NATOA®

41st Annual
government
programming
awards

Call for Entries Deadline:
April 13, 2026

Finalists Announced:
July 27, 2026

Winners Announced:
September 17, 2026
in Kansas City, MO

41st Annual
government programming awards

Index

2026 Dates to Remember

April 13, 2026
All entries must be submitted online

April 13, 2026
All entry fees must be paid online
or received at NATOA

May 11 – June 15, 2026
Judging Period

July 27, 2026
Finalists Notified

September 17, 2026
Winners Announced in Kansas City, MO

Program must have been originally
produced between April 14, 2025
and April 12, 2026.

Call for Entries Deadline:
April 13, 2026

New & Notable in 2026

Award of Excellence trophies will be distributed during the GPA Banquet this year in Kansas City. Make plans to attend to pick up your physical award(s) to take home with you to show off!

Entries must be submitted electronically and include a URL to YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, or your channel's On-Demand video only.

UPDATED CATEGORY #19: **OLDER ADULTS**

Program, story or segment featuring or about the 65+ population. May be produced by or for older adults, and cover topics of special interest to them.

UPDATED CATEGORIES #20–21: **Diversity/Equity/Inclusion/Accessibility**
(Operating Budget Under/Over $350,000)

For excellence in programming, storytelling, or segments that focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, including content specifically created for, with, or about special audiences and traditionally underserved populations. This includes programs designed to reach non-English-speaking audiences, individuals with disabilities or special needs, unhoused populations, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, culturally or ethnically underrepresented groups, or other audiences whose needs or perspectives are not often addressed.

NEW! CATEGORY #30: **Health and Human Services**

In-depth treatment of public health issues focused on subjects of concern to a community. Examples include public health (illness, disease, health services), behavioral health (mental, telecare, support services), and social services (community assistance programs for veterans, immigrant, or homeless/unhoused populations).

UPDATED CATEGORY #37: **Public Safety – Law Enforcement**

In-depth coverage of public safety issues focusing on law enforcement topics of importance to the community, including police, sheriff's office, SWAT, school resource officer, K-9 unit, crisis response unit, and related topics.

UPDATED CATEGORY #38: **Public Safety – Fire & EMS**

In-depth coverage of public safety issues related to fire and EMS topics of importance to the community, including prevention, wildfires, emergency response, water rescue, preparedness, and related topics.

NEW! CATEGORY #41: **Water**

A program, story, or segment that centers on a water-related theme as the primary focus. Highlight topics such as water sourcing, distribution, quality, conservation, safe drinking water, or wastewater services to engage and inform your audience.

UPDATED CATEGORY #50: **Partnership Production**

Program, story, or segment produced for your organization either by hiring an outside production company, consultant or agency, or by partnering with another organization that helps in producing the program.

NEW! CATEGORY #56: **Social Media – Collaboration**

A social media program, post, or series created using a platform's collaboration features and produced in partnership with another social media account, department, agency, or community organization. This category celebrates collaborative content that leverages shared posting, cross audience reach, and unified storytelling to amplify impact and engagement. (vertical video encouraged but not required).

NEW! CATEGORY #57: **Social Media – Event Promotion/Recap**

A social media video created specifically for social platforms that promotes, highlights, or recaps a community event. Entries should demonstrate strong platform native storytelling, timely posting, and engaging visuals designed to capture attention, drive engagement, and connect audiences to the event experience. (vertical video encouraged but not required).

NEW! CATEGORY #58: **Social Media – Best Use of Trending Features**

Innovative and creative use of trending social media features, including trending audio, duets, reactions, pop culture references, or viral formats. This category highlights content that adapts trends to fit the organization's voice while boosting engagement, relevance, and audience connection. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

UPDATED CATEGORY #60: **News or Magazine Series**

Programs in this category may be submitted as either a News Series or a Magazine Format Series. Entries must include a composite of content from a minimum of three different episodes. Programming segments may include, but are not limited to, news features, sports, commentary, interviews, how-to segments, and other feature-style content.

1. Eligibility Requirements

All entries must: Be submitted by a local government, such as a city, town, township, village, or county; a public school district; or a non-profit organization whose scope of programming includes government access, such as an access corporation, community media center, foundation or other entity serving local government interests. Each award is granted only to the jurisdiction or organization, not to individual contributors.

