MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO®

MPR State Equipment Grant

Emergency Alert System 2020

The importance of an efficient and responsive Emergency Alert System (EAS) for Minnesotans proved vital in recent days. In 2020 Minnesota experienced 37 alerts sent by local jurisdictions through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. Civil unrest, 911 system disruptions, public health and safety concerns, and missing persons accounted for most of these alerts.

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State General Fund:

- For each of the past two biennia (FY18-19 and FY20-21) the Legislature has generously granted Minnesota Public Radio $1.02 million in State General Fund Equipment Grants. The grants helped offset some of MPR's expenses to maintain and replace its equipment in Greater MN.

- This funding ensures that Minnesota Public Radio (MPR), as the backbone to Minnesota's EAS, can continue to provide this essential service, and will also offset some of MPR's expenses for needed equipment repairs and replacements throughout Greater MN.

- For FY22-FY23 we are requesting $1.02 million. For each dollar received from the MN State General Fund Equipment Grant, MPR matches the spending with at least two dollars.

- All of Minnesota's radio, television and cable broadcasters rely on and monitor MPR's radio network 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency, the appropriate warnings and information can be broadcast by all media organizations to audiences across the state. These include the event of a state or federal emergency, a nuclear disaster, a natural disaster, and Emergency alert, or an AMBER (child-abduction) Alert.

- MPR does not simply deliver the EAS signal. Its staff works with media partners throughout MN to ensure the system is operating correctly and troubleshooting problems which may arise during tests of the system. MPR staff also serves on the IPAWS board with state and local public safety officials to develop policies and procedures to improve the EAS.

- MPR has built a statewide radio network with more than 80 stations and translators throughout the region. There is no other media organization in Minnesota that has this statewide reach. Which is why we have been designated as the backbone to the EAS. MPR's signal reaches 95% of the state and over 900,000 listeners tune in each week. This network allows MPR to distribute the EAS signal statewide to all MN broadcasters.

- The maintenance of this critical network faces a variety of problems that state funding eases. Minnesota weather can cause unexpected and large-scale equipment damage. Much of the network was built thirty to forty years ago and key infrastructure now needs to be updated, repaired, or in some cases replaced. In addition, as technology continues to change MPR's stations need to be kept up to date to ensure maximum working order and coverage.

- Many of the MPR stations cover smaller communities in Greater MN. These stations are not financially self-supporting.

- No General Fund dollars are spent on metro stations or any employee salaries.

- The 2020-21 appropriation paid for upgrades and maintenance in:

Appleton	**Ely**	**Rochester**
Austin	**Fergus Falls**	**St. Peter**
Bemidji	**Grand Marais**	**Thief River Falls**
Brainerd	**International Falls**	**Warroad**
Buhl	**La Crescent**	**Worthington**
Collegeville	**Moorhead**	
Duluth	**Redwood Falls**	

- Currently, the total need for maintenance and replacement is over $3.1 million. The proposed 2022-23 projects include:

Appleton	**Collegeville**	**La Crescent**
Brainerd	**Duluth**	**Northfield**
Buhl	**Fergus Falls**	
Cloquet	**Grand Marais**	