



Vermont Access Network

FY26 Budget Request

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Vermont Access Network (VAN) is seeking **\$1.35 million in base funding, included in the Secretary of State's FY26 Budget.**

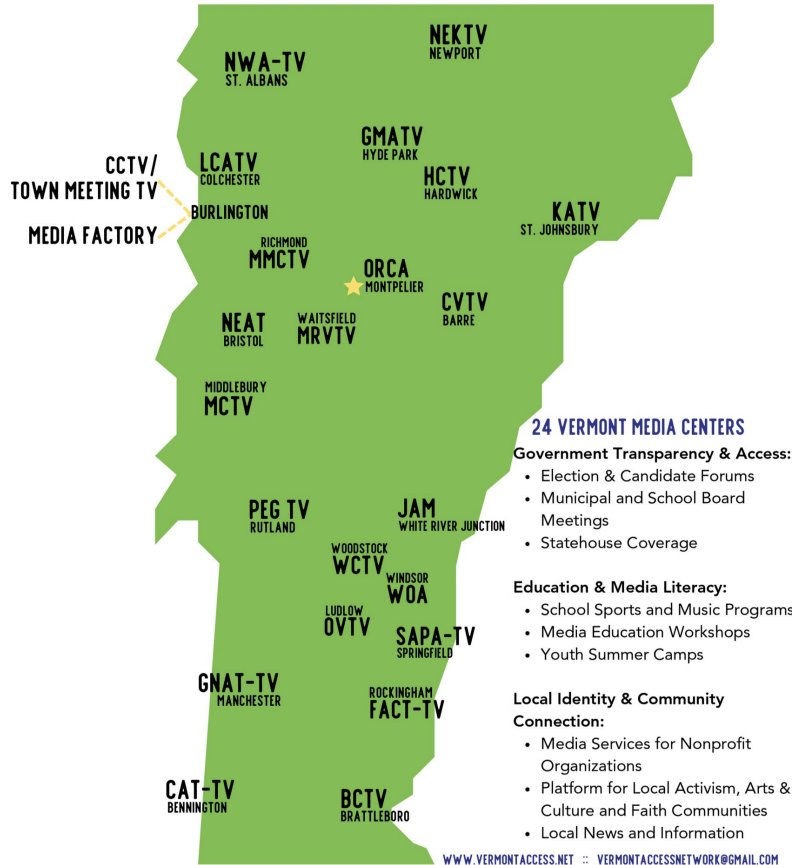
We request your support of this request in the Committee's Budget Memo to the Appropriations Committee.



Vermont Access Network (VAN) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the effective operation and advancement of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access TV, also known as **community media**.



Vermont's community media centers have been operating since 1984, first permitted by the Vermont Public Service Board as part of local cable company requirements to do business. These requirements were enshrined in the Cable Communications Act of 1984.



Vermont's 24 community media centers deliver essential media services to communities within cable TV service territories as well as neighboring communities across Vermont.

VAN is a statewide communications resource.



Community media resources include coverage of public meetings and local events, news, information and entertainment programs produced by Vermonters from all backgrounds, media education for all ages, preservation of local history through extensive archival work and on-the-spot delivery of emergency information.

During COVID-19, the Legislature recognized community media as an “essential service”.



VAN's 24 community media centers employ 150 Vermonters in jobs that utilize technical know-how and people skills.



Vermont community media centers and their volunteers produce more than **18,000 hours** of programming each year airing on **80+ local cable channels** and dozens of internet “channels” reaching Vermonters across the state and world.



Town Meeting TV

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Town Meeting TV is Chittenden County Vermont's regional government access TV channel...

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General Election Results Show - 11/5/2024
Town Meeting TV · 1.2K views · Streamed 2 months ago
For live election results, visit results.townmeeting.tv. Town Meeting TV is a free speech forum and the ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Town Meeting TV Trustees...

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In 2024, Vermont's AMOs report widespread engagement on various internet platforms, including 1,342,433 YouTube views and 283,000+ website visits.



CHANNELS

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WE ARE YOUR VOICE RUTLAND COUNTY!

