

The four-year trend for WVPT regarding funding from the Commonwealth (based on \$\$ approved and budgeted at the beginning of each fiscal year, which in some cases experienced mid-year reductions):

	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
ITS	\$423,920	\$423,920	\$381,529	\$324,350
CSG	\$596,664	\$566,831	\$510,148	\$287,000

So as noted above the current funding from The Commonwealth for WVPT for Fiscal Year 2011 which ends June 30, 2011 is:

Instructional Television Services Contract: \$324,350
 Community Services Grant: \$287,000

The ITS funding provides the resources for WVPT’s Educational Services Department to provide professional development training directly to hundreds of teachers each year (over 800 teachers in the past two years). WVPT also provides a library of video content (of more than 3,000 hours), some of which is broadcast throughout the school year to be recorded for use in the classroom, and other content is available for on-line streaming. This content is available to the 22 school districts throughout WVPT’s service region. Also, as the fiscal agent for additional video streaming services provided to schools by Discovery Education, WVPT has saved the 22 school districts more than \$240,000 during the 2010 school year. As a non-profit educational organization - WVPT can, as the fiscal agent, provide significant savings to schools for these streaming services – savings that could not be obtained by schools directly. Savings of this type have been in place for the past seven years.

The professional development training provided by WVPT’s staff is different than most available training opportunities for teachers. We go to THEM. In comparison, teacher training offsite – requiring travel, substitute teachers for those days, plus a typical training cost of at least \$99 per person for a three hour session, would have costs schools in excess of \$150,000 over the past two years – and quite possibly much more than that.

The funding for WVPT’s Community Services Grant goes directly to offset operational expenses for WVPT. This includes the transmission and distribution of WVPT’s three non-commercial/educational program services (one of them provided in Spanish for a growing and underserved population in this region of Virginia) – to a population throughout our rural region of Virginia in which many viewers either by geography or economic necessity do not have the option of cable or satellite and WVPT is one of only a few viewing opportunities. Other expenses include technical staff expenses, the production of local programs such as “*Virginia Farming*” – the only television program in the Commonwealth dedicated to the important issues of agriculture and the environment, and staff expenses related community outreach efforts like WVPT’s twice annual Kids’ Book Festival – providing free books to thousands of children. Elimination (or even further reduction) of the CSG would create the scenario in which WVPT could not provide local services such as these.

Of great importance to the need for government support is the fact that as a non-commercial/educational licensee, WVPT (and other PBS stations) is restricted by the Federal Communications Commission to NOT be able to broadcast commercials and commercial content.