

1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station's vital local services, such as multiplatform long and short-form content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

For much of FY2020, WAMU's newsroom was focused on ensuring that our content reflects the diversity of the communities we cover and on adapting to the digital ways that our audiences consume content. Those continued to remain goals, but as the pandemic and racial justice protests emerged, we also worked to ensure we met the extraordinary information needs of the moment. We aimed to provide continuously reliable breaking news stories, to expand our coverage further into nights and weekends, to meet the needs of communities most impacted by the pandemic, and to support and train our staff.

Editorially, our approaches included:

- **Enterprise reporting:** Deeply reported audio and digital features, including those produced by our year-long Affordability Desk project.
- **Service journalism:** Explainers, Q&As, and other journalism focused on translating the confusion of the pandemic clearly for our audiences.
- **Breaking news:** For the first several weeks of the pandemic, we maintained a continuously updated liveblog with ongoing coverage of the latest in the pandemic response, including a daily tracker of cases reported and deaths -- across three state-level jurisdictions and more than half a dozen counties. And throughout the first few weeks of the racial justice protests, we had reporters on the ground nightly. We have made breaking news shifts a permanent part of the workflow in our newsroom and continue to provide timely coverage of news and events across our region.
- **Health hub:** We don't have a dedicated Health reporter or team on staff. To bolster coverage (and work more collaboratively), we developed an internal "hub" comprised of an audio editor, a digital editor, and a team of reporters.
- **Wards 7 and 8:** We hired two fellows through Report for America to cover communities in D.C. that are typically underserved by the news media. They started at the very end of FY2020.

In FY20, WAMU had a total weekly cume audience of 600,300 listeners and it was the #1 station in the DC Metro Monday through Sunday 6am to midnight among all Person 6+ and also amongst Persons 25-54.

Digital news audiences on [WAMU.org](https://www.wamu.org) and [DCist.com](https://www.dcist.com) set records for the station in FY2020, reaching 12.3 million users, an 82% increase over FY2019.

In addition to our editorial work, we launched a new membership program specifically for DCist. Unlike our traditional membership, the DCist program aimed to be much more of a two-way experience, with regular communication with members and events. The goal was

to create a collaborative community of people who love D.C. and DCist. Our members not only support the site financially, but they also contribute feedback and suggestions. In other words, we're working on building DCist together.

Throughout FY20 *The Kojo Nnamdi Show* continued to feature a large variety of community voices both over the airwaves and in person during WAMU's *Kojo In Your Community* event series. *The Kojo Nnamdi Show* features regional news, political issues and social trends of the day in a magazine program format.

During FY20, WAMU endeavored to reach new audiences and to cover new topics by launching a series of successful podcasts including:

Dating While Gray

Millions of older people are dating — for some, it's because they're recently divorced after having been married for a long time. In fact, the divorce rate among older Americans has exploded since the 1990s. It even has its own nickname: gray divorce. And it's happening all over the world, including South Africa, Japan, Australia and England, where it's called silver splitting.

Laura Stassi is a writer who was married for almost 30 years before her divorce. Newly single, she turned to friends and relationship experts for advice on navigating the dating scene. On the *Dating While Gray* podcast, Laura shares the lessons she's learned and introduces you to other gray daters as they weather the wild world of love after 50. Online dating, sex etiquette, relationship deal-breakers – everything's on the table!

Dating While Gray: The grown-up's guide to love, sex and relationships.

51st from What's With Washington

WAMU listeners asked, "Could D.C. ever be the 51st state?" We're answering with 51st: a series about Washingtonians' fight for representation on our *What's With Washington* podcast.

51st will trace how racism, party politics, and even an attempted mutiny in Pennsylvania have stood in the way of the city's path to full representation. We'll also try to figure out if D.C. has a real shot at achieving statehood today.

Unprecedented

The *Unprecedented* podcast tells the raw and emotional stories of ordinary people who, as they pursued justice all the way to the Supreme Court, defined the limits of our First Amendment rights. In each episode, you will meet the accidental guardians of one of our most cherished freedoms: speech. They are war protesters and Ku Klux Klan members, internet trolls and religious zealots. They are Americans who, regardless of their social or political views — or even any awareness of the stakes — have helped us fill in the Constitutional gaps that our Founding Fathers left open to interpretation.

