

- 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.*

Our goals: WYSO Public Radio provides in-depth news and information plus thought-provoking entertainment programs to more than one million people who live and work in the Miami Valley of southwest Ohio and to thousands more listeners around the world. WYSO intends to continue to provide a mix of local and national programs. We will continue to train and nurture a community of media makers to better bring our listeners local issues, stories and music. We will enrich public discourse, foster curiosity and creativity, respect differences and be a public forum for ideas and opinions on the widest possible spectrum. Everything we do as a staff and all the programs we air will embody these qualities: excellent, community, inclusiveness, integrity, innovation, education and diversity.

To retain our current listeners and attract new ones, WYSO works to continually improve and expand our programming.

WYSO continues its eclectic mix of music, news and entertainment programming with a healthy balance of local and national programming, made by professionals and volunteers, always striving for excellence in order to fulfill our promise to our listeners. In 2014 we made numerous programming changes and in 2015 listeners affirmed our programming choices with increased support.

WYSO strives to be the dominant radio and internet news service in southwest Ohio. In December 2015 WYSO completed the relocation of our transmitter and antennas to an existing tower in southwest Greene County. This location offers a higher elevation than our existing tower, and is positioned nearer to higher growth areas of our region, allowing us to reach an additional half million potential listeners.

WYSO will continue to offer local and national music of the highest quality, with an emphasis on local performers. Live performances will continue in our studios and we'll expand the opportunities to invite listeners to join us in our broadcast space. We have continued our volunteer music host tradition by adding hosts who reflect the life experiences of our community.

WYSO continues to train and nurture local talent and to present their work on the radio, on our website and in live events. We continue to expand our "Community Voices" content by completing projects with Miami Valley military veterans, and high schools students from Dayton public schools. We are currently offering our eighth "Community Voices" class, continuing to train local citizens - the next generation of radio producers, to allow individuals the chance to put their stories on public radio and to reach an ever-expanding audience of devoted listeners.

- 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.*

In 2015, WYSO collaborated with the Veteran and Military Center at Wright State University with a generous grant from the Ohio Humanities to produce a second series of "Veterans Voices". We worked in the Dayton Public Schools, continuing our "Youth Radio" project, training high school students to create radio stories about their lives. We continued our "Rediscovered Radio" project, in partnership with Ohio Humanities Council, presenting stories of an historical nature from the WYSO Digital Audio Archives on the Viet Nam era. In 2015 we also collaborated with ThinkTV in Dayton to create a series called "Graduating Latino", part of CPB's American Graduate project, and we created 10 stories on topics related to the lagging high school graduation rates of local Latino students. Phase two of this project is in the planning stages.

We also began Community Voices training at the Dayton Correctional Institution for women inmates incarcerated there. Those stories will air in March, 2016.

In 2015, WYSO partnered with the following local organizations: ThinkTV (public television), the Veteran and Military Center at Wright State University, the Dayton Art Institute, Five Rivers MetroParks, the National Aviation Heritage Area, the Southwest Ohio Council on Higher Education, Wittenberg University, the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, UpDayton, Antioch College, Central State University, the World House Choir, the Victoria Theatre Association, Dayton Public Schools, and the Dayton Stem School.

- 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.*

Our "Community Voices" training project continues to involve our local news coverage and in 2015, helped us to create strong ties across diverse neighborhoods. We heard from African American students from Ponitz Career Technology Center, the Dayton Early College Academy and the Dayton Stem School. Our Veteran's Voices project continues to highlight the particular challenges before our local military veterans as they transition from military to civilian life. Our partnership with the Wright State University Veteran and Military Center and local VFW posts, continues to connect local veterans with needed resources for jobs, education and medical care.

Joanne Viskup, media instructor at Ponitz CTC, described our Dayton Youth Radio project this way: "Working with our friends at WYSO to launch Dayton Youth Radio has been a terrific addition to the curriculum of our Media Arts Radio Division. What a huge opportunity for us to work with the likes of Neenah Ellis and Basim Blunt. Community and business partners

showcase Career Tech Ed at its best -real world goals and deadlines, professional content and input, and work that reaches beyond the classroom. It's been a journey of growth and discovery for us all. I couldn't be prouder of these students and their accomplishments."

