



September 18, 2025

To: Donna Joe, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
Kathy Merritt, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

From: Kimberly A. Howell, Inspector General

Subject: Evaluation of WJAB-FM, Alabama A&M University, Compliance with Selected Communications Act and General Provisions Transparency Requirements, Report No. ECR2513-2516

We have completed an unannounced evaluation of compliance with selected requirements of the 2025 Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) Community Service Grant (CSG) awarded to WJAB-FM, licensed to Alabama A&M University, Normal, Alabama. Our specific objectives were to verify compliance with 11 requirements of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act) for open and closed meetings and open financial records, as well as the CSG General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria (General Provisions) for transparency as presented in Exhibit A. Background information on the station and CSG program can be found in Exhibit B.

Based on our review of WJAB-FM's website on June 12, 2025, and subsequent information provided by station management, we found the station was compliant with six of the seven applicable requirements. The station was not compliant with one requirement. The remaining four requirements were not applicable because the station was not required to have a Community Advisory Board and there were no closed meetings of the governing board or board committees in Fiscal Year 2025 involving public broadcasting business. The station's response to the draft report is presented in Exhibit D.

Specifically, we found that WJAB-FM was not compliant with posting the most recent FY 2023 Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the station's website. In response to our Preliminary Observations issued on July 10, 2025, station management acknowledged that the AFR was not posted on the date of our website review and took immediate corrective action to post the most recent AFR on the station's website.

In response to our draft report dated August 28, 2025, the station stated the 2023 AFR was not posted to the website due to an oversight caused by personnel changes and that staff is now in place to help ensure that this does not happen again.

WJAB is currently compliant with posting its most recent financial information on its website based on the financial information submitted to CPB. The FY 2024 AFR and audited financial statements have not been submitted to CPB for processing.

We recommend that the station post its FY 2024 AFR and audited financial statements when available in accordance with CPB's guidance issued to all CSG recipients on August 25, 2025, on Community Service Grants.

We initiated this evaluation to address station accountability as identified in our Annual Plan. We conducted our evaluation in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. We have summarized our WJAB-FM website review in Exhibit A, provided background on Alabama A&M University, WJAB-FM, and the CSG program in Exhibit B, and provided our evaluation scope and methodology in Exhibit C.

cc: Ruby Calvert, Chair, CPB Board of Directors
Elizabeth Sembler, Vice Chair, CPB Board of Directors
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

ACT AND GENERAL PROVISIONS COMPLIANCE

Open Financial Records

The station did not comply with the open financial records requirements because it did not post its current FY 2023 AFR on its website. There were no AFRs posted on the station's website. The FY 2024 AFR and audited financial statements have not been submitted to CPB for review and approval.

CPB requires that grantees make the audited financial statements and AFRs available to the public on the station website.

C. Open Financial Records: The Act requires stations to make available to the public their annual financial and audit reports and related financial information they are required to provide to CPB (47 U.S.C. § 396(k)(5) and § 396(1)(3)(b)). CPB also requires that each Grantee post the following documents on its station website:

1. its most recent audited financial statement, or unaudited financial statement if permitted; and
2. its most recent AFR or FSR (whichever is applicable).

CPB 2025 Radio CSG General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria, Section 2. Communications Act Requirements.

The Act also provides:

Funds may not be distributed pursuant to this subsection to any public telecommunications entity that does not maintain for public examination copies of the annual financial and audit reports, or other information regarding finances, submitted to the Corporation pursuant to subsection (1)(3)(B).

The Act, 47 U.S.C. Section 396 (k)(5).

As of the date of our website review, June 12, 2025, the most recent AFR (FY 2023) was not posted on the station's website. Further, prior AFRs were not posted on the station's website. The station's FY 2023 AFR was submitted to CPB on July 10, 2024, and was approved by CPB on July 25, 2024. The most recent FY 2023 audited financial statements report and previous years audited financial statements were posted to the website.

After receiving our Preliminary Observations dated July 10, 2025, the station's Director, Electronic Media Communications, advised us on July 17, 2025, that the 2023 AFR had been

added to the website, which we subsequently verified on July 18, 2025. However, the FY 2024 AFR and AFS have not been submitted to CPB for processing.

On August 25, 2025 CPB advised CSG recipients that they must adhere to the terms and conditions found in the TV and Radio General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria and even though CPB operations are winding down, CSG agreements remain subject to government auditing and congressional investigation. This guidance specifically referenced posting the FY 2024 financial information as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

We recommend that CPB management require WJAB-FM to:

- 1) post both its FY 2024 AFR and the audited financial statement when available.

WJAB-FM Management Response

In response to our draft report, the station stated the 2023 AFR was not posted to the website due to an oversight caused by personnel changes and that staff is now in place to help ensure that this does not happen again. WJAB-FM management's response also stated that it will post its FY 2024 AFR as soon as its available.

OIG Review and Comment

Based on our review of the draft report response, we consider this finding and recommendation unresolved and open pending CPB's final management determination addressing the posting of both the FY 2024 AFR and AFS.

