

## Feel that April 15 vibe

# How a PBS-member station figures its programming bill

The station's annual **National Program Service Assessment**, paid for broadcasting the **PBS National Program Service** =  
[(the national PBS Content Budget — the PBS NPS Institutional Promotion Budget) ÷ (the **NPS Purchase Power Factor**, which reflects the national level of station participation in the whole thing)<sup>1</sup> X (the average of the station's annual **Program Pricing Factor** from the three most recent years, based on formula below) X (the percentage of PBS's programming that the station is buying, usually 100%, but less if it's a **Programming Differentiation Plan** station in an overlap market) X (a factor reflecting the delayed airdate for PDP stations<sup>2</sup>)] + (the station's Average PPF) X the NPS Institutional Promotion part of the PBS budget).

The station's share of program costs is based on this **Program Pricing Factor**

### 45% x Adjusted Budget

[the station's **Nonfederal Financial Support** or NFFS, citing the amount raised by the station two years earlier]

— [whatever **National Production Funds** that the station itself raised to produce national programs for the system two years earlier] — [a credit of \$500 for each transmitter more than one that the station operated last year]

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### 30% x Population Base

the smallest of these populations:  
125% of the pop of the Nielsen **Designated Market Area** (DMA)  
**OR** the population of the station's Grade A coverage area  
**OR** 125% of the state's population, if it's a statewide network

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### 25% x CPB grant

[the station's annual federal operating support, the **Community Service Grant** received from CPB in the prior year] ÷ [the total of CSGs received by all PBS-member stations]

And there are other separate fees, mainly the smaller PBS Member Services Assessment for various other PBS services, and the optional assessment to buy broadcast rights for PBS pledge specials.

[<sup>1,2</sup> Please let us know if you have insights, clarifications or corrections: [web@current.org](mailto:web@current.org)]