

Corporation for Public Broadcasting awards WHYY \$300,000 for Delaware Statehouse Coverage

Funding to increase and strengthen state government coverage provided by public media station newsrooms

PHILADELPHIA (September 20, 2023) – The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) awarded WHYY a two-year, \$300,000 grant to increase coverage of Delaware government. The grant is part of \$2.25 million in funding to strengthen public media state government reporting in seven states, which CPB announced today at the Public Media Content Conference in Philadelphia.

“As the premiere public media outlet providing trusted news & information to the tri state area, WHYY is honored to have been chosen by Corporation for Public Broadcasting to expand its Wilmington, DE news operation to now include dedicated journalists covering state public policy issues from Dover,” said WHYY Inc. President & CEO Bill Marrazzo.

CPB’s generous support will enable WHYY to produce journalism focused on critical issues and kitchen table topics that unite and engage people around the state from small towns to large cities, and help them better understand their common challenges, the root causes of the state’s issues and possible solutions.

WHYY and content partner HOY en Delaware (the largest and longest serving Hispanic news publication in the “First State”) will work together to provide regular multimedia journalism (including digital, print and audio news features, video interviews, newsletters, explainers, photo essays); in-person and virtual engagement activities; and special enterprise and investigative journalism to audiences throughout Delaware. This content will also be available to news organizations throughout the state including Delaware Public Media and the News Journal.

“WHYY takes pride in finding essential, trusted news and information and rich stories in and around the First State. With timely news coverage of topics such as how to address higher rates of diabetes for Black residents; the increases of women in the Delaware General Assembly and Delaware’s hotline to report abuse and neglect of seniors and vulnerable adults, WHYY is dedicated to providing multimedia, often solution oriented news and specials for the state,” said Sarah Glover, WHYY Vice President of News & Civic Dialogue. “Through this grant, we’ll have an even greater ability to provide trusted information as well as clarity on the issues important to their community and future.”

Amid an industry drop in the overall number of full-time statehouse reporters across the country, CPB funds will support WHYY, along with public media stations serving Alaska, Connecticut, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Texas as they add statehouse reporting capacity. The coverage must be shared with public media stations across the state, as well as other media organizations.

NEWS RELEASE



CPB funds will also support NPR's ability to provide editorial and training support for station-based reporters covering state government.

The grant recipients were selected from 20 proposals submitted from public media organizations in 19 states. Many will fill gaps identified in the State Government Coverage in Public Media survey commissioned by CPB and published in 2022. The survey found that while public media stations in all 50 states provide original state government reporting at least weekly when their legislatures are in session, five states lacked a full-time state government beat reporter based at a public media station.

About WHYY

WHYY, the Philadelphia region's leading public media provider, has served southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and all of Delaware for nearly 70 years. WHYY takes pride in bringing its audience news when it needs it, entertainment when it wants it and education when it counts — on television, radio, online and in the community.

About CPB

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private, nonprofit corporation authorized by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of more than 1,500 locally managed and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology and program development for public radio, television, and related online services. For more information, visit cpb.org, follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn and subscribe for other updates.