

## Supporting public media: Philanthropy at the speed of news



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**75 YEARS**

Dear Stephen,

Right now, local public media stations are at risk across the country. With the rescission of \$1.1 billion in federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, as many as 115 stations are at risk of closing as soon as October 1.

If these stations go dark, millions of Americans could lose access to trusted local news, cultural programming, educational content and emergency alerts. The disruption to local, state and regional reporting networks would be severe, and the impact would be lasting.

That's why Knight Foundation is taking action.

Today, we are committing \$10 million to the Public Media Bridge Fund, an initiative of [Public Media Company](#), as part of a nearly \$37 million emergency response from a coalition of philanthropic funders who have agreed to join us including Pivotal, the MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, the Schmidt Family Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



This emergency support is a way to keep the most vulnerable stations on the air while we work toward a more sustainable future for public media. It's a start. But we'll need many more champions at the table to meet the scale of the challenge.

Year after year, surveys show that PBS is the most trusted source of local news in America. Nearly twice as many Americans support continued federal funding for NPR and PBS as oppose it, according to a study conducted by Pew Research Center earlier this year.

Americans agree – public media is an essential service. It's a trusted source of local news, a lifeline during disasters, a platform for community voices and a vital part of our civic infrastructure. We're proud to stand with our partners in defense of it.

Together, we can help ensure it endures for years to come

You can read more in [The New York Times](#) and in our [press release](#).

Sincerely,

**Maribel Pérez Wadsworth**

President & CEO

Knight Foundation



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