

# Critical Issues Fund (CIF) Committee Report

## February 27, 2023

NASBA, then BEDA, created the Critical Issues Fund (CIF) by a vote of the membership in 1996. The CIF was established for the purpose of providing financial aid in matters that potentially affect all State Broadcasters Associations and their members in circumstances where there is little or no potential for individual State Associations to raise outside funds.

The CIF Guidelines document governs CIF activities and specifies the composition of the CIF Committee. There are three classes of CIF Committee members with equal representation from large, medium, and small states. CIF Committee members are elected to a three-year term and may be re-elected to a second term. The CIF Committee recommends the slate of candidates for election by the full NASBA membership.

The intent is to maintain the CIF at a level of \$75,000. When the balance falls below \$75,000, the CIF Committee may ask states to contribute to the fund, using categories (small, medium, and large) based upon current NASBA dues practices.

As of December 31, 2022, the CIF balance was \$73,637.80. NASBA members are reminded that we invested the Critical Issues balance into a fully liquid Money Market account in 2019, then moved most of that money into two bond funds in 2021. At this time the Committee does not recommend asking for state contributions.

The CIF Committee did not receive any requests for funding in 2022.

In finding a replacement for Jordan Walton, who is finishing his second term, the committee has unanimously amended how SBAs are classified for the purpose of serving on the committee.

In following the NASBA dues structure, the pool of small state members was so small, it would be nearly impossible to continually fill the committee with new members. Therefore, the states are now divided into large (16 states), medium (17), and small (17) by total population in those states as of the 2020 census (see attached document). This shuffles states around but maintains three from each category for 2023.

This change would *not* affect an SBA assessment, which would still be divided according to the NASBA dues structure so a large population state with a smaller SBA revenue is not on the hook for a larger portion of the funds.

The slate of committee members for 2023 includes Wendy Mays of Vermont as the new CIC Chair and are as follows:

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### TERM ENDING 2024:

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Large:  | Elizabeth Parker Harris, Maryland/DC/Delaware (1st Term) |
| Medium: | Luke Story, Arkansas (1 <sup>st</sup> Term)              |
| Medium: | Mitch Fox, Nevada (1 <sup>st</sup> Term)                 |

**TERM ENDING IN 2025:**

Large: Joe Berry, California (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Small: Cathy Hiebert, Alaska (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Small: Michele Crist, West Virginia (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

**TERM ENDING IN 2026:**

Large: Sam Klemet, Michigan (1<sup>st</sup> Term)  
Medium: Chris Winkle, Kentucky (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)  
Small: Wendy Mays (Chair), Vermont (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)