

In 2022, WAPS-FM wrote, produced, and distributed a public service announcement program called The Recovery Minute. The segment features musicians, professionals, and station members offering easy-to-understand concepts on overcoming a traumatic event, grief, or addiction. Currently, these are airing in 52 markets across the country. They are available as long-form interviews via the website - and the APP.

WAPS-FM is deeply engaged with several key regional partners, including Akron Public Schools, Struthers City Schools, and Athens Public Schools - through these partnerships, we collect and distribute musical instruments to these city schools. The award-winning program continues to exceed expectations. In addition, we feature the voices of Boys and Girls Clubs members on several of our stations, with topics such as bullying, being a good citizen, and washing your hands as key topics between songs.

The radio station continues to be recognized by these partners, winning community service awards and being recognized at meetings and events. Our intern programs serve the students of Ellet Community Learning Center and have moved students from novice to proficient auditor editors and videographers. On Saturdays throughout Youngstown/Warren and western Pennsylvania, we broadcast original radio programs in Ukraine, Italian, Polka, Irish, and Spanish, catering to these underserved audiences.

CPB has allowed us to engage and super-serve our audiences for the past twenty years. CPB has challenged us to do better and rewarded the outcomes of our performances. CPB grant funding plays a critical role in keeping the on-air programming of WAPS radio live and locally originated. Financing from local members/underwriting covers station facilities, equipment, behind-the-scenes staff, and some on-air staff. However, our CPB Grant fund pays much of the personal costs for evening and weekend programming on WAPS. If CPB funding to WAPS Radio were reduced or eliminated, much of this live and local-origination programming would be replaced with generic, announcer-less music played from our digital automation system. Without CPB grant money, we project that at least 25 hours of weekly primetime announcer-hosted programs would have to be eliminated and replaced with automation-based music. While better than not being on the air at all, it can't compare to a live, local host on-air communicating with the local community.