



**WVAS-FM PUBLIC RADIO STATION**  
**STATION COMPLIANCE: CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**of the**  
**COMMUNICATION ACT OF 1934**  
**and the**  
**CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

**Open Meetings Requirements**

As the recipient of a station grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), WVAS-FM Public Radio Station is required to be in compliance with the Open Meetings Requirements of Section 396(k)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934. The station certifies that it is in compliance with said requirements as described below.

WVAS-FM is licensed to Alabama State University, a public university located in Montgomery, Alabama. The Board of Trustees of Alabama State University serves as the governing body of the station as well as the University. Both the University and the Board must comply with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. All requirements under this Act are codified in Alabama Code § 36-25-A-1 *et seq.* In addition to holding meetings that are open to the public, the University must also submit notice of its Board meetings to the Alabama Secretary of State who, in turn, must "...post the notice on the Internet for at least seven calendar days prior to the day of the meeting. The Secretary of State must also send electronic mail notifications to anyone who has registered with the Secretary of State to receive notification of meetings."



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**Open Financial Records Requirements**

As the recipient of a station grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), WVAS-FM Public Radio Station is required to be in compliance with the Open Financial Records Requirements of Section 396(k)(5) of the Communications Act of 1934. The station certifies that it is in compliance with said requirements as described below.

WVAS-FM is licensed to Alabama State University, a public university located in Montgomery, Alabama. As a public state institution, the University is required to comply with Alabama Code § 41-4-65 which mandates an online database containing the expenditures of their respective agency. A link to this database is on the bottom right front of the licensee's website and is labeled "RECOVER.GOV." (<https://www.alasu.edu/about-asu/recovery-reinvestment-act-information>). By clicking on this link and then selecting either "Search by Vendor" or "Search by Payee", any citizen has access to all expenditure and compensation information of the licensee, including WVAS-FM.

In addition, Alabama Code § 36-12-40 gives all citizens of the State of Alabama the right to inspect and copy public writings except as otherwise expressly provided by statute.

The station's audited financial statement may be found on its website. A copy of the statement is also available in the station's public file, which is available for inspection by citizens during normal business hours.



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**Community Advisory Board Requirements**

Per Section 396(k)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934, WVAS-FM is not required to have a Community Advisory Board as the station is owned and operated by Alabama State University, a public agency of the State of Alabama.



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**Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements**

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WVAS-FM is licensed to Alabama State University, a public university located in Montgomery, Alabama. Section 2.1 of the University's Policies and Procedures Manual, as approved by the Board of Trustees, states the following:

“It is the policy, procedure and practice of Alabama State University to recruit, hire, compensate, train, reassign and promote employees without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, disability, national origin, sex, marital status, political affiliation, or age, except where a bona fide occupational qualification exists. Applicants and employees who have reason to believe their treatment is in violation of the Equal Employment Opportunity procedure should promptly report, in writing, the circumstances of the alleged violation to the Equal Employment officer.”

Through the full and committed application of the above policy, Alabama State University and WVAS-FM are able to ensure that there is, and will continue to be, true diversity in its workforce, management and boards. As part of “FOCUS 2030: The Strategic Plan for Alabama State University”, the institution has adopted the following theme: “*Advancing the Legacy and Bridging Communities through Commitment, Collaboration and Creativity*”. It goes on to declare the following under its Values: “Diversity – We are committed to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion within our community.” Finally, ASU has committed itself to ensuring Integrity as follows: “We are committed to honest and ethical standards, as we hold ourselves to transparent systems, structures and mechanisms.

Annual EEO reports may be found on the station's website.



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**Donor List Requirements**

As the recipient of a station grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), WVAS-FM Public Radio Station is required to be in compliance with the Donor List and Political Activities Requirements of Section 396(k)(12) of the Communications Act of 1934. The station certifies that it is in compliance with said requirements as described below.

WVAS-FM Public Radio Station does not engage in the exchange, rental, or sale of contributor or donor names (or other personally identifiable information) to, from, or with any Federal, State, or local candidate, political party, or political committee.