Through captivating interviews with the plaintiffs of precedent-setting cases — many of whom have never been interviewed before — you will learn about your right to be

mean, to threaten others or to simply not say anything at all.

Hosted by award-winning radio producers Michael Vuolo and Matthew Schwartz with special appearances by NPR's Nina Totenberg, *Unprecedented* will show us how we got here so we can better understand where we're going. You'll never think of the Constitution the same way again.

2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you're connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.

WAMU is a community resource and is proud to partner with local businesses for thank-you gifts and giveaways for many of our annual fundraising campaigns. In FY20 WAMU was once again proud to partner with the Capital Area Food Bank to help meet the needs of the less fortunate across our region. WAMU also had the following initiatives with partners:

Report for America

WAMU won a grant through Report for America to develop a beat covering neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8; we hired a reporter and photographer at the tail end of FY2020 to begin this work. They are responsible for a mix of enterprise reporting, features, and profiles, alongside coverage of community events, political developments, and other daily news.

Homelessness Crisis

WAMU and DCist once again partnered with Street Sense, a local newspaper focused on covering homelessness, for a day of focused coverage of the issue. We also have a content sharing agreement and they have regularly republished our reporting, and vice versa.

WAMU Community Council

The WAMU Community Council is the station's advisory board as defined by the Public Broadcasting Amendments of 1981. The purpose of the Council is to represent the diverse interests of the listening public in meetings with the staff and management of WAMU, and to assist the staff in carrying out community outreach activities. The Council consists of more than 20 members who serve three-year staggered terms and who reflect the diversity of the community served by WAMU plus two ex-officio members who serve as legal advisors. A nominating committee composed of current members nominates candidates and the full Council votes on filling the vacancies.

Kojo In Your Community

Once again WAMU's iconic local host Kojo Nnamdi led a series of events and discussions in the community. These special events were aimed at providing area residents with a forum to ask questions, make comments and share the view from their neighborhoods. The live broadcasts were taped on location in D.C., Maryland and Virginia and aired on *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*. The number of these events was reduced due to the onset of the pandemic.

Listenwise

WAMU partnered with a company named Listenwise who provides listening skills educational resources to middle and high school teachers and students (in mostly low income communities). This partnership brings content from WAMU's national program 1A into classrooms. Listenwise develops listening based curriculum material around clips from the show. This partnership brings 1A's distinctive and captivating journalism to a young population of potential listeners all around the country and internationally who might never have any exposure to 1A through terrestrial or digital broadcasts. Listenwise has a presence in DC schools along with a national audience, and additional students using Listenwise in dozens of countries.

3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

We recently started logging impact under the following categories: policy response, community-based action, reference in other work, amplified by notable figures, donation/funding, award/opportunity, and developed trust with the community. We saw entries in all of these categories, but will focus on community-based actions and developing trust with our audience here:

Community-based actions:

Our listeners and readers responded to numerous stories with time, money, and other donations. A few examples: UPS donated 10,000 masks after we covered a shortage at the DC jail. A listener donated blood after hearing a story on blood shortages. Readers helped others file for unemployment benefits. A listener started a fundraiser for a local clinic that serves the uninsured after hearing our piece on how COVID disproportionately affected Latinos in Northern Virginia.

Developing trust with communities:

As a public media outlet, our goal is to serve and reflect the communities we cover. The pandemic and racial justice protests, in particular, offered us opportunities to showcase our approach and commitment to coverage --and we regularly heard back from listeners/readers that it was resonating. Here are a just few examples:

"Thanks to you and your team for all that you're doing to cover a historical moment. As an immigrant, woman of color, I appreciate it more than ever and am grateful to WAMU for providing the important news coverage that we need. I've never questioned being a member, and have only been reminded every day why I must continue to renew my membership."

"I've been following DCist coverage closely; it's been such a lifeline for a lot of people I know."

"I'm very glad that the DCist came back before all this happened. Not sure how this would all be documented without you guys."

"The post y'all put together late last night was incredibly comprehensive and really did yesterday's events a service by spreading this information and also documenting what happened for posterity. I was honestly tearing up while I was reading it just now."

Individual donations from members of the community are the most vital source of funding for WAMU. If the service wasn't having an impact they simply would not be donating their money. This is a small sampling of comments received alongside donations during WAMU's Fall FY20 on-air fundraising campaign:

"WAMU has been my go-to newsource forever, I started listening with my dad as a kid. It also inspired me to get involved with radio at the University of Maryland!" –Luna, Germantown, MD.

