

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, and its corresponding digital television license, WSBE – DT. WSBE-TV broadcasts 111 hours per week and is headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for 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 administers "Learning Link," an interactive, computer-based telecommunications system providing forums, national and international gateways, databases and Internet access to a network of schools and libraries across the State. 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,510,165	1,699,625	1,810,224	1,940,985
Operating Supplies and Expenses	193,429	231,388	246,071	246,071
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,703,594	\$1,931,013	\$2,056,295	\$2,187,056
Capital Purchases and Equipment	1,466,851	1,456,929	384,160	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$3,170,445	\$3,387,942	\$2,440,455	\$2,187,056
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,039,184	1,257,555	1,317,786	1,387,400
Federal Funds	360,905	-	-	-
Other Funds	1,770,356	2,130,387	1,122,669	799,656
Total Expenditures	\$3,170,445	\$3,387,942	\$2,440,455	\$2,187,056
FTE Authorization	22.0	22.0	20.0	20.0
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	15.8%	19.1%	20.0%	20.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	31.6%	28.6%	25.0%	25.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Program Measures				
Average Annual Household Viewership of WSBE-TV/Rhode Island PBS Programs				
Weekday Daytime	147	141	155	171
Primetime	127	155	171	188
All Day	241	296	326	358