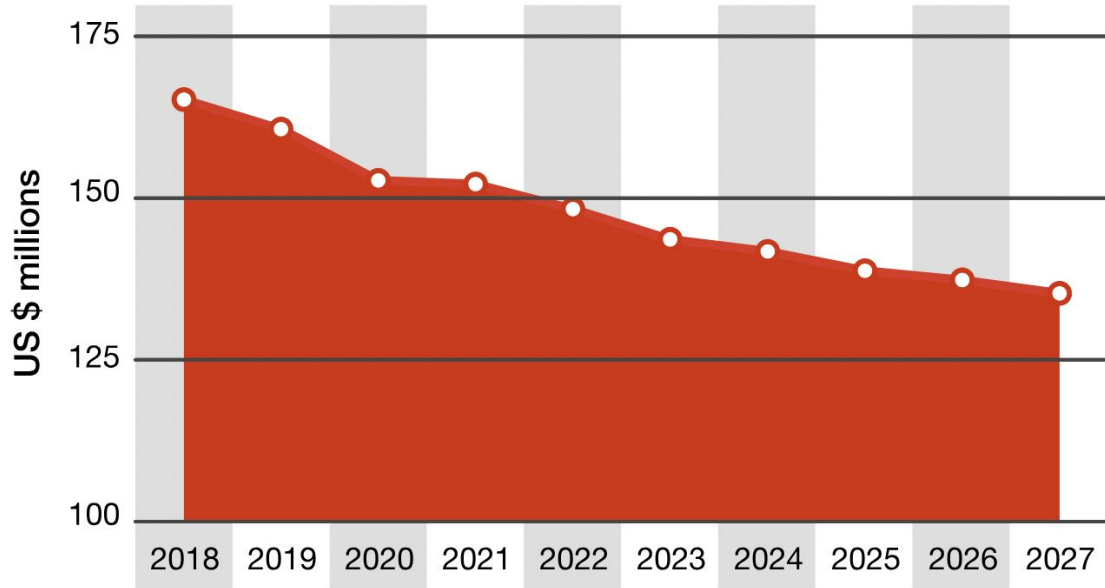
PEGTV, an independent organization, empowers the community through television broadcasts, online program access, and social media. This organization serves to entertain, disseminate information, ensure freedom of speech, and improve the quality

Snapshot: PEGTV Rutland

(January 2025)

**Current YouTube
Subscribers: 2,459
Views Last 28 Days: 16.7K
Watch time (hours): 1.7K**

Declining revenue for traditional TV



Source: Global Entertainment, Media & Telecommunications Outlook 2023-2027

The Challenge: Cable TV revenue is declining across the US and in Vermont.



As cable subscriptions decline in favor of internet based options, community media funding declines – even as demand for local news, information and entertainment increases.



In recognition of VAN's vital service to Vermont citizens and communities, in FY25 the Vermont Legislature voted to include \$1 million in base funding for the Vermont Access Network as part of the Secretary of State's budget.

The Legislature also included language directing the Secretary of State and VAN to work together to determine the amount needed to sustain VAN in future years.

