

**State of Alaska  
FY2016 Governor Amended Operating  
Budget**

**Department of Administration  
Public Communications Services  
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

**Public Communications Services Results Delivery Unit**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

To provide critical programs, local information, public telecommunication and new media services that inform and educate radio listeners throughout bush, rural and urban Alaska; to ensure the infrastructure for the dissemination of non-commercial public radio and related services to un-served and underserved audiences.

**Core Services**

- See Components.

**Major RDU Accomplishments in 2014**

- Stations provided another year of service to un-served and underserved audiences across the state with free over the air programming and online services available to all Alaskans regardless of their ability to pay.
- Improved government access programming on all digital platforms.
- Alaska Rural Communications Services (ARCS) was delivered with no major system-wide shutdowns or outages. As a State Satellite Relay Network, ARCS distributed all SOA Emergency Alert System (EAS) monthly exercises and actual emergency alerts.
- Second full year of operation for the new unified television service Alaska Public Television (APT).
- Negotiated deeply discounted, affordable, annual rates for network program buys for all stations.
- Produced affordable in state training for station managers, news personnel, and development/fundraising staff.
- Continuation of the daily statewide news services from the Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN).
- Advocated for and supported strategic restructuring and resource realignment between stations.
- Satellite services delivered ARCS, Alaska Public TV, University of Alaska TV and several public radio channels including APRN to audiences statewide.

**Key RDU Challenges**

**Engineering Support for Underserved Areas** - State funding appropriated in FY2012 helped establish a centrally managed engineering service which actively serves the system with emphasis on bush and rural stations with the greatest need. However, the service requires a third engineer to make the statewide work scope manageable and ensure that the critical service is sustainable

**Expansion of Local News Content** - In the digital age, public media must increase production of local, regional and statewide content for distribution across digital platforms. This challenge requires new expertise and new financial resources. Over time the improved service level will deepen community engagement and translate into increased private sector support. Public media is a key component of Alaska's communications infrastructure with year round dissemination of news and community information including emergency services, health and safety, education, weather and marine conditions. Sustaining these services at the community and statewide level is further challenged by rising fixed costs and federal funding cuts due to sequestration.

**Federal Mandate: ARCS Digital Conversion/Low Power Television (TV)** - The FCC has extended their September 2015 deadline to September 2016 as the date by which all analog LPTV operations must convert to digital. A major benefit of converting ARCS to digital is the service increase offered by multi-channel digital television. An additional benefit is the replacement of the aging remote analog transmission infrastructure with new digital systems. In the FY2014 Capital Budget, the State funded the ARCS Digital Conversion project to address the impending deadline and embrace the opportunity to significantly expand public service programming for bush residents.

**Satellite Uplink Equipment Replacement** - All of the original uplink infrastructure equipment was replaced by Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc. (APBI) in 2007. This core piece of infrastructure will pass the 9 year mark this fiscal year and is in need of replacement and is no longer supported by the manufacturer.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2016

**Federal Mandate: Digital Conversion for ARCS** In response to the September 2016 FCC deadline for digital conversion of analog LPTV operations, the State launched the ARCS Digital Conversion Project, targeting 185 remote sites for new digital transmission systems. It is anticipated the new electronics will carry warranties of 2 years reducing the need for associated repair costs. The State will be required to convert analog licenses to digital.

**Satellite Downlink Equipment Replacement** - Refurbishment work at satellite downlink facilities resulted in restoration of services in several chronically afflicted sites, will come to an end. Several downlink sites have been repaired and/or replaced; however, there is more work to do and no funds are designated for ongoing maintenance of this infrastructure.

Contact Information
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**Public Communications Services  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2014 Actuals				FY2015 Management Plan				FY2016 Governor Amended			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b> None.												
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
Public Broadcasting Commission	53.3	0.0	0.0	53.3	54.2	0.0	0.0	54.2	49.9	0.0	0.0	49.9
Public Broadcasting - Radio	3,319.9	0.0	0.0	3,319.9	3,319.9	0.0	0.0	3,319.9	2,706.9	0.0	0.0	2,706.9
Public Broadcasting - T.V.	825.9	0.0	0.0	825.9	825.9	0.0	0.0	825.9	675.8	0.0	0.0	675.8
Satellite Infrastructure	848.2	200.0	0.0	1,048.2	847.3	323.7	0.0	1,171.0	779.5	100.0	0.0	879.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,047.3</b>	<b>200.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,247.3</b>	<b>5,047.3</b>	<b>323.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5,371.0</b>	<b>4,212.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,312.1</b>

**Public Communications Services**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2015 Management Plan to FY2016 Governor Amended**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2015 Management Plan</b>	5,047.3	0.0	323.7	0.0	5,371.0
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>					
-Public Broadcasting Commission	-4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4.3
-Public Broadcasting - Radio	-613.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-613.0
-Public Broadcasting - T.V.	-150.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-150.1
-Satellite Infrastructure	-67.8	0.0	-223.7	0.0	-291.5
<b>FY2016 Governor Amended</b>	<b>4,212.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4,312.1</b>