



19 February 2026

MEMO TO: Vermont House Committee on Appropriations

FROM: Lauren-Glenn Davitian, Vermont Access Network, davitian@cctv.org

RE: Follow Up to Support Community Media FY27 Funding Request

Vermont Access Network (VAN) and Vermont Community Radio Network respectfully submit supporting data in reference to the request for \$1.89M in base funding as part of the Secretary of State's FY27 General Fund Budget.

Results: Vermont's 24 community media centers and 9 community radio stations deliver a range of essential media services to Vermonters across the state, with live broadcasting and streaming of local news, public meeting and event coverage, weather reports and more. These media outlets are part of local emergency response, grease the wheels of local democracy, and preserve community history.

Community media programming and services amplify the arts and culture of the state and teach everyday Vermonters how to be media makers, gaining valuable job and civic skills in the process.

Reach: Vermont community media is seen and heard over the air, on cable and online. Services are directly available to 176 cities, towns and villages in the state and 13 counties—covering 94% of the state's population (according to 2020 Census Data). In 2025, together community radio and TV provided 85,000 hours of original, locally made programming. Hundreds of Vermonters are producing local content, creating real time engagement with their municipalities and neighbors.

ROI: Vermont community media's FY27 budget request is estimated to be \$3 per Vermonter/ year.

Budget Details: Vermont Access Network and Vermont Community Radio Network were **invited by the Secretary of State to submit a budget proposal for FY27**. With SoS support, this budget proposal includes \$1.8M for VAN (24 community media

centers) and \$90K for Vermont Community Radio Network (9 community radio stations). The combined request: \$1.89M.

- The **Governor's FY27 Budget Proposal** recommends \$1.35M for the combined request. \$1.35M is the amount that VAN received in the FY26 budget.

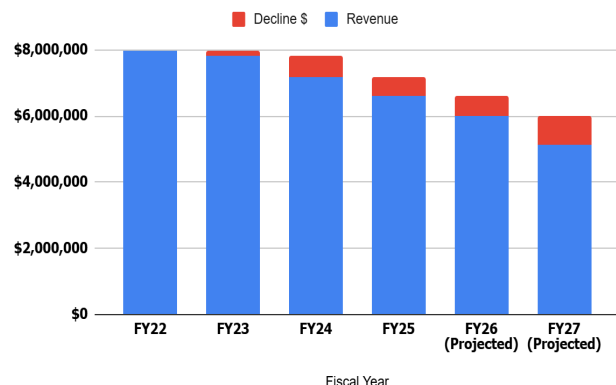
- House Appropriations Committee has asked for **further justification for \$540K difference** between the Governor's and the Secretary of State's recommendations.

- **The additional budget request of \$540,000 includes:**

- \$90K to supplement the operational costs of 9 community radio stations.
- \$450K for Vermont's 24 community media centers to address the operations and capital costs affected by the steady decline in cable revenue which affects the delivery of local community communications services.

- The additional \$540K addresses, in part, the **decline in traditional revenue sources**. For VAN this represents the continued rapid **decline of legacy cable TV fees**. For community radio, revenue is challenged by increased competition for already scarce regional and state philanthropy sources **in the wake of the defunding for Corporation of Public Broadcasting** last year.

VAN Cable Revenue Decline



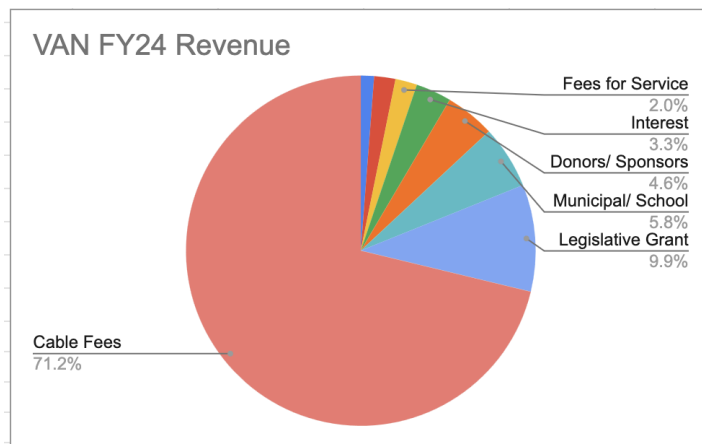
VAN Cable Revenue Decline			
Fiscal Year	Revenue	Decline \$	Decline %
FY22	\$7,990,082		
FY23	\$7,805,722	\$184,360	2.31%
FY24	\$7,181,412	\$624,310	8.00%
FY25	\$6,598,073	\$583,339	8.12%
FY26 (Projected)	\$5,992,484	\$605,589	6.00%
FY27 (Projected)	\$5,128,135	\$864,349	6.00%

- The FY27 budget request also accounts for **increased costs to operate** community media organizations – from **utilities rents, and licensing fees, equipment for public meeting and event coverage to staff costs** (e.g., competitive wages, health

care). Like so many state and nonprofit partners, community media is not immune to the high cost of living and doing business in Vermont.

