



Patricia de Stacy Harrison  
President and CEO  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

September 17, 2025

Ms. Harrison:

I write today on behalf of Free Press in strong support of the request made by Alex Curley at Semipublic and Zach Metzger of the State and Local News Initiative at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism to publicly release financial and operating data for your grantee stations, as detailed in a letter sent to you on September 7, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

We believe this information has great public value and will help public media supporters, advocacy groups like mine, academic researchers, journalists, philanthropic funders, and state and local officials better understand the financial health of local stations, better equipping them to lend aid to those local outlets facing true emergencies.

As CPB regrettably winds down its operations, it's imperative to make as much data as possible publicly available and accessible for independent research and noncommercial use. In a time when much misinformation is being spread about public broadcasting, reputable and official data like this is essential for increased popular understanding about the current state and future of U.S. public media. Semipublic and Medill have pledged to protect or exclude any sensitive information contained in these documents.

We hope you will meet this request and make public this important information. If my team or I can be of any further assistance to your staff, or share more about why this information is so important to the larger public conversation about public broadcasting, please be in touch. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your help in safeguarding public media's future.

Sincerely,

Craig Aaron  
President and co-CEO  
Free Press

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<sup>1</sup> See "We're Officially Asking CPB for Station Records – Here's Why," Semipublic, Sept. 8 2025.