

# The Roles of PBS, CPB, APTS and NPR

## **Public Broadcasting Service**

PBS is a private, nonprofit corporation founded in 1969 whose members are America's public TV stations. PBS provides television programming and related services to 360 commercial stations serving all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa, and oversees program acquisition, distribution and promotion; education services; new media ventures; fund raising support; engineering and technology development; and video marketing.

## **Corporation for Public Broadcasting**

CPB is a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967. The mission of CPB is to facilitate the development of, and ensure universal access to, noncommercial high-quality programming and telecommunications services. It does this in conjunction with noncommercial educational telecommunications licensees across America. The nine members of the CPB Board serve six-year terms and are appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. Ninety-five percent of the money appropriated by the federal government to CPB annually goes to support local television and radio stations, programming and improvements to the public broadcasting system as a whole. Under law, CPB may neither produce programs nor operate the interconnection system. It is intended to serve as a "heat shield" between the government and free public broadcasting. PBS and APTS collaborate with CPB on a regular basis regarding legislative, regulatory and other issues.

## **Association of America's Public Television Stations**

APTS is a nonprofit membership organization established in 1980 to support the continued growth and development of a strong and financially sound noncommercial television service for the American public. APTS provides advocacy for public television interests at the national level, as well as consistent leadership and information in marshaling grassroots and congressional support for its members. APTS works closely with individual station representatives to produce effective legislative strategies that allow stations to fulfill their individual missions. As broadcasters made the transition to digital transmission, APTS worked to ensure that the federal government continued its commitment to universal public television services.

## **National Public Radio**

NPR is a private, nonprofit membership organization founded in 1970 that produces and distributes news and cultural programming for more than 860 independently operated, noncommercial public radio stations across the nation. NPR supports its operations through a combination of membership dues and programming fees from stations, contributions from private foundations and corporations and revenue from the sales of transcripts, books, CDs and merchandise. Between one and two percent of NPR's annual budget comes from competitive grants sought by NPR from federally funded organizations, such as CPB, the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. NPR also handles all the lobbying for public radio, collaborating with PBS, CPB and APTS on matters that involve public broadcasting broadly.