBS KIDS also offers mobile apps to help support young children's learning. The PBS KIDS Video App is available on a variety of mobile devices and on platforms such as Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Xbox One and Chromecast. For more information on specific PBS KIDS content supporting literacy, science, math and more, visit pbs.org/pressroom, or follow PBS KIDS on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbskids) and [Facebook](https://facebook.com/pbskids).

About The Ready To Learn Initiative

The Ready To Learn Initiative is a cooperative agreement funded and managed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. It supports the development of innovative educational television and digital media targeted at preschool and early elementary school children and their families. Its general goal is to promote early learning and school readiness, with a particular interest in reaching low-income children. In addition to creating television and other media products, the program supports activities intended to promote national distribution of the programming, effective educational uses of the programming, community-based outreach, and research on educational effectiveness.

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