Closer look at the revenue gap: In 2025, Vermont Access Network's 24 AMOs saw an **8% loss in cable revenue** across the state. The revenue decline is accelerating. VAN is projecting a *conservative* 6% cable revenue loss in FY26 and FY27. This is expected to be higher.

- Combined **with increased expenses**, VAN members experienced a **cable related revenue gap of \$2.8M in 2025** and expect this to increase to \$3.7M in 2026 and \$4.6M in 2027. Legislative revenue helps to address a portion of this gap.



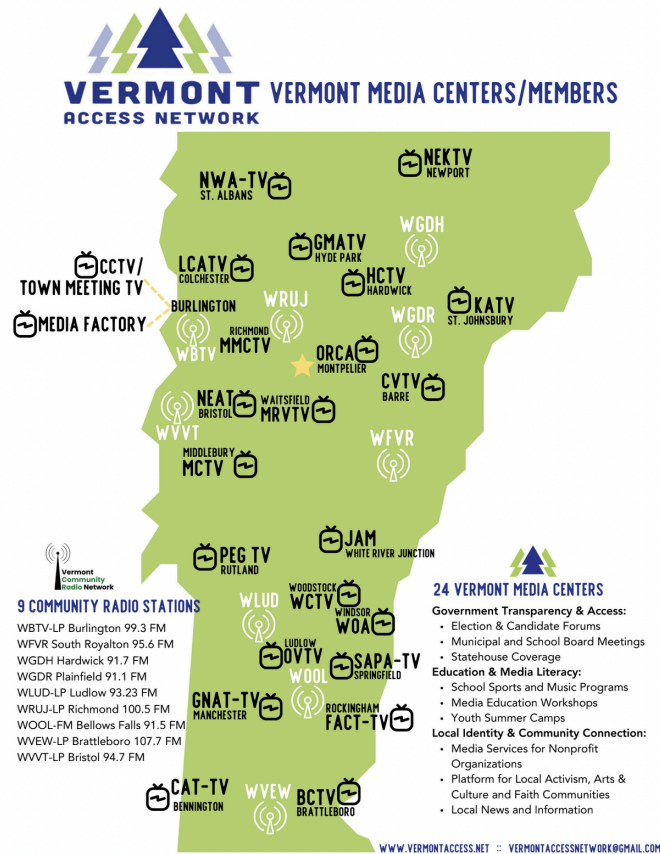
- To address revenue challenges, Vermont's community media centers and radio stations rely on a **variety of income sources**, of which Legislative funding makes up a portion (10% in FY24). Community media organizations (TV and radio) also raise funds from memberships, grants, fees for service, underwriting, and donations to maintain continuity of services for Vermonters.

Distribution of Legislative Funds: VAN funds are distributed to community media centers in all corners of the state, covering 94% of the state's municipalities and all counties except Essex County. The distribution of funds is based on the relative size of the 24 centers and number of municipalities served. Community radio stations will receive funding based on the relative size of their budgets; most operate at just \$25K or less.

In the case of Vermont Access Network, FY25 legislative funds were distributed as follows:

Small: MCTV (headquartered in Middlebury), Hardwick Community TV, NEAT (Bristol), WCTV (Woodstock) and WOA-Windsor on Air, SAPA TV (Springfield), OVTV (Okemo), FACT-TV (Falls Area) received **between \$10-20K** from annual Legislative funding;

Mid-Sized: MMCTV (Richmond), MRTV (Mad River), JAM (WRJ), GMAVT (Hyde Park), GNAT (Manchester), BCTV (Brattleboro) and NEK-TV garnered **between \$20 - 32K**;



Large: Community media centers that cover a wide and dense geographic area received **between \$50 - 180K**. These included CAT-TV (headquartered in Bennington), CVTV (Barre), CCTV (Chittenden County), KATV (St. Johnsbury), LCATV (Colchester), NWATV (St. Albans), ORCA (Montpelier), Media Factory (Chittenden County), and PEG TV (Rutland).