Be produced in-house, that is using your facility's equipment, staff, interns, volunteers, freelancers or contract personnel. **The only exception** is acquired documentary file/news footage, opens, special graphics or equipment rental that your facility outsourced for added enhancements.

Identify your annual operating budget for video programming on the entry form. Annual Operating Budget is defined as the budget for video production personnel (include benefits in salary calculation), supplies and services (i.e. use of outside production facilities, equipment rentals, talent fees, etc.). Any outside funding (grants/underwriting) should be included in the operating budget if those funds were used in program production. Do not count budgets for franchise enforcement regulated activities, capital budgets (equipment) or building leases/rentals. An example of operating budget calculations can be found at www.natoa.org.

Ensure your entry is submitted under the correct budget guidelines.

Include programs, stories and segments originally produced between April 14, 2025 and April 12, 2026.

All entries must be submitted online. A separate online entry form must be submitted for each individual entry. On the entry form, include a link to an online video of your entry (YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, or your channel's On-Demand video only).

No DVD entries will be accepted.

Vertical videos may only be entered in Social Media categories.

The name of the jurisdiction, governmental entity or organization and program title must be consistent with the information provided on the official entry form and will be used on any awards.

Foreign Language Entries: If your entry includes non-English content, adding subtitles or providing an English version or translation is strongly encouraged to help our judges evaluate your work accurately.

Categories and Operating Budget breakdowns may be modified to accommodate the number of entries received.

Direct any questions about the NATOA Government Programming Awards to Jennifer Harman (703) 519-8035 Ext. 201, jharman@natoa.org.

2. Video Release

All entrants must authorize the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the non-exclusive right to use, reproduce, display and distribute in whole or in part video content selected from the jurisdiction's video entry in the 2026 Government Programming Awards in any manner to facilitate the promotion of NATOA, the Government Programming Awards and the importance of local programming nationally. The entity submitting the entry must further authorize NATOA the non-exclusive right to compile the video content in whole or in part with other video content for promotional and informational purposes. The entity submitting the entry understands and acknowledges that the video content released may be broadcast, cablecast, video streamed or otherwise publicly distributed. The entity submitting the entry warrants that they are authorized on behalf of the jurisdiction to enter into this release and to grant the rights to the video content to NATOA. **Any entrant warrants that to the best of their knowledge that this release conforms to all applicable laws and government rules and regulations, and that the released content does not contain any matter which in any way infringes or violates any copyrights, trade secrets, patents or similar intellectual property rights of any person or entity.** By signing or submitting the entry via the online process, all entrants are deemed to have granted such release.

3. Entry Fees

The fees for NATOA members are as follows:

Categories 1–65	$85 per entry
Categories 66–70	$75 per entry
Categories 71–74	$95 per entry

The fees for non-NATOA members are as follows:

Categories 1–65	$135 per entry
Categories 66–70	$125 per entry
Categories 71–74	$150 per entry

4. Entry Rules

There is no limit on the number of entries you may submit. However, a program may be entered in *no more than three categories* if it fits each category description (this limitation does not include programming entered in the Overall or Craft categories). Programs entered in the wrong category or technically unviewable will be disqualified at the discretion of the GPA Committee Chair, however every effort will be made to accommodate each entry. **No refunds.** To join NATOA and pay the member entry fees, please visit us online at www.natoa.org.

5. Entry Checklist

☐ **Entry must be made online.** An official entry form must be completed for each entry and submitted online with a link to an online video of your entry.

☐ Pay online or mail payments to:
**NATOA
PO Box 45792
Baltimore, MD 21297–5792**

☐ **A purchase order does not constitute payment. Entrants whose payments are late will not have their entries sent to the judging site and will be disqualified.**

☐ Follow rules and guidelines that pertain to the section that the entry is being made in. **Failure to comply may result in disqualification.**

☐ Not sure which category to enter your video in? Watch previous winners at www.natoa.org for help identifying which categories are the best fit for your programming.

☐ Not sure how to determine your annual operating budget? Annual operating budget is defined as the budget for video production personnel, supplies and services including equipment rental, freelance staff, on-air talent, external production support, and grants. Do not include franchise/ regulatory costs, capital budgets for one-time equipment costs, or building lease/ rental. A budget worksheet can be found at www.natoa.org.

