

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

GENERAL FUND EQUIPMENT GRANTS
FY 24-25 GRANT REQUEST

MN House State and Local Government
Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Ginny Klevorn
Tuesday, March 21, 2023



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Minnesota Public Radio

MPR GENERAL FUND GRANT

Current Grant

FY22-23: \$1,020,000

(FY22: \$510,000, FY23: \$510,000)

Requested Grant

FY24-25: \$1,020,000

(FY24: \$510,000, FY25: \$510,000)

MPR: BACKBONE OF THE EAS AND AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national, public warning system that requires broadcasters to provide a means for national, state governments to address the public in the event of an emergency.

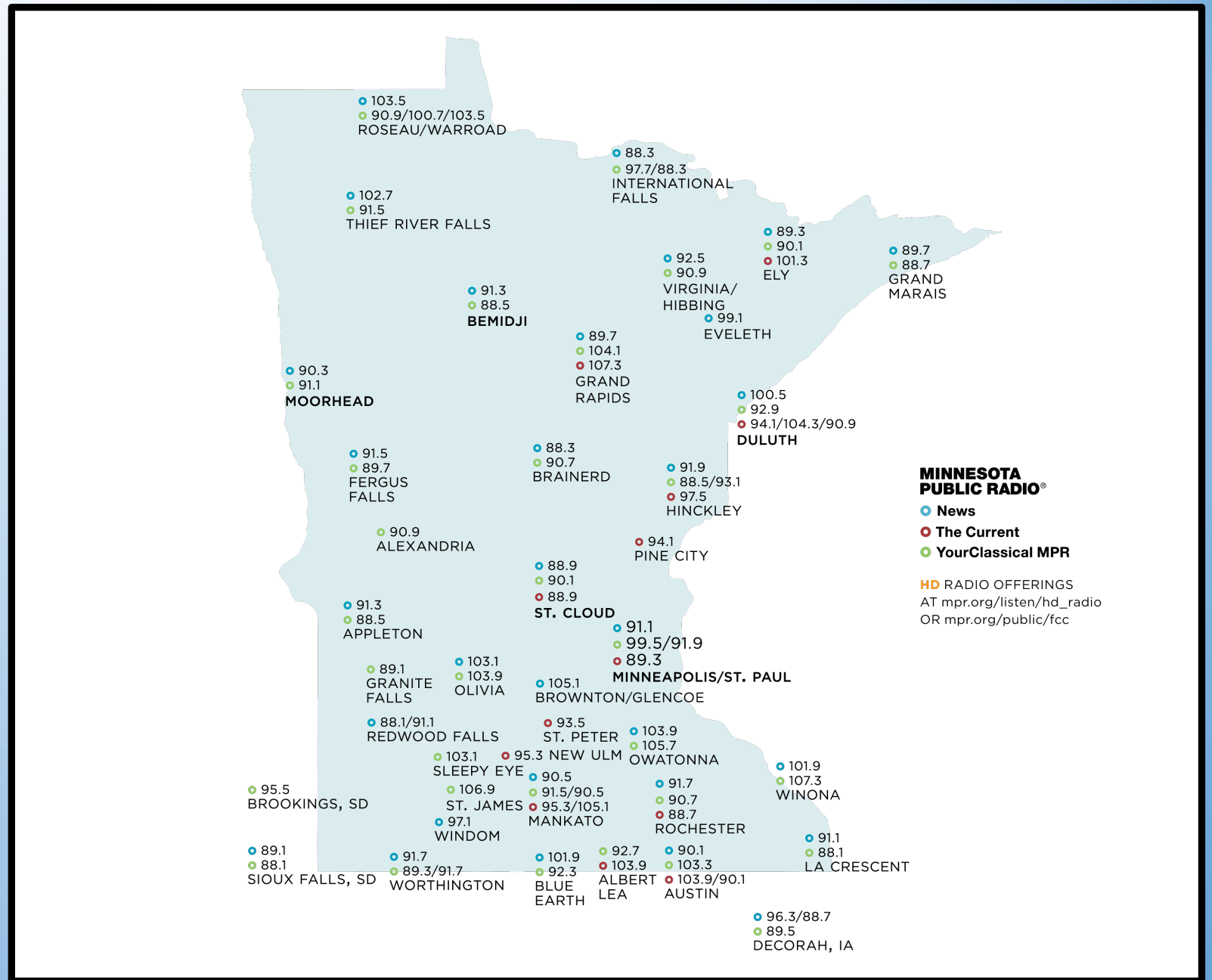
Every broadcaster has a piece of equipment that's known as an EAS box. This box monitors alert codes. In the event of an emergency, the appropriate warnings and information are broadcast to the public.



International Control Center at MPR headquarters operates 24/7/365.

MPR'S STATEWIDE NETWORK

With more than 80 stations and translators in its network, MPR's signal reaches 95% of the state.



PARTNERING WITH MN'S MEDIA ECOSYSTEM



Tower outside Collegeville

MPR does not simply deliver the EAS signal - Its staff works with media partners throughout our state to ensure the system is operating correctly and troubleshooting problems which may arise during tests of the system.

All of Minnesota's radio, television, and cable broadcasters – more than 300 across the state - rely on and monitor MPR's radio network 24 hours a day.

They are all assigned specific MPR stations to monitor, depending on where they are located.

PARTNERING WITH KEY AGENCIES

MPR staff serves on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) board with state and local public safety officials to develop policies and procedures to improve the EAS.

Partners in the EAS system include:

FEMA

Association of Public Safety Communications Officials

Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

MN Homeland Security Emergency Management

MN Department of Transportation



WSCD tower in Duluth

FUNDING FOCUS AND NEED



Holes in roof of equipment facilities from icicles

- State support only covers MPR's infrastructure in Greater Minnesota and only that which is essential to the EAS and AMBER Alert systems.
- No General Funds are spent on metro stations or any employee salaries.
- Funding is essential because much of the network was built 30+ years ago - key infrastructure now needs to be updated, repaired, or in some cases replaced.
- In addition, technology advances require continued updates.

HOW FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED

MPR's equipment spending is split between planned projects and emergency repairs that come up during the year.

In 2022 projects included satellite dish filters to mitigate the effect of 5G across our locations, satellite dish covers to keep snow out, and removing and reinstalling cabling and antennas from International Falls and Hinckley water towers.

We always have equipment breaks, whether from extreme weather or just old age.



Staff clearing snow from a satellite dish in Rochester.

PLANNED PROJECTS

- While our request is flat, the projects we have planned for the coming biennium are essential.
- They include projects across the state.
- For example, we are planning installation of 5G/LTE equipment with antennas for network connections to comply with an FCC mandate.
- We will also replace 30-year-old tube transmitters at several locations that are obsolete and no longer supported.
- MPR matches the state funds we receive with additional investments - the overall cost for upgrades to the system is more than double our request, not including staff time from our network engineers and others involved in maintaining the network.

Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO, VISIT MPR.ORG

 **MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO®**

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