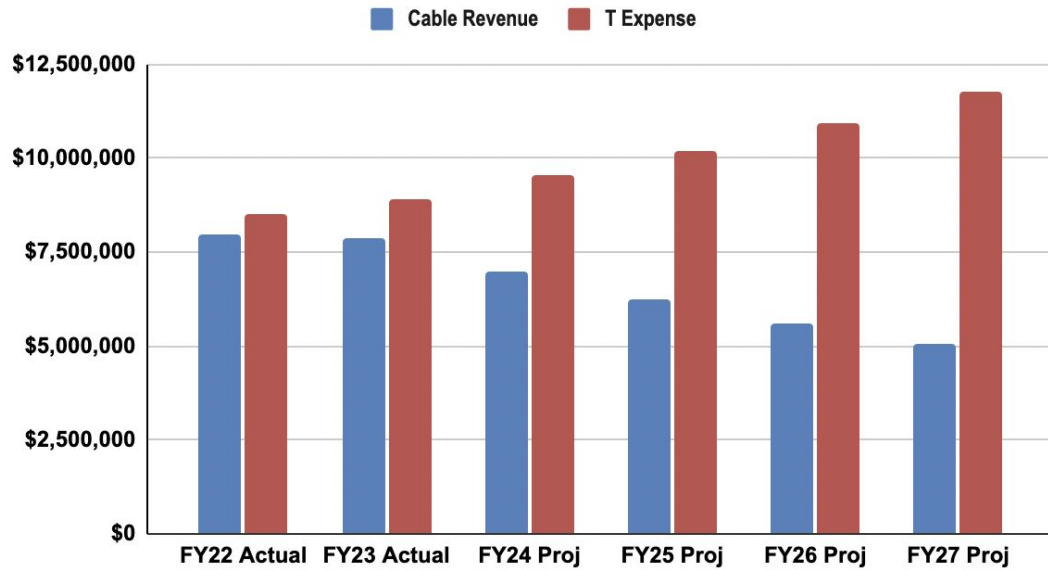
FY26 - \$1.35M

FY27 - \$1.8M

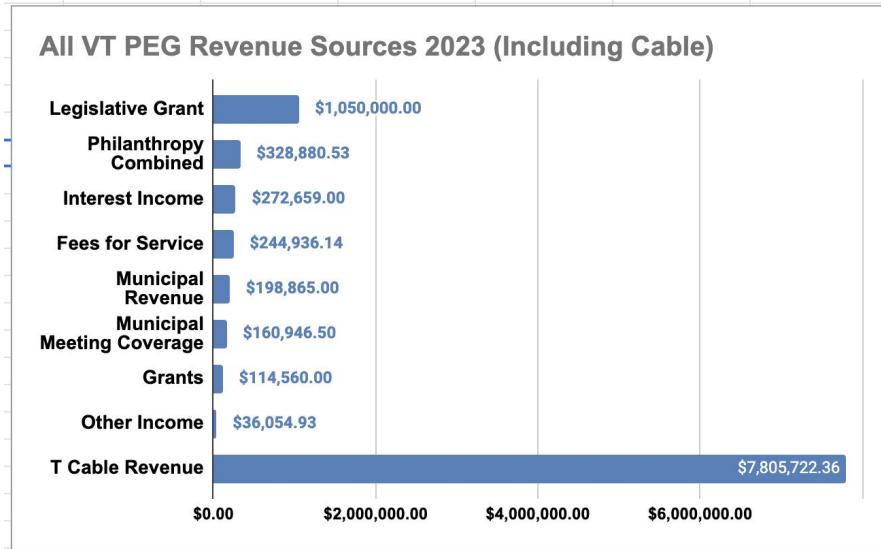
FY28 - \$2M|

Looking ahead at declining cable revenue funding trends and increasing demand for community media services (which fill a widening gap in the local news landscape), VAN has worked with the Vermont Secretary of State to develop a **three year funding plan.**

VAN Cable Revenue and Expenses FY22-FY27 (Actual & Projected)

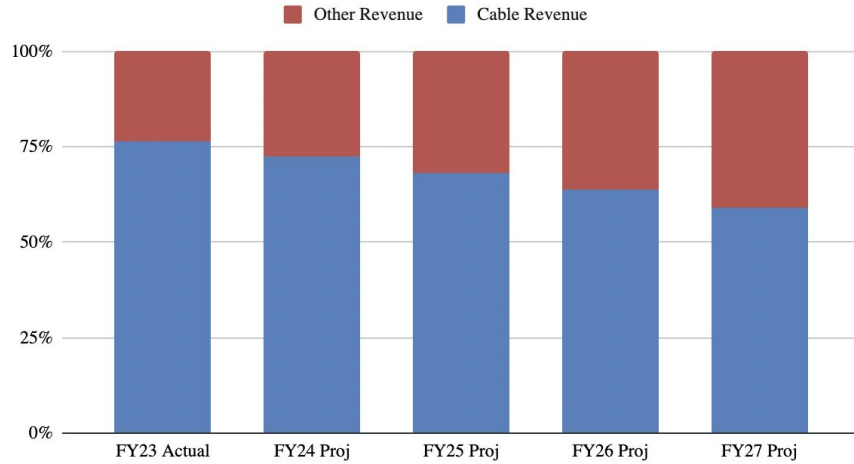


VAN estimates a 7-10% decrease in cable revenue (\$600K) and a 7-10% (\$660K) increase in expenses (labor, healthcare and capital investments) + increased demand on community media services across Vermont.



In FY25, VAN members will collectively secure revenue to cover over \$10 million in operating expenses, roughly: **65%** from dwindling cable franchise fee revenues, **25%** from increasingly diverse sources (municipal grants, philanthropy & fee-for-service), and **10%** from the State of Vermont.

VAN Cable + Other Revenue Breakdown FY23-27 (Projected)



Cable Revenue currently accounts for 74% of VAN aggregate revenue.

Thank you for your consideration of our FY26 request and for your past support of the Vermont Access Network and Vermont's Community Media Centers.



We hope you will support our request for \$1.35m in FY26 in your Budget Memo this year. THANK YOU.