6. Payment Information

Payment must be received by the entry deadline, April 13, 2026. The online entry system will allow you to pay by credit card or print an invoice if paying by check. If paying by credit card, the payment must be made by April 13, 2026. If paying by check, the check must be mailed by the deadline. A purchase order does not constitute payment. Entrants whose payments are not received by April 13, 2026, will not have their entries judged and will be disqualified.

Please make all checks payable to NATOA and mail them to:
**NATOA
PO Box 45792
Baltimore, MD 21297–5792**

7. Judging Criteria

A panel of at least three judges will judge all qualified entries. The recommended judging panel consists of at least one NATOA member. Judging will occur from May 13 – June 15, 2026.

Entries will be rated upon criteria that consider the diversity of local government production facilities by recognizing the value of effectiveness and creativity. Only production elements that are specific to the category as defined in the Call for Entries are judged for that entry.

Award of Excellence and Award of Distinction winners will be recognized at NATOA's Government Programming Awards Banquet on September 17, 2026, in Kansas City, MO. Fourth and fifth place winners will receive an Award of Honor certificate. **There is no charge for the initial award won. Duplicate copies of trophies may be purchased.**

Award of Excellence trophies will be presented during the GPA Banquet. Award of Distinction trophies will be sent to winners following the GPA Banquet.

Submit Entries Online at
www.NATOA.org.
Electronic submissions only.

2026 Award Categories

Be sure to follow the entry guidelines for each category entered.

Categories and Operating Budget breakdowns may be modified to accommodate the number of entries received.

Single Program Categories

An individual program, story or segment, or a single episode within a series. **Judges will be required to view only ten minutes. Entry can be either the entire program, a continuous unedited 10-minute segment, or up to three (3) segments separated by black depicting beginning, middle and end.**

CATEGORY #1 Public/Community Meetings
Gavel to gavel coverage of meetings open to the public, i.e. county board, council, commission or school board meetings.

CATEGORY #2 Edited Community Event Coverage
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

A feature, story or segment of a community event (parade, dedication, open house or community festival, etc).

CATEGORY #3 Edited Community Event Coverage
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

A feature, story or segment of a community event (parade, dedication, open house or community festival, etc).

CATEGORY #4 Live Community Event Coverage
"Live to Tape" coverage of a community event (parade, dedication, open house or community festival, etc).

CATEGORY #5 Public Affairs
In-depth treatment of civic or governmental issues, i.e., mayoral show, town hall, press conference, summit, debate or conference.

CATEGORY #6 State of the City/State of the County
This category is specifically for State of the City or State of the County events that celebrate the community, acknowledge areas for improvement, and include speeches that discuss local economic conditions, the progress of capital projects, city finances and set the policy agenda for the upcoming year. Per the entry rules, up to 3 segments of the complete program may be submitted. Can be live, live-to-tape, or complete program. No highlights produced for this entry.

CATEGORY #7 Live Sports Event
"Live to Tape" coverage of an athletic competition from beginning to end; i.e., football, basketball, baseball games, tennis, track meets, sports tournaments, etc.

CATEGORY #8 Sports Programming
Programs wherein a sports theme is the main emphasis (i.e., Coach's Show, Sports Highlights, an "edited" sporting event, profile of an athlete, team or event, etc).

CATEGORY #9 Children/Young Adults
Program targeting children and young adults. May be produced by or for children and young adults.

CATEGORY #10 Education/Schools
Story or program on schools, student, teaching or education related topics.

CATEGORY #11 Instruction/Training
In-house program not intended for cable casting (i.e., training, staff orientations, video testing).

CATEGORY #12 Interview/Talk Show/ Video Podcast
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

May include in-studio, on-location or virtual interviews. Pre-produced segments must not exceed approximately 50% of the total program.

CATEGORY #13 Interview/Talk Show/ Video Podcast
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

May include in-studio, on-location or virtual interviews. Pre-produced segments must not exceed approximately 50% of the total program.

CATEGORY #14 Election Coverage
A program related to elections including debates, forums, returns, ballot education, and primaries.

CATEGORY #15 Library
Program produced for or by a library and related to a library topic, such as author interviews and summer reading programs.

CATEGORY #16 Historical
A story or program that covers a historical related topic, event, or a story produced for a history museum exhibit.