WVAS-FM Public Radio Station does not disclose contributor or donor names, or other personally identifiable information, to any nonaffiliated third party; contributor or donor names are shared with its licensee only. The station maintains active control over membership and donor lists, with the exception of access undertaken by its licensee, and the station takes all appropriate measures to prevent unauthorized use of such lists.

WVAS-FM does not engage in lobbying activities in any form or fashion.



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#### **Local Content and Services Report**

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.

WVAS-FM is proud of its 37-year commitment to serving its community through programming that has cultural and informational significance to its listeners, particularly its minority audience. The station employs in-person engagement on a regular basis to identify, discuss and share information about critical issues in its service community. The use of multiplatform long and short-form content has also been employed over the years with respect to the station's participation in initiatives such as the PBS series “The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song”; CPB's "Veterans Coming Home" and “American Graduate” initiatives; and, the StoryCorps project. This content has included news stories, first-person narratives, and companion pieces on the dedicated website.



In addition, the pandemic has demanded that WVAS-FM consistently share critical community information with respect to COVID-19. For this reason, the station engaged in a special series of programs for an initiative titled “The Impact of the coronavirus in Communities in the WVAS Coverage Area”. Funded in part by the Lenfest Institute for Journalism, the series was made up of first-person interviews with those who have knowledge of, or were directly impacted by, the virus throughout the Black Belt Region of Alabama. The station also continues to air information about COVID-19 vaccination clinics on an ongoing basis.

Community events (both station-hosted and other events) are another means through which WVAS-FM is able to directly engage with its audience and with the community at large via forums, special events, and festivals.

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.

With respect to the aforementioned initiatives as well as other community engagement projects of the station, WVAS has collaborated with, among many others, historic African-American churches in its region; local veterans organizations; the local Chamber of Commerce during its "Eggs and Issues" series to bring messaging from the state's Congressional delegation and its “MGMBiz”; the local Crimestoppers organization; the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless; the American Red Cross during its annual "Radio for Red Cross" event; the Alabama State University’s Violence Against Women Program (VAWP); and, the Montgomery Sheriff’s Office when it entertains minority children in during the annual Deputy Dave Anti-Drug event and services more than 5,000 children during the annual “Halloween Spooktacular”.



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.

WVAS has been most successful in raising the awareness of listeners about issues such as problems facing veterans and the homeless, particularly those who are African-American. Without leaving their homes, listeners are able to remain up-to-date on upcoming Congressional initiatives that will affect their communities and this region. Through its ongoing partnership with VAWP, listeners are able to recognize the signs of domestic violence if encountered and experience a comfort level in taking steps to address it. Whenever there is an opportunity for station staff to engage with children in the community, particularly those from minority families, these occasions translate into mentoring and leadership sessions for young members of this community. Finally, the station's commitment to factual and up-to-date information with respect to addressing the current pandemic has directed listeners to critical resources and events that assist them in preparing for, and preventing, the effects of COVID-19.

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).

As a certified minority station, WVAS-FM is engaged daily in activities that investigate and/or meet the need of minority and other diverse audiences. WVAS-FM's weekly interactive talk show is a forum that is often used to discuss issues of import to minority and other diverse audiences (e.g., immigration, gay marriage, voting and civil rights).





Cultural programming on the station also reflects the diversity of its audience, including specials that air during Black History Month, Women's History Month, Native American Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month. Finally, some of the station's public service announcements (such as those that address severe weather/emergency preparedness) are broadcast in both English and Spanish. WVAS-FM will continue the initiatives above, and also continue to seek other ways in which to investigate and/or meet the needs of its diverse audience.

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?

With respect to the station's web site, CPB funding supports the availability of this web site to the station's listeners and other visitors; immediate and on-demand access to news, music, public affairs and other information are direct benefits of CPB support. CPB funding also provides the station with resources to acquire, as well as to produce, national programming. This national programming includes national and international news, national public affairs programming, and cultural programming of interest to the station's listeners. Finally, CPB funding enables the presence of WVAS staff members not paid through a direct appropriation from its licensee. This includes staffing for news and public affairs programming, as well as a staff person to organize, maintain and manage the internal workings of the station's central core.