

## State Budget Update

The [agency's 2025-2027 biennial budget request](#) was submitted on September 16th. We have requested only standard budget adjustments and a 5% increase (\$9,100) for supplies and services.

FY23-25	GPR	\$ 13,024,500	FY25-27	GPR	\$ 13,777,900
Chapter 20	PR	\$ 31,014,400	Requested	PR	\$ 31,558,900
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 44,038,900</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 45,336,800</b>

Our capital budget request was submitted on September 23rd. It includes only small project requests at a total of \$2.7M. These projects have been anticipated in our 6-year plan submissions and are part of the agency's 20-year rolling equipment forecast.

## Federal Budget Update

The Federal FY25 budget is now under Continuing Resolution until December 20th. We do not expect to have more information until that date.

## CrowdStrike Event

On July 19, 2024, an erroneous update to a globally-used cybersecurity tool brought computer systems all over the world to a screeching halt. ECB's 24/7 vigilance meant that our staff were some of the first to know about this issue and to begin remedying the flawed coding on agency devices. (You may recall that this was the morning of last board meeting, which went off without complication.) In the after action review the following week, it was determined that ECB engineer, Will Loper, was the first I.T. professional in our time zone to deploy the patch and begin getting our agency systems back online.

## National Meetings

Heather Reese and I attended the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Conference & CPB Public Media Thought Leader Forum in Pittsburgh in September. This meeting included a special day-long forum for the system's general managers during which we heard from our national leadership, walked through strategic and scenario planning exercises, and were inspired by success stories from our colleagues.



*Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood was produced by WQED in Pittsburgh. The city is now home to Fred Rogers Productions which produces and distributes several programs on PBS Kids.*

Following the conference, I attended the Affinity Group Coalition (AGC) Fall Meeting. The AGC was founded to serve as a forum for addressing system-wide issues of interest to public television stations. It is a station-led coalition of two representatives each from public

television's major affinity groups – member organizations that represent public television stations based on licensee type, community size and service profile. I serve as a representative of state-held licenses by virtue of my role as vice-chair of the Organization of State Broadcast Executives (OSBE).

The Affinity Group Coalition exists to:

1. Discuss issues that arise within the public television system and expedite meaningful and credible responses that reflect the station community's stances on issues and concerns;
2. Initiate or encourage special projects identified by the AGC or the Affinity Groups; and
3. Act as a council of advisors to national organizations (e.g. APTS, CPB, PBS and NETA).

The AGC's ultimate goal is to strengthen America's public television stations, individually and as a whole, in order to better serve the American public.

While many other items and issues were on the agenda, artificial intelligence (AI) and how it can best be utilized in service to public media was of primary concern.

### **Broadband Access**

The [2024 Report to the Governor and Legislature on Broadband Access](#) was released in late July. In the last 5 years, broadband access has grown by 11% (now at 88% statewide) though barriers to access, affordability and adoption still exist. This new report, the fourth of the task force, makes the following recommendations:

- Support continued investment of state broadband funding to ensure high-speed, long-term, reliable internet service for all;
- Prepare for the efficient, transparent, and accountable deployment of federal broadband investments through workforce training and improved permitting and locating processes;
- Improve coordination with Tribal Nations and local communities to encourage involvement and participation in the rollout of federal funds;
- Ensure all Wisconsinites have access to affordable internet through federal or state action to continue the ACP or similar initiative; and
- Connect all Wisconsinites to internet enabled device(s) and assistive technologies that meet their needs, including for telehealth, education, job readiness, and workforce development.