1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station’s vital local services, such as multiplatform long and short-form content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

Our overall Strategic Goals tie into the approach that KGNU adopts to fulfill our mission and to offer vital local services.

KGNU continues to strive to identify different community issues, needs, and interests through a variety of means. We continue to produce our Dot Org segment, a 3 min interview slot broadcast twice a week at 5:25 pm, which highlights local non-profits. KGNU featured over 90 different local non-profit organizations during FY 2019. Topics covered a wide range of issues that local non-profit organizations tackle in our community. During 2019 we continued to expand with a regular on air arts calendar highlighting arts and cultural organizations upcoming presentations/events. We also experimented with a Spanish language community calendar aired during our Spanish language Pasa la Voz program.

During 2019, we had interviews and coverage focused on information and services for affordable housing, seniors, veterans, young children, teachers, youth vaping, mental illness, visual artists, teenagers, homeless, the working poor, college students, musicians, immigrants, among others. KGNU continues to run its Afternoon Headlines Service and Afternoon Community Calendar running Monday through Friday at 2:55PM. KGNU again had a visible presence at many large community events including the Martin Luther King Marade in Denver, the Denver Black Arts Festival and Pride Fest Denver, Boulder and Longmont. KGNU also partnered with the Jaipur Literature Festival, which is an annual event hosted in Boulder. We host live audiences for some of the panel discussions at our studio and we broadcast many of the panel discussions as well as posting them to our news website. We continued other Community Collaborations with several remote broadcasts throughout the year including partnerships and live broadcasts with Barrio E and Alliance for a Sustainable Colorado in Denver. As 2019 was a local election year, KGNU broadcast many local debates on local issues and initiatives. KGNU also broadcast many educational programs with guest organizations providing information and resources on understanding the local and state ballots.

We continue to work with the Community Foundation Boulder County to cover issues facing Boulder County. In 2019 we launched the TRENDS Podcast, a deep dive podcast on several of the most pressing issues in the county indicated and informed in their biannual Trends Report. During 2019 KGNU hosted community conversations with Free Press on the state of local journalism and visioning for the future. We further developed relationships with SUMA, to commence a series of community conversation on media representation with primarily Spanish speaking populations in Boulder County. We continue to explore creative new ideas for strengthening relationships with local non-profits tackling our communities most pressing needs.

2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you’re connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.
KGNU continues to develop key initiatives and partnerships with many different groups within our community, across the state, and nationally.

We work closely with the Rocky Mountain Community Radio coalition (RMCR) a coalition of more than 15 Rocky Mountain based community radios across Colorado and now expanding to New Mexico and Wyoming. KGNU and RMCR continue to explore strategic plans for strengthening collaborative production and training including an annual retreat where key staff from each station gathers to plan to the upcoming year and to receive workshops on key issues facing the stations.

In 2019, KGNU partnered with the Colorado Media Project and the COLab to begin to develop a new collaborative reporting model across media industries, including a co-working media hub where KGNU will be a key partner and tenant in Denver. This collaboration and effort will come to realization during 2020 as it continues to develop. In part, this collaboration is working to strengthening local media and journalists as a means to respond to increasing news deserts across the region and country.

Connecting the Drops, a state wide series on water issues was produced primarily at KGNU, but broadcast on other community radio stations throughout Colorado who are part of the Rocky Mountain Community Radio Coalition. As part of this series (which featured 7 min in depth reports on water issues) in 2019.

In 2019, KGNU strengthened a partnership with Sacred Voices, who hosts an open mic venue in the Denver metropolitan area, and the only space focused on family and youth. They also conduct highly engaging and culturally relevant spoken word/poetry workshops for underserved youth throughout Colorado. Their youth members read poetry and performed spoken word regularly on KGNU.

In 2019 the Radio Book Club collaboration with the Boulder Bookstore, a local independent bookseller, continued to grow. Each month, a new book is selected and listeners are invited to read along and join the author on air for a discussion about the book. The radio book club podcast is one of KGNU’s most popular podcasts.

July 2019, KGNU hosted a two week long radio training summer camp for students at the Temple Grandin School in Boulder, a school for students on the autism spectrum. In 2019, KGNU hosted two week long youth radio summer camps.

During FY2019 KGNU continued to work throughout the year with Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee. The group composed of 8 students from the Lafayette high schools was trained in radio production. Their productions were aired during 2019, including building a Listening Together recording and arts installation for their annual Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta celebration in Lafayette.

We continued to collaborate with local music festivals, such as RockyGrass the AriseFest and others to provide live broadcasts from their festivals. This year we also live broadcast presentations by Motus Theatre the Boulder Latino Fest and the Lions Lair Quarterly and a monthly live remote broadcast of our hip hop and dub programs from a local venue in Denver.

During 2019, KGNU increased its partnerships with the local Arts community regularly participating in Boulder Arts Summit while dramatically increasing the number of events and partnerships with the Dairy Arts Center and Longmont Museum.
KGNU strengthened partnerships with the local education community this year, including:
--KGNU worked with the Denver Public Schools to host a summer internship for creative young student who worked with the KGNU News and Public Affairs department.
--We continued with an expanding internship program with the University of Colorado, Boulder College of Media Communications and Information where university students intern in many of our departments to gain practical hands-on broadcast experience as a career building opportunity.

--KGNU partnered with CU Environmental Studies Masters program hosting a monthly class on environmental justice and media at KGNU. Each student in the class works on a co-producing a program called the Brink that were aired during 2019.

