

The Agency

Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority WSBE-TV/Channel 36

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority is the owner and license holder for WSBE-TV/Channel 36, Rhode Island's public television station. WSBE-TV broadcasts 111 hours per week and is headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the operation of all activities, including private fundraising, which partially supports the authority's budget.

WSBE-TV provides life-long learning opportunities to all Rhode Islanders, regardless of their ability to pay, through its programming and outreach services. Approximately 98,000 K-12 school children are served by 4.5 hours daily of in-school instructional programming that enhances and augments classroom learning. Other educational programming includes science and nature, documentaries, performing arts, history and music. A wide range of how-to programs enable adult viewers to develop skills in computers, painting, automotive repair, sewing, cooking, home improvement and other practical topics. The mandate to provide training in telecommunications is fulfilled through the internship programs in the production and technical areas. There are currently seven student interns employed at WSBE-TV.

WSBE-TV also provides "Learning Link," an interactive computer-based telecommunications system connecting schools and libraries across the State, and providing forums, national and international gateways, databases and Internet access. WSBE-TV has launched a program with 150 K-12 schools around the State to bring inter-active educational video into the classrooms via the Internet. This program is a full-fledged educational offering and is underwritten with private funding.

WSBE-TV is helping to ensure that children are prepared to learn when they enter school, through pre-school program services and related outreach programs. Outreach programs include literacy, AIDS education, domestic violence and other topics of community concern.

Public affairs programs are aired to increase awareness of community problems and issues, and to help our citizens learn about and cope with an increasingly complex world.

Agency Objectives

Educate, inform, enlighten and entertain. Provide educational services to all citizens regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Statutory History

Title 16, Chapter 21 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority and defines the duties of its President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Budget

Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority WSBE - TV/Channel 36

| | FY 2003 Actual | FY 2004 Actual | FY 2005 Revised | FY 2006 Recommended |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditures By Object | | | | |
| Personnel | 1,437,413 | 1,536,749 | 1,625,118 | 1,772,784 |
| Other State Operations | 207,015 | 255,938 | 240,874 | 270,033 |
| Aid To Local Units Of Government | - | - | - | - |
| Assistance, Grants and Benefits | - | - | - | - |
| Subtotal: Operating Expenditures | \$1,644,428 | \$1,792,687 | \$1,865,992 | \$2,042,817 |
| Capital Improvements | - | 556,613 | 3,203,047 | - |
| Capital Debt Service | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,644,428 | \$2,349,300 | \$5,069,039 | \$2,042,817 |
| Expenditures By Funds | | | | |
| General Revenue | 1,121,228 | 1,218,492 | 1,143,252 | 1,285,906 |
| Federal Funds | - | 194,865 | 360,736 | - |
| Restricted Receipts | - | - | - | - |
| Other Funds | 523,200 | 935,943 | 3,565,051 | 756,911 |
| Total Expenditures | \$1,644,428 | \$2,349,300 | \$5,069,039 | \$2,042,817 |
| FTE Authorization | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 |
| Agency Measures | | | | |
| Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 21.1% | NS | NS | NS |
| Females as a Percentage of the Workforce | 36.8% | NS | NS | NS |
| Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| Program Measures | | | | |
| Average Annual Household Viewership of WSBE-TV/Rhode Island PBS Programs | | | | |
| Weekday Daytime | 149 | 182 | 200 | 220 |
| Primetime | 133 | 151 | 166 | 182 |
| All Day | 270 | 289 | 318 | 349 |