These funds were (and will be) used for specific purposes including public meeting and event coverage, administrative staffing, outreach and training, media education, technical upgrades for production, playback and archival purposes.

In short: Vermont community media's FY 27 request for \$1.89M as part of the Secretary of State's budget:

- adds to local radio and TV's impact as providers of local meeting coverage, news, interviews - and real time, live response in emergencies,
- addresses the decline in legacy cable TV revenue,
- helps meet the increasing costs "to do business" in Vermont, and,
- ensures that community media can remain a free and accessible outlet for Vermonters to get their news and local community coverage.

At just \$3 per Vermonter reached by our services, this is an investment the state can be proud of.

Thank you for your consideration of VAN and Community Radio's \$1.89M FY27 Budget request.

Please see VAN's FY25 Summary Grant Report to Secretary of State, below.

Attachment D		
Date		
REPORT TO	Vermont Secretary of State	
Contact	Stacey Drinkwine	
RE:	Legislative Appropriation FY25	
Grant #	02230-FY25-Act113VAN-001	
From:	Vermont Access Network	
State Vendor Number	425467	
EIN #	03-0371256	
Contact Person:	Kurt Broderson	
Position:	Vermont Access Network President	
Email:	Kurt@middleburycommunitytv.org	

AMO	Communities Served	Contacts		Description of Expenses 6/30/25
<u>BCTV Brattleboro Community Television</u>	Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Jamaica, Newfane, Putney, Townshend, Vernon	Johnny Gifford <johnny@brattleborotv.org>	\$30,344.77	Field producer hours, website development, camera kit, podcast studio equipment, computers (2)
<u>CAT-TV Catamount Access Television</u>	Bennington, Pownal, Shaftsbury, Woodford	"Lisa M. Byer" <lisa@catamountaccess.com>	\$62,429.98	Production staff (events/meetings), Interactive Program Guide, streaming services, high speed internet/phone, Heat Pumps (3)
<u>CVTV Central Vermont Television/ Video Vision</u>	Barre, Barre Town, Cabot, Chelsea, Marshfield, Orange, Plainfield, Royalton, Tunbridge, Washington, Williamstown	Tony Campos <tony@newenglandcooks.com>	\$55,332.20	Telvue Server, related modules and installation/training
<u>Chittenden Community TV / Town Meeting TV</u>	Burlington, Colchester, Essex, South Burlington, St. George, Williston, Winooski	Meghan O'Rourke <morourke@cctv.org>	\$96,433.28	Media Educator, Special Project and Archival hours, plus digitalstorage equipment and installation.
<u>JAM White River Jct.</u>	Hartford, Hartland, Norwich	Samantha Davidson-Green <samantha@uvjam.org>	\$24,117.10	PT Field Producers and Production Assistants hours (Govt. Meetings), High Speed Internet, mileage reimbursements (partial).
<u>FACT-TV Falls Area Community Television</u>	Athens, Brookline, Grafton, Rockingham, Westminster	Alex Stradling <Alex@fact8.com>	\$16,388.34	Paid for temporary Production Coordinator and Outreach, Online equipment rental system, remote video production equipment as well as portable switcher, Upgrade to Video hosting service through Vimeo for more bandwidth and storage.
<u>GNAT-TV Greater Northshire Access Television</u>	Arlington, Dorset, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Stratton, Sunderland, Weston, Winhall	Tammie Reilly <tammie@gnat-tv.org>	\$32,488.05	Youth Education Counselors (s), Manager and Content Producer ("News Project"), Video on Demand, Streaming/OTT Applications, Interactive Program Guide, Community Calendar Website Contract, Editing Software and Video Camera.
<u>GMATV Green Mountain Access Television</u>	Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Elmore, Eden, Wolcott	Tim Torrey <info@greenmountainaccess.tv>	\$26,024.80	Field Producers/Editors, Station Manager & Operational Manager hours.
<u>HCTV Hardwick Community Television</u>	Greensboro, Hardwick, Woodbury	Macy Molleur <director@hctv.us>	\$10,610.38	Field producer hours (municipal, sports, other) and sports livestream tech hours and office supplies.
<u>KATV Kingdom Access TV</u>	Barnet, Bradford, Burke, Concord, Danville, Groton, Kirby, Lyndon, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Sutton, Waterford, Wheelock	Jamie Dimick <jamie.dimick@katv.org>	\$51,262.76	Media producer hours (recording/editing government, educational and community events), Content Management hours, High Speed Internet and studio supplies. Also: multi-camera mobile studio switcher and WiFi TX/RX system, and Post Production editing computer.

