

Government Education Access Channels Committee

Current TV

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

The following items are presented to for review and approval.

Board Action Requested:

Approve the proposed 2025-2026 GEAC Budget.

Budget Summary

The Government Education Access Channels (GEAC) Committee has reviewed and approved the proposed 2025-2026 budget for the operation of the Government and Education Channels (Current TV). The proposed budget, which would take effect July 1, 2025 must be approved by every participating member entity of the Channels, which includes the towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head, Manteo, Dare County, Dare County Schools, College of The Albemarle, and ECU Coastal Studies Institute.

The budget as proposed requires no additional funding from the participating entities above the current annual \$1,000 membership fee. The budget is funded primarily from the North Carolina Video Distribution proceeds, which are disbursed quarterly by the state to certified channels throughout the state. These funds must be used for the operations of the two channels and no other purpose.

Additionally, the legislation that originally established the Video Distribution funding required that the proceeds not supplant current funding. Accordingly, the annual \$1,000 membership fee that was in place when the program began must remain, or the Channels would lose all Video Distribution funding from the state.

The GEAC committee recommends the attached budget, which includes, in part, the following: funding for two full-time, and one part-time staff positions and the Local Programming Development Initiative to assist members in the development of programming for the Government and Education Channels. The funding also includes contractor funding to continue to produce two regular news magazine shows that highlight each of the participating members on the Education Channel and the Government Channel.

INCOME	2024/2025 Budgeted	2025/2026 Proposed
Supplemental PEG Channel *1	\$257,518.00	\$265,000.00
Member Fees *2	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Interest Income *3	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Appropriated Fund Balance *4	\$66,641.00	\$92,879.00
Total Revenue	\$342,159.00	\$375,759.00
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries (3 Positions) *5	-\$144,144.00	-\$163,719.00
Merit Pay *6	-\$3,000.00	-\$3,000.00
FICA	-\$11,027.00	-\$12,357.00
Retirement	-\$19,661.00	-\$20,863.00
401K	-\$4,324.00	-\$4,349.00
Health Insurance* 7	-\$24,596.00 [1]	-\$25,824.00
Life Insurance	-\$210.00	-\$210.00
Retiree Health	-\$252.00	-\$253.00
Insurance & Bonds	-\$3,361.00	-\$3,530.00
Contractual Services *8	-\$40,000.00	-\$40,000.00
Professional Services *9	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00
Equipment Repair & Purchase *10	-\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00
Supplies *11	-\$3,500.00	-\$3,500.00
Music Library	-\$350.00	-\$350.00
Training	-\$1,000.00	-\$3,000.00
Travel	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Professional Memberships	-\$500.00	-\$500.00
CHANNEL OPERATIONS *12		
OBX Media	-\$4,200.00	-\$4,200.00
Adobe	-\$675.00	-\$830.00
Tightrope Hardware	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cablecast Software Assurance Service	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cable Subscription	-\$324.00	-\$324.00
Cablecast Reflect (Streaming/VOD Service)	-\$2,500.00	-\$2,600.00
Cablecast Closed Captioning Service (500 hours)	\$0.00	-\$3,750.00
Fiber internet upgrade		-\$4,800.00
Envato Elements Digital Assets Library	-\$385.00	-\$400.00
Marketing	-\$3,000.00	-\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	-\$500.00	-\$500.00
Capital Outlay Projects	\$0.00	-\$0.00
Contingency (Reserve for unexpected expenses)	-\$10,000.00	-\$10,000.00
Emergency Contingency (Storm related overtime)	-\$2,500.00	-\$2,500.00
Car Maintenance	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
Car Fuel	-\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00
Uniforms	-\$400.00	-\$400.00
Verizon Wireless *13	-\$750.00	\$0.00
Total	-\$292,159.00	-\$325,759
LPDI		
LPDI 1- Coastal Studies Institute	-\$5,000.00	-\$5,000

LPDI 2- College of The Albemarle	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 3 - Dare County Government	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 4 - Dare County Schools	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 5 - Duck	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 6 - Kill Devil Hills	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 7 - Kitty Hawk	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 8 - Manteo	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 9 - Nags Head	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
LPDI 10 - Southern Shores	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
Total LPDI	-50,000.00	-50,000
Total Expenditures	-342,159.00	-375,759

Government and Education Access Channel

Draft Budget Notes for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Goals and Objectives to be achieved with this budget:

To continue to fund the operation of the channels at a level that provides a professional, reliable and quality service to the citizens of Dare County. To increase awareness of Current TV.

[1] NC PEG Supplemental Video Disbursement - this is revenue that is collected by the state in the form of a use tax on cable and satellite providers. The money is pooled and disbursed to qualifying PEG operations within the state. PEG stands for Public, Education, and Government Access. Dare County has 10 qualifying PEG entities, each is a member of the Government and Education Access Channel Committee. Each quarter, this money is disbursed to the entities by the state, and then the Government and Education Access Channels invoices the entities for this money. These state funds are the main source of funding for the Government and Education Access Channels.

[2] Member Fees - Each entity member pays an annual membership fee to participate in the Government and Education Access Channels. This money must remain in place in order for each entity to receive the PEG Supplement from the state. There is no change to this amount from last year, so impact on each entity's budget is unchanged.

[3] Interest Income - The unappropriated fund balance is invested and earns interest. Dare County Finance had advised that \$8,000 be included for interest income for this budget.

[4] Appropriated Fund Balance -The appropriated fund balance is the amount pulled from the unappropriated fund balance to meet the obligations of the budget. The unappropriated fund balance was \$344,180 as of 2/1/25.

[5] Salaries - This budget currently funds two full-time positions that are Dare County employees, and includes a 3% COLA increase as recommended by Dare County Finance for planning purposes. This year's budget also includes pay to hire a part-time employee.

[6] Merit Pay - Merit pay is awarded based on employee performance. Dare County Finance has advised that \$3,000 be included for FY2025/2026.

[7] Health Insurance - Includes individual health insurance coverage for both full-time employees.

[8] Contractual Services - This is for assistance in the production of Destination Dare and Dare Education Awareness, our two main programming initiatives that highlight interesting aspects of government and education in Dare County. Each entity contributes one segment to each episode. Destination Dare is produced every other month, and Dare Education Awareness is produced in the alternate months.

[9] Professional Services - To pay for costs associated with professional services such as professional voiceover work, acting, and potential production support.

[10] Equipment - Monies set aside for the purchase and repair of large item video production equipment, such as cameras, editing computers, and lighting equipment.

[11] Supplies - This supports the purchase of supplies such as batteries, gaffers tape, lighting gels, accessories, and small equipment items that do not qualify as Capital Outlay or Equipment.

[12] Channel Operations - Expenses that support the day to day operation of the channels. This includes:

- \$4,200 - OBX Media: for website hosting and maintenance
- \$830 - Adobe: Creative Cloud subscription for professional non-linear editing tools.
- \$324 - Spectrum subscription to monitor channels in Current TV offices.
- \$2,600 - Reflect: streaming Video/VOD for on-line video streaming service.
- \$4,800 - Fiber Internet for streaming service and Video on Demand videos on Current TV website.
- \$400 - Envato Elements: Digital asset and stock footage library.

[13] Verizon Wireless - Line item dedicated to Verizon Wireless fee for use in mobile live broadcasting with Cradlepoint device-***discontinued for this year.***