

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Smoky Hills PBS Studio Reconstruction

Grant Program: KPB

Project Date: November 2023 - November 2025

Project Summary

Smoky Hills PBS used funds for the construction of a new, modern studio facility to replace its deteriorating 130-year-old building, which no longer meets operational, safety, or production needs. The project provides a secure home for master control equipment, expanded studio space for local productions, proper office and meeting areas, and essential infrastructure upgrades to ensure long-term service to the 71 counties the station serves.

Goals and Objectives

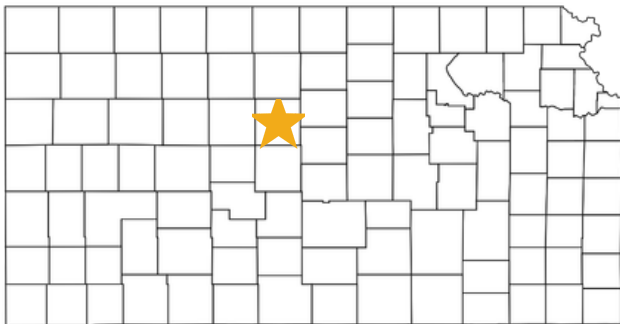
Goal 1: Construct a new, modern Smoky Hills PBS studio facility that provides a safe, functional, and future-ready home for broadcasting, production, and community services.

Objective 1: Replace deteriorating 130-year-old building with a structurally sound, purpose-built facility.

Objective 2: Expand and modernize studio space to support high-quality local productions.

Location

Bunker Hill, Kansas



Budget Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$2,500,000.00
- **Total Budget:** \$2,500,000.00

Expense Categories:

- **Labor & Materials:** \$2,500,000.00

Target Population

The target population for this project is the viewers and communities across 71 counties of Central and Western Kansas who rely on Smoky Hills PBS for free, educational, and locally relevant programming.

Grantee Information

Smoky Hills PBS is a nonprofit public television station serving 71 counties across Central and Western Kansas with free, high-quality educational programming, local productions, and community-based services. Established in 1978 to bring public broadcasting to previously unserved rural regions, the station now reaches more than 1.2 million potential viewers.

Sustainability

The new Smoky Hills PBS studio will ensure long-term operational stability by providing a structurally sound, modern facility that protects essential master control systems and broadcast equipment. Smoky Hills PBS will continue leveraging its strong base of community financial support to sustain operations and future needs.

Additional opportunities include ongoing donor contributions, corporate underwriting, foundation grants, and federal or state funding aligned with public broadcasting, rural access, digital media, and educational services.

Activities and Timeline

Q3 2024: Officially broke ground on project and site work completed.

Q1 2025: Studio building fully enclosed with both primary and secondary steel - exterior complete.

Q2 2025: HVAC systems, water hookups, main power, flooring, lighting, first coats of paint, initiation of carpet, cabinets and countertops completed.

Q3 2025: New studio project construction was officially completed.

Outcomes

- Completed construction of a modern, purpose-built studio that ensures safe, reliable housing for all broadcast and master control equipment.
- Expanded production capacity and operational efficiency through a larger studio, proper office and meeting space, and secure infrastructure that supports high-quality local programming.
- Strengthened long-term service delivery for viewers across 71 Kansas counties by reducing equipment risk, improving signal reliability, and creating a facility that supports community engagement and future growth.

Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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