"A proud retired military member dedicating this to Cokie Roberts and the most amazing Unbiased news ever told! I've been listening to NPR in 5 states and overseas for over 35 years!" –Jerome, Herndon, VA.

"In midst of what feels like cracks in our democracy's foundation, the high quality journalism from NPR calms my mornings and restores my faith." –Quynh, Chevy Chase, MD.

"Decade long listener, first time donor! Having paid off my student loans I now have a lot more disposable income and I'm excited to share some of it with you all!" –Lauren, Washington D.C.

"When I was trying to decide what to do for grad school, there were several pieces on WAMU about criminal justice and youth in prisons. These really inspired me, and contributed to my decision to go into social work, which I started this fall. Thanks!" –Holly, Silver Spring, MD.

"I listened for years as a graduate student at Georgetown and relied on WAMU to stay informed. I finally am employed with a steady job and feel like it is my time to finally give back. Thanks for all you do." –Brendan, Arlington, VA.

"I'm a high school instructor who uses the brilliant programming on WAMU-FM as a source for my biology and social science classes for homeschoolers." –Tia, Alexandria, VA.

"Because every time I go to a networking event or social gathering, I always find myself saying, 'I heard a story on WAMU about ...' –April, Kensington, MD.

"As a Foreign Service Officer, I find that NPR is a reliable lifeline to the US when I'm serving overseas." –Stacie, DPO, AE.

“As a Turkish American WAMU is my connection to the rest of the world as well as local unbiased in depth reporting.” –Ayse, Rockville, MD.

“Because when my nine-year old daughter commented on a piece she heard one morning how informative it was, I realized that I was setting a standard for selecting quality media that extended beyond myself. I am investing in the next generation.” –Gregory, Derwood, MD.

“No Republican loves NPR more than I do. WAMU is the ONLY outlet in town that seriously covers DC local politics. Its sad but true. Thank you for holding crooks in the Wilson Building accountable.” –Kevin, Arlington, VA.

4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2020, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2021. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

Report for America

WAMU's *DCist* was selected by Report for America to hire two new journalists to expand the site's coverage of underserved areas in Washington, D.C. Report for America is a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. It is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project and addresses an urgent need in journalism at a time when news deserts are widening across the country.

Despite the presence of legions of reporters covering the federal government, the D.C. area has experienced large losses in local journalism. WAMU is committed to helping fill in the gaps left behind. It acquired *DCist* in February 2018 after the site was unexpectedly shut down by its previous owner, thereby preserving a primary news source for many D.C. residents on matters of local politics, transportation, the arts and much more.

This support from Report for America bolstered *DCist's* mission of covering what matters to Washingtonians and helped fill a critical gap in coverage. One reporter and one photographer are spending at least a year developing a beat to holistically cover Wards 7 and 8. They started in June of 2020 and this coverage will continue throughout FY2021.

The Affordability Desk

During the course of FY20, WAMU reporters [Ally Schweitzer](#), [Eliza Berkon](#) and others looked into the causes, effects and potential solutions to Washington's affordability crisis. This initiative was created because we often hear that it's expensive to live in the Washington area, and we wanted to investigate: what does that mean? How did it get this way? And what can be done about it? In order to report on real experiences, we asked our audience: *Do you have questions about housing, transportation, child care, or anything else that plagues your pocketbook? Is there a solution that you've seen work in another city, and you want to know*

whether it could happen here? Send us your questions below or call us with your ideas at (202) 885-7222. And we're also looking for anyone willing to share their household budget with us for a series on how people really make ends meet.

This led to a series of stories directly relevant to minority and diverse audiences including but not limited to the following in FY20:

D.C. Resident Sues City Over Unpaid Unemployment Insurance

The lawsuit highlights the challenges of receiving unemployment benefits during the pandemic.

For Thousands Of Eligible D.C. Residents, A COVID-19 Stimulus Check May Never Arrive

A recent report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities think tank says the issue disproportionately affects D.C.'s Black residents.

Eviction Bans Haven't Stopped Landlords From Threatening To Boot Residents

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily banned evictions. But some landlords are laying the groundwork for what could be a wave of evictions after the health crisis subsides.

What A Second Wave Of COVID-19 Would Mean For The Local Economy

Shutting down the D.C. region during the pandemic has cost billions of dollars. Doing it again would be devastating, both economically and psychologically, experts say.

