



## PEG Access Jobs Report

One of the key provisions in the Community Access Preservation Act (the CAP Act, HR 3745), will remove the restriction in the Telecommunications Act on Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television operations using PEG support fees only for capital and equipment expenses. If the CAP Act is passed, PEG access television centers could use PEG support fees already being collected from the cable operators for both capital expenses *and* operating expenses. This critical piece of the CAP Act would result in saving or creating jobs across the country. And these jobs will be saved or created without using federal or state funds.

American Community Television (ACT) conducted a survey of PEG access managers to find out approximately how many jobs could be saved or created. We sent the survey directly to a list of 260 access managers and posted the survey on listservs subscribed to by access managers.

The following are the results of the survey.

Seventy-eight (78) respondents completed the survey over a period of three days. We can't be sure what the rate of response was to the survey because we not only sent it directly to a select group but posted it on listservs.

The first question asked respondents if the CAP Act passed, would they be able to save jobs at their access television centers. Fifty-nine (59) of the respondents or almost seventy-six percent (76%) said they would be able to save jobs if the CAP Act passed.

If the CAP Act passes, and you could use PEG support for both capital and operating expenses would you be able to save jobs at your PEG operation?		
Yes	<b>59</b>	<b>75.58%</b>
No	19	24.42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	

The next question asked the respondents to provide the number of jobs they thought they could save. Respondents were asked to fill in the blank with the number of jobs they thought they could save.

If you answered Yes how many jobs do you think you could save at your PEG operation? (number of respondents who gave this answer)

<b>Number of Jobs</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
1	9	15.5%
2	17	29.3%
3	8	13.7%
4	6	10.3%
5 or more	<b>18</b>	<b>31.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	

Fifty-eight (58) respondents answered this question, saying that they could save two hundred and forty-three (243) jobs or 4.2 jobs per responding access center. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the respondents said they could save five (5) or more jobs.<sup>1</sup> If we consider that there are over 1,500 PEG access centers in this country, if roughly seventy-six percent (76%) could save an average of 4.2 jobs per center that would be 4,788 jobs saved by passing the CAP Act.

Question #3 asked respondents if they would be able to create jobs if the CAP Act passed.

If the CAP Act passes, and you could use PEG support for both capital and operating expenses would you be able to create jobs at your PEG operation?

Yes	<b>50</b>	<b>63.75%</b>
No	28	36.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	

Almost sixty-four percent (64%) of the respondents said they would be able to create jobs if the CAP Act passed.

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<sup>1</sup> One respondent said they could save 25 jobs, two said 14 and two said 10.

The next question asked the respondents to provide the number of jobs they thought they could create.

If you answered Yes how many jobs do you think you could create at your PEG operation? (number of respondents who gave this answer)

<b>Number of Jobs</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
1	14	28%
2	<b>19</b>	<b>38%</b>
3	8	16%
4	0	0%
5 or more	9	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	

Fifty (50) respondents said they could create one hundred and twenty (120) jobs or 2.4 jobs per access television center. If sixty-four percent of known PEG access centers could create 2.4 jobs that would be 2,304 jobs that could be created by passing the CAP Act.

The most interesting finding of our survey was the answers to questions about layoffs that have already happened. We asked respondents to tell us if they had already had to lay off people because of budget cuts.

Have you had to lay off employees as a result of cutbacks in your budget?

Yes	28	36.36%
No	<b>49</b>	<b>63.64%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	

Thirty-six percent (36%) said they had already laid off workers because of budget cuts.

We asked the twenty-eight respondent how many jobs were lost.

If you answered Yes how many employees have you had to lay off? (number of respondents who gave this answer)

<b>Number of Jobs</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	
1	<b>10</b>	<b>35.7%</b>
2	6	21.4%
3	3	10.7%
4	1	3.5%
5 or more	8	28.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	

Twenty-eight (28) respondents gave us a total of eighty-eight (88) jobs that had been lost due to budget cutbacks or 3.1 jobs lost per respondent.<sup>2</sup> If we apply that to known access centers that would be approximately 1,674 jobs lost recently due to budget cutbacks.

We then asked respondents if these layoffs could have been avoided if they had been able to use their PEG support fees for salaries.

If you could have used your PEG support fees for salaries, would you have been able to avoid these layoffs?		
Yes	21	80.77%
No	5	19.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	

Twenty-six (26) respondents answered this question with almost eighty-one percent (81%) saying they could have avoided the layoffs if they could have used PEG support fees for salaries and not just capital expenditures. We estimate that 1,355 layoffs could have been avoided had PEG access television centers would have been able to use their PEG support fees for salaries.

Given the response to the first question, how many jobs could be saved if PEG support fees could be used for operating expenses, it is clear that the trend in these lean economic times is toward more layoffs in the coming months.

By passing the CAP Act we can not only avoid the coming layoffs but create new jobs and perhaps be able to re-hire personnel that have already been laid off due to budget cutbacks.

Our survey suggests that over 8,400 jobs could be saved or created by passing the CAP Act. The actual number could be much higher given we used 1,500 as the number of access television centers in the country. That is an estimate based on known access centers and does not take into account that there are many access centers as part of municipal government and educational institutions that have not been identified.

### About ACT

American Community Television works to educate and advocate on behalf of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television centers across the country. As a 501 (c) 4 ACT lobbies on Capitol Hill and at the FCC. Working with grassroots PEG access television advocates we provide resources, training and strategic advice to assist local PEG advocacy efforts. ACT also works with major D.C. based organizations such as NLC, NACO, US Conference of Mayors and NATOA as well as media advocacy organizations across the country. To learn more about ACT or to become a supporter, go to <http://www.acommunitytv.org> or call us at 410-992-4976

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<sup>2</sup> Three respondents answered they had to lay off 10 workers.