



Diverse Radio for Minnesota's Communities

Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations General Fund Request HF(pending)/ SF(pending)

Ampers is requesting a one-time special appropriation of \$165,000 to help keep community radio on the dial!

Rationale:

- AMPERS stations lost \$3.5 million with the elimination of federal funding.
- For some stations, that was more than 40% of their operating budget.
- The stations in Greater Minnesota, including the Indigenous stations, are among the hardest hit by these cuts.
- AMPERS is working to help the stations reduce their costs by consolidating work and expenses.
- AMPERS will take over radio "traffic" responsibilities (scheduling of underwriting announcements) for stations.
- The \$165,000 will be used for the following:
 - 1) \$45,000 for one year of software licensing.
 - 2) Approximately \$90,000 for a new FTE (salary plus benefits)
 - 3) Approximately \$20,000 for a partial existing FTE
 - 4) Approximately \$7,500 for equipment
 - 5) Approximately \$2,500 for training
- AMPER is requesting a technical change of 129D.14 from 2.0 FTEs to 1.5 FTEs.

Note: to ensure this lasts more than one year, AMPERS will charge the stations a modest fee for this service each year and escrow that amount so that we spend the state funding within a year and are then able to spread it out for the stations across multiple years. Doing so will allow the stations to benefit from this funding for multiple years.

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The Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations (Ampers) is not affiliated with nor does it receive funding from Minnesota Public Radio (MPR), Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) or the Minnesota Public Television Association (MPTA).



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INDIVIDUAL STATION INFORMATION

| City | Station | Dial Position | FY26 Federal Funding Lost |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bagley/Bemidji | KBXE-FM | 90.5 FM | |
| Bois Forte/Nett Lake | KBFT-FM | 89.9 FM | \$249,000 (Approx 34%) |
| Duluth | WDSE-FM | 103.3 FM | \$160,000 (Approx 15%) |
| Fond du Lac/Cloquet | WGZS-FM | 89.1 FM | |
| Grand Marais/Gunflint Trail/ Grand Portage | WTIP-FM | 90.7 FM/89.1 FM/ 90.1 FM | \$238,000 (Approx 25%) |
| Grand Rapids/Brainerd/Ely | KAXE-FM | 91.7 FM/ 89.9 FM/103.9 FM | \$230,000 (Approx 13%) |
| Leech Lake/Cass Lake/Bemidji | KOJB-FM | 90.1 FM/105.3 FM | \$172,000 (Approx 44%) |
| Mankato/Austin | KMSU-FM/KMSK-FM | 89.7 FM/91.3 FM | Lost funding prior to FY26 |
| Minneapolis/St. Paul | KBEM-FM (Jazz 88) | 88.5 FM | \$137,000 (Approx 10%) |
| Minneapolis/St. Paul | KFAI-FM | 90.3 FM | \$98,000 (Approx 8%) |
| Minneapolis/St. Paul | KMOJ-FM | 89.9 FM | \$200,000 (Approx 25%) |
| Minneapolis/St. Paul | KUOM-AM/FM (Radio K) | 770 AM/ 100.7 FM/104.5 FM | Lost funding prior to FY26 |
| Rochester | KRPR-FM | 89.9 FM | |
| St. Cloud | KVSC-FM | 88.1 FM | Lost funding prior to FY26 |
| Thief River Falls | KSRQ-FM | 90.1 FM | \$169,000 (Approx 40%) |
| White Earth/Callaway | KKWE-FM | 89.9 FM | \$239,000 (Approx 48%) |
| Winona | KQAL-FM | 89.5 FM | |

- AMPERS is an association of 17 independent community radio stations.
- Each station is locally managed and programmed by and for their communities.
- Stations create their programming and do not rebroadcast from one main Twin Cities station.
- The stations have programs in ten different languages and serve Greater Minnesota and communities not served by traditional media.

