



MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chris Lester

Managing Editor

816.398.4324

clester@kcpt.org

Kansas City PBS Awarded Grant to Expand News Coverage

Kansas City, MO, December 2, 2019 – [Kansas City PBS](#) has been awarded a grant from [Report for America](#) that will help pay for expanded coverage of rural issues in the region.

Starting next year, a [Flatland](#) reporter will be devoted to expanding coverage outside of the immediate Kansas City metropolitan area. Those stories will cover a variety of topics and appear on both the Flatland digital magazine and broadcast on [KCPT](#).

Report for America is a national service program launched in 2017 that places journalists in local newsrooms to address emerging “news deserts” across the country. *Report for America* today announced it will help finance 250 journalists in 164 host newsrooms across 46 states in the coming year.

“We are convinced that public media has an important role to play in helping to fill the coverage gaps that are emerging in local journalism,” said Kliff Kuehl, president and CEO of Kansas City PBS. “The new journalist supported by this grant will help us expand the coverage map for both Flatland and KCPT. Our broadcast signal reaches more than 30 counties and we know there are compelling stories to be told that will serve our growing audience.”

Interested journalists are encouraged to apply at reportforamerica.org. Selected journalists will start work in June.

Under the program, *Report for America* pays half of a reporter’s salary, while local news partners and other community contributors cover the rest. Notably, community contributors will have their

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donations tripled by NewsMatch and other challenge donors through December 31.

Among many others, *Report for America* is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Facebook Journalism Project, the Google News Initiative, the Lenfest Institute for Journalism and the Ford Foundation.

“We offer a pretty simple fix for news holes in communities throughout the country — local reporters on the ground, who hold leaders accountable and report on under-covered issues,” said Steven Waldman, president and co-founder of Report for America. “The editors we’ve met during our application cycle have shown us amazing passion, commitment and sharp ideas for how to better serve their local communities.”

About Kansas City PBS

At Kansas City PBS, a rich legacy of service has laid the foundation for a limitless future with our community. Our content platforms — television, radio, digital and education — exist to serve the diversity of our region. We advance conversations through community engagement and social media. We explore complicated issues with thoughtful reporting. We share the stories of people, places, and progress in our community.

About Report For America

Report for America (RFA) is a call to service at a time of crisis for the profession. Co-founded by GroundTruth executive director Charles Sennott and veteran journalist and social entrepreneur Steven Waldman, RFA is rooted in the best practices of public service and offers an innovative model that strengthens America’s free press. RFA pilots reporting corps positions across the country at news organizations that serve under-covered areas.

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