Here's Where To Find Rent Assistance During COVID-19

D.C.-area residents in the District, Maryland and Virginia who can't pay their rent may find relief from government sources. WAMU provided a list of those resources.

The Pandemic Reminds This D.C. Dad 'It's Never Too Soon' To Prepare For The Future

Anthony made investments prior to the pandemic; now he's hoping they'll be secure years down the road.

She Still Has Her \$40K Job, But Her Husband's Health (And Their Finances) Are At Risk

Deanna and her husband were living in the now before the pandemic; now they may have to rely on savings to get them through.

The Pandemic Is Inspiring A Wave Of Unionization Efforts. Will It Lead To Greater Protections?

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted economic and health disparities for many workers in the region.

Service Workers Are D.C.'s Most Vulnerable During The Coronavirus Pandemic, Report Says

An ongoing economic downturn could put the region's most financially vulnerable workers at greater risk.

D.C. To Require Flexible Rent Payments For Tenants Affected By Pandemic

D.C. tenants who can't pay their rent during the pandemic may find some relief in new legislation.

Eden Center Watches Doors Close One-By-One During The Pandemic

'Closed' signs saturate the destination for Vietnamese-American culture and cuisine.

After Six Decades, Ben's Chili Bowl Faces Its Greatest Challenge Yet: Coronavirus

The legendary D.C. restaurant is struggling to pay the bills during the pandemic.

D.C.'s Once-Thriving Hospitality Industry Is Languishing. Relief Efforts Aren't Enough.

As cancellations continue, area inns and hotels are struggling to keep the lights on.

What Gig Workers Need To Know About Collecting Unemployment

Gig workers and freelancers are now eligible for unemployment benefits, but applying has been confusing. Here are answers to gig workers' common questions about collecting benefits in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.

'No Job? No Rent.': Residents At An Alexandria Apartment Complex Prepare To Strike

Renters are organizing a rent strike, seeking safer living conditions and financial relief.

Restaurants Need Income. Families Need Food. Two Maryland Residents Are Helping Both At Once.

Local organization Silver Spring Cares has raised thousands of dollars to provide restaurant meals to families in need amid the pandemic.

As Pandemic Drags On, Local Businesses Say They Need Government Help — And Soon

Local businesses from breweries to bookstores say they need cash to survive the coronavirus pandemic, and are looking to the government to offer it.

With Their Chairs Empty, D.C. Salons, Day Spas And Barbershops Are Waiting On Aid

Even for shops that are able to make it through this economic downturn, questions about their future remain.

Higher Grocery Bills, Unforeseen Costs: How A Family Of Five Is Quarantining

Consultant Rob and his family of five started a two-week self-quarantine on March 8, and they've discovered it's not cheap.

Rent Freezes? Emergency Subsidies? Coronavirus Sparks Calls To Protect Renters

About a third of Washingtonians rent their homes. Do they need special protections amid the national health crisis?

How D.C.'s Hourly And Gig Workers Are Grappling With New Economic Realities Under Coronavirus

As businesses shutter and employees telework, many hourly and gig workers in the region are left behind.

Rent Caps Could Yield Thousands In Added Income For D.C.'s Low-Income Residents, Report Finds

D.C.'s affordable housing challenges fall most heavily on low-income renters making under 30% of the area median income. However, the District's recent housing investments have barely made a dent in addressing the housing need among this income group.

Tenants Along Purple Line Look For Protections Against Higher Rent

Amid rising rental costs, residents along the path of the 16-mile light rail project say they could soon be priced out of their homes.

Why A Plan To Build New Homes For Longtime Residents In Gentrifying Park View Is Now Displacing Them

D.C. is trying to replace its aging public housing stock without forcing residents to move to other neighborhoods. Park Morton was supposed to be an example of how to do that. But some residents say they're still being forced to move away.

With Two Jobs, Four Kids And A \$141,500 Salary, 'I Don't See A Retirement In My Future'

Jared is an attorney at the EPA who regularly works at Home Depot on the weekends to help pay the bills. He and his wife have about \$200,000 in student-loan debt between them and want to save for their children's education.

When Tenants Take On Landlords Over Bad Conditions: A Rent-Strike Explainer

A handful of rent strikes have emerged in the past few years. So how do they work?