Exhibit A

**Summary of WJAB-FM Website Review
as of June 12, 2025**

Requirements	Met	Not Met
1) Seven-day advance notice of governing body meeting:	X	
a) available on website		
b) available by other means		
2) Seven-day advance notice of board committee meetings:	X	
a) available on website		
b) available by other means		
3) Seven-day advance notice of CAB meetings:	N/A	
a) available on website		
b) available by other means		
4) If closed meetings were held, was documentation prepared explaining the basis for closing meeting in accordance with the Act:	N/A	
a) available on website		
b) available at central office		
5) If closed meeting documentation was prepared, was it available within 10-days of the closed meeting	N/A	
6) Most recent AFR or FSR available on website		X
7) Most recent audited financial statements on website	X	
8) Senior/executive management information on website	X	
9) Governing body members on website	X	
10) CAB members on website	N/A	
11) Grantee's annual report on local content and services included in the grantee's current 2024 SAS on its content and services that serve local needs; and analysis about the reach and impact of the local services in its community.		
on website		
at central office	X	

BACKGROUND

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical (Alabama A & M) University is a historic, student-friendly and community-focused institution of higher learning. Reflecting on its heritage as a historical black college and university and a traditional 1890 Land-grant institution, Alabama A & M functions as a teaching, research and public service institution. Founded in 1875 by a former slave, Alabama A & M is a dynamic and progressive institution with a strong commitment to academic excellence.

WJAB-FM is a public radio station licensed to Alabama A & M University under the guidance of the Alabama A & M University Board of Trustees. The Board customarily meets three times a year: in the spring semester (usually February), the summer period (usually June), and fall semester (in October). The station has been in existence since 1991 and is the first 100,000 watts, public radio station on a college campus in Alabama. WJAB is the Tennessee Valley's only full-time jazz station with a listenership covering portions of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi. WJAB 90.9 can be heard twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with one of the most powerful signals in the Tennessee Valley.

CPB's Community Service Grant Program

The Communications Act of 1934 (Act) provides that specific percentages of the appropriated funds CPB receives annually from the United States Treasury must be allocated and distributed to licensees and permittees of public TV and radio stations. Each year CPB awards CSG grants to public TV and radio stations based in part on the amount of Non-Federal Financial Support (revenues) claimed by all stations on their Annual Financial Report (AFR) or Financial Summary Report (FSR) submitted to CPB. After funds are designated as either TV or radio funds, they are placed in the appropriate CSG grant pool for distribution to eligible stations. TV funds can be distributed only to TV stations and radio funds must go to radio stations.

2025 Radio or Television Community Service Grant Agreement and Certification of Eligibility

In addition to the annual filing of the station's AFR(s) or FSR for radio and/or television, the chief executive of the station and a licensee official certify to CPB the station's compliance with Communications Act requirements and selected general provisions requirements in the legal agreement awarding the station CSG funds. These certifications specifically address Open and Closed Meetings; Open Financial Records; Community Advisory Board; CPB Employment Statistical Report; and Donor information requirements under Section IV Communications Act Compliance of the agreement. Station officials responsible for closed meetings and the CPB Employment Statistical Report requirements are identified in the grant agreement. Additionally, the certification also addresses Website Postings Required under Section V. Selected General Provisions Requirements of the agreement.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

We performed an evaluation of WJAB-FM's compliance with selected CSG provisions of the Act and grant certification requirements. Our specific objectives were to verify compliance with selected Communications Act requirements for open meetings and open financial records, as well as Radio and Television Community Service Grants General Provisions and Eligibility Criteria for Transparency. The scope of the examination included reviews of the information posted on the station's website as of June 12, 2025, and information retained at the station's central office.

We reviewed corporate policies, records, and documents supporting the station's compliance with the Act requirements to provide advance notice of public meetings, closed meeting disclosures, and make financial information available to the public. We also reviewed the station's website and policies to determine its compliance with CPB's transparency requirements for eligibility.

Our fieldwork was conducted from June 12, 2025, through August 18, 2025, and our evaluation was performed in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*.



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To: William J. Richardson III, Deputy Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Corporation for Public Broadcasting

From: Elvin Jenkins, General Manager
WJAB-FM

Elvin Jenkins

Digitally signed by Elvin Jenkins
DN: cn=Elvin Jenkins, o=Electronic Media
Communication, ou=Marketing,
Communication, and Advancement,
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Cc: Kimberly Howell, Inspector General, Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Joe Green, Team Leader, Office of Inspector General, Corporation for Public
Broadcasting

Date: September 4, 2025

Re: Evaluation of WJAB-FM, Alabama A&M University,
Compliance with Selected Communications Act and Transparency Requirements,
Draft Report No. ECR2513-XXXX

I acknowledge the issues brought forth in the evaluation and immediate action was taken to bring the station into compliance.

The missing 2023 Annual Financial Report was due to an oversight on our part caused by personnel changes that allowed some things to go unnoticed. Staff is now in place that will help us make sure this does not happen again.

The 2024 Annual Financial Report will be posted as soon as it is available.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Please let me know if you have additional questions.