

## What a year!

2025 was unprecedented. Together, Iowa Public Radio and our listeners powered through a roller-coaster year filled with executive orders and FCC actions targeting public media, congressional hearings, and the loss of all Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) support.

We didn't go down without a fight. You advocated on our behalf, contacted your lawmakers, and made your voices heard. And when it was clear CPB funding would go away, you responded with the financial support to help us through this seismic event.

## In yet another year of challenging transitions, we are so glad to have you by our side.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am that we enter this new era for public media with the foundational support laid by listeners like you. You helped us absorb the initial shock wave of another funding gap. And with the continued support of the IPR community, we're optimistic we can survive the ripple effects in the years ahead.

We welcomed *a record number of new members* this year and will continue to welcome more Iowans into this vital community. Our funding model allows for anyone in the community to support Iowa

Public Radio in a way that works for them, and I personally love how inclusive that feels. Together, we'll keep building a stronger, independent, community-centered IPR that reflects and serves all Iowans.

Best,

**Myrna Johnson**  
Executive Director



**3.7k**

## New Members in 2025

You stepped up in record fashion. 3,700 of you became a member for the first time. Hundreds more increased their support or made additional gifts in response to the attacks on public media.



**5.4m**

## FY25 Membership Support

Thanks to your generosity, we had a record-breaking year in member support. You helped us immediately fill in the funding gap left by the loss of CPB and set us up for a strong 2026.



**307k**

## Total IPR Audience

Whether you listened on the radio, visited the website, or subscribed to a newsletter, you were part of the biggest regular audience we've ever had. Your support keeps this community growing.

# highlights from a hectic year.

## training the next generation of journalists.

We launched a fellowship program and welcomed **our first news fellow, Lucia Cheng**. In her year with us, Lucia supported the news team and contributed critical reporting on homelessness and affordable housing, the local impacts of federal funding cuts, and the struggles of food pantries.

## the return of the studio one stage.

The new-and-improved Studio One returned to live music. The music team hosted fans at local concerts and festivals throughout the year, punctuated by a backyard party at Ingersoll LIVE. **Studio One presented a stage of local artists** for the first time in several years, bringing bands from Cedar Falls, Iowa City, and Western Iowa to their neighborhood street festival in Des Moines.

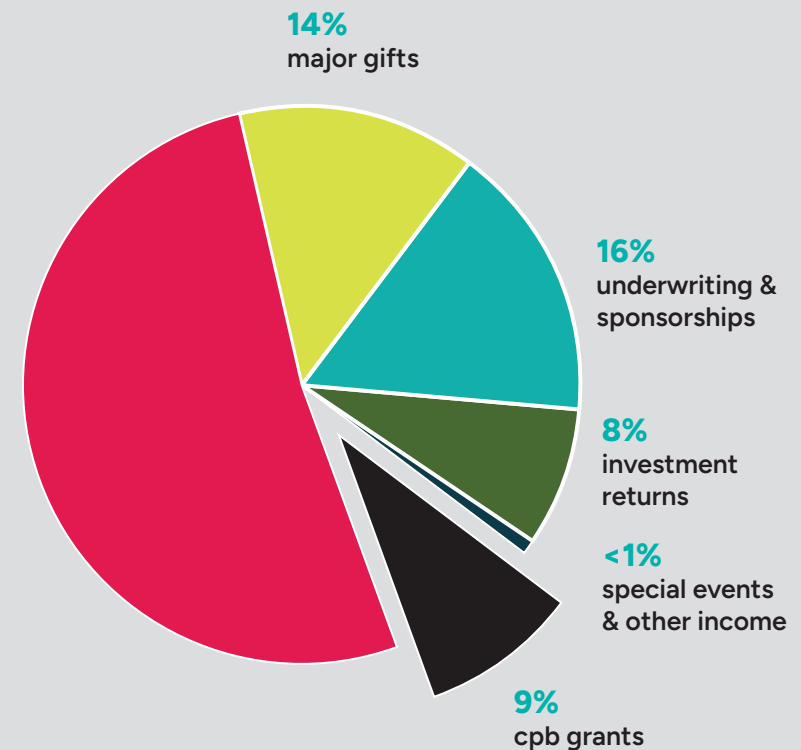
## award-winning journalism.

It was a record year on the awards circuit. IPR won an all-time high **10 Eric Sevareid Awards** — including four first prizes — in the annual showcase recognizing the best radio, TV, and online journalism in the Midwest. Western Iowa Reporter Sheila Brummer earned four awards for her outstanding reporting.

## meeting up with our members!

You all showed up in more ways than one this year, filling our offices in Des Moines and Iowa City — many for the first time — to meet the voices you hear on air and chat with staff. You **welcomed Marketplace Host Kai Rysdall** for a lecture, **laughed with Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me! LIVE**, and **dined with The Splendid Table**. We loved sharing these moments with you and hearing you share what Iowa Public Radio means to you.

52%  
membership & contributions



## We can't talk about 2025 without talking about the rescission.

Losing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting was a blow to public media as a whole. And it blew a major hole in our budget. We **lost \$1 million in annual funding**, not to mention the other services, stability, and leadership CPB provided for decades.

The effects were immediate. We slowed hiring and left positions vacant, downsized our studio and office spaces, delayed needed maintenance of critical infrastructure, and squeezed every line item in our budget.

Thanks to you, Iowa Public Radio ended 2025 on solid footing. We're on track to make up for the loss of CPB grants in year one. But it will be an annual challenge, that we can only overcome with continued support.

**IPR is now 100% community-supported. And we're 100% committed to supporting the community with the news, music, information, and ideas that shape our world every day.**