<u>LCATV Lake Champlain Access Television</u>	Colchester, Fairfax, Georgia, Grand Isle, Milton, North Hero, South Hero, Westford	Kevin Christopher/LCATV Colchester <kevin@lcatv.org>,	\$55,739.48	Assistance for health care benefits (6 FT employees) and content managemetn system migration,
<u>MRVTV Mad River Valley Television</u>	Buells Gore, Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren	Christopher Wiersema <christopher.wiersema@gmail.com>	\$21,897.19	FT Executive Director, PT Production Manager and PT (3-5) Camera Operators.
<u>MCTV Middlebury Community Television</u>	Middlebury, Weybridge	Kurt Broderson <Kurt@middleburycommunitytv.org>,	\$17,115.82	Executive Director and Production Coordinator Hours (partial), Interactive Program Guide and camera equipment.
<u>MMCTV Mt. Mansfield Community Television</u>	Jericho, Richmond, Underhill	Angelike Contis <Angelike@mmctv15.org>,	\$22,773.71	Intern, PT Field Producer/Editor, PT Hybrid Producer and PT Production Manager hours, Interactive Program Guide, Editing Software and Camera.
<u>NEAT North East Addison Television</u>	Bristol, Huntington, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro	Mary Arbuckle <marya@gmavt.net>, <neatbristol@gmail.com>	\$20,873.94	Tech Support, Studio and Field Producer Hours, Sign, equipment repairs, computer and broadcast rack.
<u>NEK-TV Northeast Kingdom Television</u>	Barton, Brighton, Brownington, Charleston, Coventry, Derby, Glover, Irasburg, Jay, Morgan, Newport, Newport Town, Troy, Westfield	Tod Pronto <director@nektv.com>,	\$32,904.68	Repairs and upgrades to facilities, Equipment (Cameras, Microphones, tripods and Computer)
<u>NWA-TV Northwest Access Television</u>	Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, Fairfield, Highgate, Montgomery, Richford, Sheldon, St. Albans, St. Albans Town, Swanton	Paul Snyder <director@northwestaccess.tv>,	\$61,454.90	Programming Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, PT Editor and PT Videographer hours and benefits.
<u>OVTV Okemo Valley TV</u>	Cavendish, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Andover, Reading	Patrick Cody <pcody@okemovalley.tv>,	\$16,206.38	Field Producer hours (2).
<u>ORCA Onion River Community Access Media</u>	Berlin, Bethel, Braintree, Calais, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier, Moretown, Randolph, Rochester, Waterbury, Worcester	Jin An <jin@orcamedia.net>, Zach Zorn <zach@orcamedia.net>, office@orcamedia.net	\$64,049.15	Staff Hours and Benefits (partial) and Mileage.
<u>Media Factory</u>	Burlington, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Ferrisburg, Hinesburg, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. George, Vergennes, Waltham, Williston, Winooski	Seth Mobley <seth@mediafactory.org>	\$148,316.38	Production, Administrative, Content/Distribution, IT, Education and Outreach wages and benefits, Administrative and Program Operating Expenses, Public Access Capital Equipment, Municipal/Production Services and Content Distribution.
<u>PEG-TV Rutland Region Community Television</u>	Brandon, Castleton, Chittenden, Clarendon, Danby, Fair Haven, Ira, Killington, Leicester, Mendon, Pawlet, Pittsford, Poultney, Proctor, Rutland, Rutland Town, Wallingford, West Rutland	Tom Leypoldt <tleypoldt@pegvtv.com>,	\$81,897.02	All Staff Wages (3 months).
<u>SAPA-TV Springfield Area Public Access Television</u>	Chester, Springfield, Weathersfield	Kevin Paquet <kevin@sapatv.org>,	\$21,299.05	New payout server
<u>WOA8TV Windsor On-Air</u>	West Windsor, Windsor	Paula Wehde <woa-tv@comcast.net>,	\$15,308.32	Executive Director hours, channel web streaming and website maintenance.
<u>WCTV Woodstock Community TV</u>	Bridgewater, Hartland, Woodstock	<woodstockcommunitytv@gmail.com>	\$14,732.32	PT Videographers/Editors (misc. events), Content Management and Outreach hours.