In 2015, we aired more than 100 stories created by our Community Voices producers.

In 2015 our website became fully responsive across platforms and we saw a 3% increase in new visitors.

In 2015 our local news stories were carried by NPR News programs and on APM's Marketplace more than 15 times.

WYSO is the point of direct contact with citizens of the Miami Valley, through our dozens of community engagement activities, our station events on location and our creative collaborations. We also collaborate with Antioch College, our licensee, in a number of ways:

- Co-op and internship opportunities
- Training in digital media skills through our Community Voices media training classes
- Academic collaboration with History, Media Arts, English, Performance and other departments
- The monthly podcast The Antioch Word offers stories about the Antioch College Community, produced by Antioch College students and supervised by WYSO staff. Distributed via WYSO.org and AntiochCollege.org, it is accessible to College alumni and community members around the world.
- WYSO supplies content to AntiochCollege.org and The Antiochian.

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 2015, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2016. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.*

WYSO offers a community training program that teaches digital storytelling skills to all members of the community, including minorities. In 2015, we aired a special documentary entitled a *Matter of Seconds: A Look Back at the Year since John Crawford III was Killed*. It told the story of a year of protests and law enforcement activities in our region since the killing of a young black man by police in a local Wal-Mart store. Also in 2015, we aired a 10 part series called *Deconstructing Race*, inviting community members to share their views on race relations and racial attitudes in our region.

WYSO volunteers, led by Antioch College history professor Dr. Kevin McGruder, continued to collect oral history interviews in the local African American community for our civil rights initiative. Those interviews will eventually become accessible to the public through the WYSO Digital Audio Archives.

In June 2015 we created a public portal to the WYSO Digital Audio Archives through a partnership with the Greene County Public Library. That audio collection consists predominantly of audio collected by WYSO during the Civil Rights period in our community and contains historical recordings of both local and national significance. It reflects the history of civil rights activities in our community.

In September 2015, WYSO Managing Editor Lewis Wallace and WYSO Clark County reporter Wayne Baker attended the Public Radio Program Directors Conference as 2015 New Voices Fellows, chosen by the Association of Independents in Radio (AIR).

In FY16 we will air a series of stories from the Dayton Correctional Institution, an Ohio women's prison. The stories were made by ten inmates, trained in digital storytelling skills by WYSO staff and volunteers. These tell the stories of minority and low income women from our local region and other parts of Ohio. Many of them have been swept into lives marked by heroin and other drug addictions. These issues have become a plague in our part of the midwest and WYSO's airing of these stories will uncover some of the underlying causes of this deadly epidemic in our African American community.

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?*

In addition to our CSG grants over the past several years, WYSO has leveraged CPB funds for the American Archive Pilot project. We've used this money to rescue, catalog and begin to digitize a priceless collection of radio recordings that represent the history of our community in the late 20th century. Our collection of more than 5,000 recordings dates to our founding in 1958 and includes significant Civil Rights-related programming that features local and national civil rights figures, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We leveraged this funding to create collaboration with our local county library system, the Greene County Public Library, and created a public portal that allows citizens access to this significant collection.

We have also received CPB funding for the *Veterans Coming Home* project and leveraged those funds to create a meaningful partnership with the Wright State Veteran and Military Center. Through this partnership we have trained local military veterans to create their own digital stories about their military experience. In this project, veterans interview fellow veterans and share their stories, often about their difficult transitions to civilian life. One of the goals of this project has been to connect local veterans with local resources for medical services, employment opportunities and educational resources.

In 2015 we also partnered with our local public television station, ThinkTV on the American Graduate project to create a series called *Graduating Latino*. This ten part series focused on the hurdles to high school graduation experienced by our local Latino students.