



Connecting the Blind with Information

Attachment to January 2011 Request for Support

MAIN has accomplished a remarkable amount in a short time with the one-time funding we received. Since the inception of this contract, we have:

- **Continued to provide a high quality, 24-hour audio newspaper service for blind, low-vision and print-impaired Montanans**
- **Provided receivers to our listeners free of charge**
- **Provided all daily Montana newspapers and over 20 weekly and semi-weekly Montana newspapers in audio format**
- **Maintained a staff of over seventy all-volunteer readers**
- **Strengthened satellite signals in rural areas and initiated the necessary steps to get the Bozeman signal restored (installation will be completed as soon as weather permits)**
- **Acquired an accessible new web site and developed it to provide the ability to take applications and donations online. (We are continually working on improvements and helpful new functions for our site)**
- **Investigated and acquired a donation from Montana Public Radio for live audio streaming of our broadcasts through the web site. This has been implemented and is working very well.**
- **Investigated new DTV audio technology as another avenue for delivering our broadcasts; reached a written agreement with Montana PBS to implement this technology as a donation to MAIN, and started to use the DTV audio to deliver our broadcasts with a few pilot receivers. This technology is working in several areas around the state, including Bozeman, and will soon be operational in many areas throughout the state.**

The only stipulation of our contract that we have not either reached or exceeded is the number of new listeners. I originally set that number high; this is because I know the number of people who need this service is high and growing. However, the price of the old SCA receivers has jumped considerably (I think because use and production of them has gone down) and I did not have enough in the original budget for receivers. Also, the price

of the new DTV receivers is high (around \$200 each). I think that this is because they fill a pretty narrow market niche. Really, the only thing that is preventing us from serving more individuals is the ability to purchase more receivers.

I propose to use the \$20,000.00 to purchase DTV receivers and possibly a small number of internet radios to supplement in areas where there is no DTV. This would consist of approximately 100 total receivers, depending on what price I can negotiate.