

America's investment in public broadcasting equals about one one-hundredth of one percent (.0117%) of the federal budget.

The Investment

- The appropriation for public broadcasting does not come to PBS from the government. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) distributes this critical funding according to a federally mandated formula. By statute, the majority of the \$445 million public investment goes to more than 1,300 locally owned and operated TV and radio stations in communities across the nation.
- Overall, the national investment in public broadcasting is about 1.35 per person a year, or less than half a penny a day.
- Federal funding accounts for about 15% of the funds necessary to make public broadcasting possible.
- For every dollar in federal funding invested in local stations, they raise an additional \$6.00 on their own, including contributions from millions of people who voluntarily support their community-based work.

Delivering Trust & Value

- In an annual national survey, the American public has named PBS the most trusted institution among nationally known organizations for 11 consecutive years and ranked PBS second behind only military defense as an exceptional value for tax dollars.

How Federal Funding Supports Public Broadcasting

- PBS/member stations are America's largest classroom, the nation's largest stage for the arts and a trusted window to the world -- all at the cost of about \$1.35 per person per year.
- Federal funding provides vital seed money for PBS' nearly 360 member stations, as well as almost 1,000 public radio stations, all of which are locally owned and operated, supporting their programming and initiatives, particularly among underserved groups like rural populations and children.
- The small, but vital percentage of public broadcasting's overall budget that comes from the federal appropriation is the foundation of our capacity to serve all Americans with content and services that educate, inform and inspire.
- Public dollars are particularly important to smaller stations. While the appropriation equals about 15% of public broadcasting's revenue, that's an aggregate number. For many stations, the appropriation counts for as much as 40-50% of their budget.
- Numerous studies -- including one requested by Congress earlier this year -- have stated categorically that while the federal investment in public broadcasting is relatively modest, the absence of this critical seed money would cripple the system and bring its services to an end.

What Defunding Would Cost

- The country's investment in public broadcasting is most critical to stations in rural America -- the very communities in our nation that depend the most on our content and services, which are available without a cable or satellite subscription. Elimination of federal funds would have immediate and devastating consequences in these areas, especially for children who can't attend preschool and senior citizens.
- What do you lose if the government cuts funding for public broadcasting stations? You lose the shows that expanded your mind as a child, the documentaries that opened up new worlds to you as a student, the non-commercialized PBS news programs that keep you informed on world events and cultures and exposure to the worlds of music, theater, dance and art as an adult.

Find out more at valuePBS.org

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