--During 2019 KGNU continued a Zero Waste series that began in a year earlier. In 2019, KGNU partnered with the CU Environmental Centers FLOWS (Foundations for Leaders Organizing for Water and Sustainability) to create a bottom up, people of color centered local environmental justice and leadership profiles series focused on just transitions. The series recently concluded with a broad community conversation event.

3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

Our partnership and coverage of diverse issues continues to have a significant impact. As stated by FLOWS partner and leader, Angela Maria Ortiz Roa, "Thank you [KGNU] for creating space for our voices to be heard. It was a beautiful experience that helps our team grow stronger together and our voices to be amplified." The Zero Waste partnership with FLOWS created tremendous impact in amplifying interest and awareness of the fearless grassroots organizing that underrepresented community organizers are involved in around climate action and climate solutions. The partnership generated significant interest by City and County staff to listen and learn about traditional sustainable practices and solutions that diverse neighborhoods historically and currently use and the barriers that they encounter to sustaining those practices.

Our partnership with local youth organizations and High School programs with our bilingual media gardens youth training program had a real impact on both the youth and facilitators involved in the process. According to exit evaluations at the end of 2019’s program, 92% of the youth strongly agreed that participating in Boulder County Media Gardens helped them develop new skills. 76% of the youth agreed that participating in Boulder County Media Gardens introduced them to new ways of working and 69% of the youth agreed that participating in Boulder County Media Gardens offered them access to or ownership of new spaces. We will be continuing the program in 2020 and expanding to work with several other youth groups.

Our partnership with the Community Foundation, serving Boulder County, continues to strengthen conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods within our community. Regular programming related to the Foundations' trends report has also helped us increase awareness of Boulder County's ever changing demographics. During 2019 the TRENDS Podcast generated increased visibility and value of local leaders, cultural brokers and lesser seen leaders in our communities who perform critical roles bridging cultural barriers.
Our partnership with SUMA Latinx and the listening sessions that we have participated in have broadened our opportunities to listen to, engage with, and expand relationships with Spanish speaking and immigrant communities in the county while opening conversations on media literacy, media representation and ownership by Latinx and diverse communities.

We continue to look for additional funding sources in order to broaden our impact through increasing our ability to produce news and information to elevate our communities.

4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2019, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2020. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

Throughout FY2019, KGNU continued to investigate and meet the needs of diverse audiences through several on-going programs.

In 2019, KGNU we added a Spanish language community calendar aired during our weekly Spanish language show, Pasa La Voz that features programs on health, education, immigration and other social issues important to the local Spanish speaking community. We hired a Bilingual Reporter who has increased the monthly number of reports produced both bilingually and in Spanish only. Her community outreach and engagement has been crucial in strengthening relationships with Spanish and bilingual speaking communities. During 2019, we also launched a partnership with Barrio E and Raices Brewing called Cultura Viva, to host a quarterly live broadcast, training session open to the public, world drum jam and sing a long, Canta Conmigo, from a historic Latinx region in Denver. The partnership celebrates Latin American and Caribbean multiculturalism, diverse local talent and Latinx owned businesses while offering a family friendly cultural celebration each month and the quarterly live broadcast. KGNU sponsored and broadcast live from the Fourth Annual Latino Festival in Boulder Colorado in August 2019 and will continue to grow its role moving forward.

KGNU hosts and broadcasts Colorado Chinese radio which is produced by the Colorado Asian Culture and Education Network, a non-profit show that provides service and education to the Chinese community in Colorado. Topics shared include immigration, law, tax, insurance, education, health, investment, lifestyle, community event. Colorado Chinese radio is transmitted every Sunday in Mandarin.

In 2019, KGNU’s bilingual Media Gardens project continued to gain interest, collaborating with the Lafayette Youth Advisory Committee, New Vista High School, and Out Boulder’s Queer Trans Youth of Color group focusing on audio/radio training skills and creating narratives to offer diverse youth the opportunity to explore distinct media formats to amplify issues important to them.

Our weekly LGBTQ show Outsources highlights issues facing local LGBTQ+ people and organizations and promotes resources for the community in the state has grown significantly and begun to delve deeper into the web component of radio to help boost distribution of the show in order to broaden the reach and access to this crucial community resource.
In partnership with donnie i. betts (intentionally lowercase) and No Credits Production, KGNU live broadcast four radio dramas, from 3 distinct venues across the Colorado Front Range, from the Destination Freedom series. Black Radio Days and Enrique’s Journey, produced for Destination Freedom by NCP were each followed by community conversations and musical guests. Enrique’s Journey celebrates a bilingual format while dramatizing Sonia Nazario’s Pulitzer Prize winning book. These live broadcasts and the partnership will continue in 2020.

5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

In FY2019, KGNU’s CPB grant accounted for approximately 12% of our operating revenue. This funding supports critical program acquisition, operations, as well as training of volunteers and many of our partnerships with the local education community. It creates the opportunity for KGNU to offer better services to the broader community.

Without CPB, we would have to significantly reduce our service to the education community. We would not be able to air crucial news services that we have historically provided nor would we be able to develop or promote several core programs for regional distribution, a project we are delving deeper into this year.

Furthermore, CPB is critical to our musical licensing—without CPB we would face cost prohibitive licensing fees for our music broadcast and webcasts. As our on-line audience grows, CPB's music licensing support is invaluable.