This D.C. Millennial Makes \$81,000 And Has No Debt — Thanks Partly To Lessons From Immigrant Parents

Perry says he takes saving "very seriously" and managed to save nearly half of his after-tax income last year.

How European-Style Public Housing Could Help Solve The Affordability Crisis

Government-financed "social housing" is utterly mundane in Europe, but remains a radical concept in the U.S. Could it work in the D.C. area?

After The Break-Up: Moving Forward As A Single Parent When Child Support Goes Unpaid

Nationally, among the 6.5 million custodial single parents who were awarded child support in 2015, only 43.5% received all of the child support money that was due.

How To Live On A \$56,000 Salary In D.C.: A 150 Square Foot Apartment

"I can reach my refrigerator from my bed, it's very compact," says Alison of Northeast D.C. about her 150 square foot apartment. "Not a lot of floor space, but it has everything in it."

For Many Black Washingtonians, Homeownership Remains Out Of Reach

Owning a home is the most prevalent way Americans build wealth. But even in the affluent Washington region, homeownership is a distant dream for many black residents.

Howard University Takes On African American Financial Literacy Gap

An event held at Howard University focused on solving financial challenges and building the economic strength of the African American community.

With Democrats In Control, Virginia Rushes To Increase Minimum Wage

Virginia has followed the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 for more than a decade, even as neighboring states have embraced \$15.

D.C. Has Some Of The Longest Commutes In The Country. What Help Is Available?

More than a third of D.C.-area commuters travel 45 minutes or more to work every day.

More Single Adults Are Living On The Street, But D.C. Expects To See Decrease In Overall Homelessness

The Point-in-Time count is an annual census of the city's homeless population.

D.C. Tenants Who Went On Strike Last Month Now Face Threat Of Eviction

Residents at a Columbia Heights apartment building will speak about their poor living conditions at an eviction hearing.

Homemade Food Could Soon Be Easier To Sell (And Buy) In D.C.

Changes to the city's cottage food law would lift the limits on where home cooks can sell their food, and how much money they can make.

For Some D.C. Area Parents, It's Too Expensive To Work

With the cost of childcare so high, working isn't always affordable.

A Radical Housing Proposal Is Forming Strange Political Alliances In Virginia And Maryland

As two lawmakers propose reimagining the suburbs to address the housing crisis, progressives who oppose the idea are finding conservative allies.

When Prices Increase, But The Minimum Wage Has Not

Who should be responsible for the cost of living?

Is Exercise Now A Luxury Item In D.C.?

Despite their increasingly ubiquitous presence, boutique studios haven't set up shop evenly throughout the city, highlighting other disparities in health and access.

Bowser Calls For More Affordable Units In New Housing Developments

In Mayor Bowser's quest to add more housing to the District, her administration is asking to increase the amount of affordable housing developers are required to include in certain projects.

Arlington Prepares For Blowback As It Considers Adding Denser Housing

Arlington County is dominated by single-family homes. But a new study of denser housing types — aka "missing middle" homes — is likely to fire up residents who fear it signals the end of suburbia as we know it.

Low Skyline, High Prices: Would Taller Buildings Help Make Housing Cheaper In D.C.?

The Height Act has helped create D.C.'s iconic low-slung skyline. Critics say it has also fueled the city's high housing prices.

Local SNAP Recipients Prepare To Lose Food Stamps In Wake Of New Rule

The Trump administration's new rule means roughly 16,500 District residents will lose their access to the critical benefit, plus thousands more in surrounding areas of the region.

How To Limit Gentrification Along The Purple Line, According To Housing Advocates

A new plan from the Purple Line Corridor Coalition outlines steps local leaders and organizations can take to prevent mass displacement along the light rail line, slated to open in 2023.

Your Rights At Work: How To Review Pay Stubs And Protect Yourself From Wage Theft

Training sessions are taking place in the District for workers interested in learning more about D.C.'s labor laws and how to defend themselves and others from wage theft.

The Price Of Thanksgiving Dinner Has Barely Budged, But Thousands In The D.C. Area Can't Afford It

Several organizations in the District, Virginia and Maryland are helping to meet the need this holiday through free food initiatives.

D.C. Breaks Ground On First Affordable Assisted-Living Facility in Ward 8

Livingston Place at Southern offers 152 units and on-site services for D.C. seniors.

Is Redeveloping Religious Spaces A Solution To D.C.'s Housing Crisis?

