



**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 "A.R.R.A." 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.

As the station nor its licensee are not non-profits (the licensee is a governmental entity), neither is required to file IRS Form 990. A copy of the most recent Form 990t has been requested, and will be posted when completed. 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 the public 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 “Vision 2020: The Alabama State University Transformation Plan”, the institution has adopted the following theme: “*The Renaissance: Building a Culture of Learning* – The Transformation of Alabama State University through

Excellence in Teaching, Research, Service and a Diverse Population”. It goes on in its Mission Statement to declare the following: “Consistent with its assurance that neither race, gender, nor economic status inhibits intelligence, creativity, or achievement, ASU offers a bridge to success for those who commit to pursuing the building blocks of development, focus, persistence and reward.” Finally, officials at the institution have committed to ensuring that transparency will prevail in all matters relating to the University.

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.



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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 30-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 heavily employed over the last year with respect to the station's participation in CPB's "Veterans Coming Home" initiative; this content included news stories, first-person narratives, and companion pieces on the dedicated website. Community information is shared with the station's audience on a regular basis through public service announcements, as well as in-depth discussions on the station's weekly interactive talk show. 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.

WVAS-FM's most important key initiative undertaken during FY14 was its participation in CPB's "Veterans Coming Home" project. The station collaborated with, among others, HUD, the VA, 2-1-1, the National Association of Black Veterans, and CivilianJobs.com. Other key initiatives include the station's ongoing collaboration with its local Chamber of Commerce during its "Eggs and Issues" series to bring messaging from the state's Congressional delegation to the listening audience. WVAS-FM also collaborates with the local Crimestoppers organization to address crime in the community. The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is another collaborative partner, through which the station is able to bring awareness about homelessness issues in the region to its listeners. Each January the station collaborates, with other media outlets, with the American Red Cross during its annual "Radio for Red Cross" event. Each spring WVAS-FM collaborates with the Montgomery Sheriff's Office to entertain minority children in one of the rural communities during the annual Deputy Dave Anti-Drug event. Other collaborative partners of WVAS include the Downtown Business Association, the Chamber's Chairman's Circle and Education Council, and the SAYNO (anti-drug non-profit) Board.

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.

The station's participation in CPB's "Veterans Coming Home" initiative resulted in many instances of positive reaction to the station's content and events. This included numerous calls received from listeners who heard first-person narratives from military veterans, of whom most were African-American. The City of Montgomery and the entire listening community warmly embraced the launch of the "5K Freedom Run/Walk" which featured veterans as participants; the next event has already been scheduled. The number of visits to the dedicated website for this project continues to grow, as the station has used billboard and print ads to make veterans and their families aware of available resources. The station's work with this project was praised by the County Commission, the Chamber of Commerce, HUD, and the local 2-1-1 office. Minority veterans also shared with WVAS-FM that the

opportunity to record their experiences for the station was their first opportunity to tell their stories in their own manner without fear of retribution. Finally, the airing of almost every veterans story led to calls from listeners who commented favorably on both (a) the story, and, (b) the station's initiative with respect to this project.

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 2014, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2015. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

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. As an example, WVAS-FM engaged with the community's minority business community through its participation in the Chamber of Commerce's multicultural business breakfast, its minority business mixer, and a live broadcast of the featured speaker at each year's Diversity Summit. The station also carries live broadcasts of the Bridge Builders, a speaker series that seeks to bridge the gap between the region's minority and non-minority members. 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, 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?

Special grant funding from CPB allowed WVAS to participate in the "Veterans Coming Home" initiative. Through this initiative, WVAS was able (and continues to do so) air first-person stories from veterans in its service community, particularly minority veterans. This funding also enabled the launch of a dedicated web site with information and resources of value to veterans and their families. 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.