



# Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

**Please Note:**

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354

Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.**

## FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program

Project Location: Alaska, Maine, North Dakota, and Vermont

**Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):**

The Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program is administered through the Rural Development Agency of USDA. Applications are submitted to and reviewed by the respective state Rural Development offices. Funding for the program is provided through the "national reserve" of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program. The FY2005 Consolidated Appropriations Bill, Public Law 108-447, included statutory language that provides no less than \$2 million for this program. The current authorized funding level for the program is \$5.0 million per fiscal year. Eligibility for the program is limited to four public broadcasting systems: Alaska, Maine, North Dakota and Vermont. Eligibility is defined in the statute as "statewide, private, non-profit public television systems whose coverage is predominantly rural." The purpose of the program is to demonstrate the effectiveness of providing information on agriculture and other issues of importance to farmers and rural residents. The participating states have produced a number of series on a variety of rural issues including: land use, education, entrepreneurial opportunities and training, rural and agricultural histories, natural resources, job training

Related Appropriations Bill: Agriculture Appropriations

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: 2,000,000

**Total** funding to complete this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years to fund this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \_\_\_\_\_

Matching funds from local and private entities:

funding levels vary from state to state -- Alaska stations match the federal funding 1:1, with funds raised from local communities and private sector

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Agriculture Appropriations FY08: \$0  
Agriculture Appropriations FY07: \$0  
Agriculture Appropriations FY06: \$396,000  
Agriculture Appropriations FY05: \$0  
Agriculture Appropriations FY04: \$397,640

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: \$0.00

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$0.00

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

**List legislation that authorizes this project:**

1990 Farm Bill (PL 101-624), 1996 Farm Bill (PL 104-127), 2002 Farm Bill (PL 107-171), current Farm Bill in progress

**Check all that apply:**

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

(Project Description continued)

for rural residents in economic transition, small business development, and child care issues in rural areas.

In Alaska, the grants have enabled the production of Alaska history, public affairs and cultural information programs. Recent examples include:

Anchorage Edition -- a year-round, weekly studio based round table discussion program focusing on statewide issues in the news.

Alaska Weather -- a year-round daily half hour weather series produced in cooperation with the National Weather Service. USDA funds have been used to produce specialized informational and educational segments, many focused on safety.

Money Matters Alaska -- four half-hours on financial and investment education and associated public service announcements.

College Track -- a one-hour program designed to encourage rural students to pursue college educations, told through the eyes of rural residents. The program aims to close the gap between urban and rural residents and their success in college.

History of the Presbyterian Mission in Southeast Alaska -- this program documents the role played by early missionaries to Southeast Alaska, including the establishment of Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, the influence of the mission on rural villages, and the current relationship of the mission.

It is important to note that in the past two fiscal years (FY 2007 and FY 2008) USDA has made the decision not to fund the set-aside for this very successful and effective program. One crucial objective for the participating stations throughout the FY 2009 appropriations process is to make the case that a minimum of \$2.0 million per fiscal year in funding be restored for these important activities so that delivery of the services and programming made possible by the Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program may resume.

Suggested Bill and/or Report language:

Bill Language:

"and not less than \$2.0 million for grants in accordance with section 310B(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act."

Report Language:

Include "\$2.0 million for the Grants to Broadcasting Systems Program" in a list of preferred projects for Rural Business Enterprise Grants.