As Amazon carves out a new home in Arlington, the county is continuing its search for new solutions to a growing problem: the shortage of affordable housing.

With Rent Control Likely To Stay In D.C., Tenant Advocates Urge Stronger Legal Protections

A packed hearing at the D.C. Council found tenant advocates calling for sweeping changes to the city's rent control law.

New York Offers Half-Price Train And Bus Rides To Low-Income Residents. Why Doesn't D.C.?

Any hope for half-priced Metro fares to be offered in the Washington region seem to be dwindling, with a fare hike included in the transit system's budget proposal for the coming fiscal year.

How Chase Bank Is Spending \$5 Million To Fight Gentrification In Maryland's Suburbs

JPMorgan Chase recently announced a \$5 million, three-year commitment to help expand access to economic opportunity for local residents and small business owners along the Purple Line light rail corridor.

You Only Need About \$2,500 In Emergency Savings, But Even That's Difficult In D.C.

Researchers studied lower-income households to see how much money it takes to lower the risk of financial disaster in the event of an unexpected expense.

Here's Where D.C. Mayor Bowser Wants To Put New Affordable Housing

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser wants to add 12,000 affordable homes to the city over the next six years. Now she has an idea of where to put them.

They Relied On Lyft Rides For Groceries. Now These Seniors Must Find Another Way.

While District lawmakers and organizations create programs to help people save on transportation costs, the patchwork of solutions remains temporary.

'Stop Buyin' It': D.C. Lawmakers And Activists Push To Move Soda Tax To Manufacturers

Council members say revenue from a new excise tax on sugary drinks could amount to \$21 million annually, which would go toward increasing access to healthy food.

Paying A Living Wage In D.C. Isn't Easy. It's Also Not Enough, Workers Say

Government officials in the District hope that a new incentive program will entice local businesses to pay their employees a living wage.

District Focuses On Breaking The Cycle Of Incarceration With Entrepreneurship

The pilot initiative directly responds to the intent of the Opportunity Zone legislation which aims to drive new, long-term private capital investments to traditionally divested areas of the country.

What Does 'Affordable' Even Mean In The Washington Area?

Even people making six figures are struggling to pay their bills. And that could have wide-reaching effects on the region's future.

FY2021 Plans:

Our FY21 plans in this area include: a series on racial justice protests and activism (published at the end of summer 2020), continued coverage of pandemic inequalities, a five-part series on undocumented students in Prince George's County, video ballot guides to all three jurisdictions published in Spanish. In addition, in January 2021 WAMU launched the *Through the Cracks* podcast that explores issues of housing affordability and social justice. WAMU is developing several new beats (or re-engineering existing ones) specifically dedicated to minority audiences or related issues, including a reporter focused on "Immigrant Experiences."

WAMU is undertaking a DCist audience survey, an information needs survey in Wards 7 and 8, 'Complicating the Narrative' training from Solutions Journalism and developing of educational materials related to the 51st podcast; which includes an expansion of the partnership with Listenwise. This expanded partnership also includes educational materials being developed from WAMU's *Kojo for Kids* series.

5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

WAMU covers one of the largest, most diverse metro areas in the country spread over multiple jurisdictions in Maryland, Virginia, D.C. and the federal government. We expanded and improved enterprise reporting on the issues that matter most to our community. We worked extremely hard to provide the latest news and information on air, online and everywhere our listeners look for it. And explainers and service journalism were never more critical than this year. So as the demands on WAMU keep increasing, losing any portion of our budget will make it harder to meet the growing needs of our audience. Losing CPB funding would dramatically and negatively impact our ability to reach new audiences and serve those who have already come to rely on us daily.

Over the past year, WAMU faced many budget challenges due to the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the current fiscal year overall revenue will be down \$7 million, mostly due to 50% declines in underwriting revenue. While we are focused on working with our partners to improve our performance in underwriting, it is our expectation that overall revenues will not significantly improve in the upcoming fiscal year. We are encouraged that our fundraising has remained steady or growing. This is a testament to the value we provide to our members who rely on us each day for their news and information.

To summarize, WAMU's financial performance remains below pre-pandemic levels. Based on current information and projections, the finances will likely remain in this state through the upcoming fiscal year, which begins in July. To reiterate, any loss of CPB funding would exacerbate an already difficult budget situation and would result in a reduction in the vital service WAMU provides to the community and the country.