

State of Alaska and ARCS services via the Satellite infrastructure: what does it include?

The Satellite service is a public private partnership with state ownership and private nonprofit management.

The satellite capacity comes via a contract between the State of Alaska and AT&T for carrier capacity on satellite AMC 8. Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc. (APBI) is a small non-profit organization that has served as the Department of Administration's (DOA) source of satellite expertise for many years.

FY19 funding in the operating budget for satellite service is \$800,000 which includes the DOA/ATT contract and some management contracts with APBI. The contract details between the State of Alaska and AT&T is internal to the DOA.

The ARCS television service is owned by and licensed to the State of Alaska. The Department of Administration contracts with APBI to:

- Maintain a trouble line for ARCS communities to call for technical service
- Manage the satellite infrastructure and the ARCS channel's content
- Refurbish state owned ground facilities in 185 communities
- Convert ARCS sites from analog to digital transmission.

Emergency Communications: The ARCS satellite feed is a critical system, operating as a State Relay Network for emergency alerts. ARCS provides emergency notification from State and Federal authorities to ARCS digital television viewers in 185 rural Alaska villages. This means tsunami, flood, and extreme weather alerts as well as all national and statewide level alerts and test. **ARCS is a member of the State Emergency Communications Committee.**

ARCS TV content is a mix of commercial and public television programming.

Who in Alaska receives ARCS television programming?

- 185 rural and village sites where there are transmitters

What other services does the ARCS feed provide?

- KYUK TV in Bethel receives the collaborative Alaska public TV signal
- Public Radio and TV stations statewide receive EAS and emergency communications using ARCS as a satellite relay network from State and Federal authorities
- Public radio feeds. The satellite service also carries radio to communities without other local news and emergency information:
 1. KIYU, Galena -> St Mary's, Tanana, Kaltag, Circle, Nulato
 2. KCAW, Sitka -> Yakutat, Pelican, Elfin Cove, Port Alexander, Tenakee Springs, Angoon and fishing grounds
 3. KUAC, Fairbanks -> Nome, Eagle, Bettles, Tok
 4. KOTZ, Kotzebue -> Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuck
 5. KUCB, Unalaska -> Second service of KSKA signal
 6. KSDP, Sand Point -> King Cove
 7. KMXT, Kodiak -> Larson Bay, Karluk, Akhiok, Old Harbor Port Lions.
 8. Auxiliary Statewide News Feed (APRN)

- Alaska Public Media statewide news (formerly APRN) distribution channel: this is the distribution for 26 public media stations Alaska news programs, like Alaska News Nightly.

Cost saving collaborations

- Shared network programming for KUAC, KSDP, KUCB and KIYU – is carried on the satellite saving real dollars and serving stations located too far west to see the Content Depot satellite service.
- KAKM, Anchorage provides digital TV television content to KYUK, Bethel