CATEGORY #17 Historical - Cultural
A story or program that refers to the history of a culturally related topic.

CATEGORY #18 Ethnic Experience
Examines people, places, and events from a distinct cultural tradition. (i.e., a celebration of a culture).

UPDATED CATEGORY #19 Older Adults
Program, story or segment featuring or about the 65+ population. May be produced by or for older adults, and cover topics of special interest to them.

UPDATED CATEGORY #20 Diversity/Equity/ Inclusion/Accessibility
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

For excellence in programming, storytelling, or segments that focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, including content specifically created for, with, or about special audiences and traditionally underserved populations. This includes programs designed to reach non-English-speaking audiences, individuals with disabilities or special needs, unhoused populations, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, culturally or ethnically underrepresented groups, or other audiences whose needs or perspectives are not often addressed.

UPDATED CATEGORY #21 Diversity/Equity/ Inclusion/Accessibility
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

For excellence in programming, storytelling, or segments that focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, including content specifically created for, with, or about special audiences and traditionally underserved populations. This includes programs designed to reach non-English-speaking audiences, individuals with disabilities or special needs, unhoused populations, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, culturally or ethnically underrepresented groups, or other audiences whose needs or perspectives are not often addressed.

CATEGORY #22 Animal Services
A feature, story, segment, PSA, program, or series that focuses on animal services, programs, support, or adoption programs.

CATEGORY #23 Military/Veterans
A program, story or segment meant to educate the public on military or veterans' issues.

CATEGORY #24 Environmental Issues
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Coverage on environmental impact issues, weather, recycling, green waste or other related topics.

CATEGORY #25 Environmental Issues
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Coverage on environmental impact issues, weather, recycling, green waste or other related topics.

CATEGORY #26 Parks and Recreation
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Program or story about a park, rec center, athletic field, or a parks related program or service

CATEGORY #27 Parks and Recreation
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Program or story about a park, rec center, athletic field, or a parks related program or service

CATEGORY #28 Arts and Entertainment
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

A story or segment dealing with general entertainment, variety, the performing arts, and artist or artistic group profiles.

CATEGORY #29 Arts and Entertainment
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

A story or segment dealing with general entertainment, variety, the performing arts, and artist or artistic group profiles.

NEW! CATEGORY #30 Health and Human Services
In-depth treatment of public health issues focused on subjects of concern to a community. Examples include public health (illness, disease, health services), behavioral health (mental, telecare, support services), and social services (community assistance programs for veterans, immigrant, or homeless/unhoused populations).

CATEGORY #31 Profile of a City/County Department or Employee
(Operating Budget Under $400,000)

Highlights the resources, services or staff of a city/county department.

CATEGORY #32 Profile of a City/County Department or Employee
(Operating Budget $400,000-$1,000,000)

Highlights the resources, services or staff of a city/county department.

CATEGORY #33 Profile of a City/County Department or Employee
(Operating Budget Over $1,000,000)

Highlights the resources, services or staff of a city/county department.

CATEGORY #34 Profile of a Resident, Business or Organization
(Operating Budget Under $200,000)

A feature story or segment that highlights a local person, business or organization. Not intended to cover a city/county employee.

CATEGORY #35 Profile of a Resident, Business or Organization

(Operating Budget $200,000 – $400,000)

A feature story or segment that highlights a local person, business or organization. Not intended to cover a city/county employee.

CATEGORY #36 Profile of a Resident, Business or Organization

(Operating Budget Over $400,000)

A feature story or segment that highlights a local person, business or organization. Not intended to cover a city/county employee.

UPDATED CATEGORY #37 Public Safety – Law Enforcement

In-depth coverage of public safety issues focusing on law enforcement topics of importance to the community, including police, sheriff's office, SWAT, school resource officer, K-9 unit, crisis response unit, and related topics.

UPDATED CATEGORY #38 Public Safety – Fire & EMS

In-depth coverage of public safety issues related to fire and EMS topics of importance to the community, including prevention, wildfires, emergency response, water rescue, preparedness, and related topics.

CATEGORY #39 Emergency Management/ Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Coverage of emergency preparedness, response, or recovery efforts, including natural disasters, severe weather events, or public safety emergencies. Entries may focus on coordination efforts between agencies, public communication strategies, community impact, or recovery initiatives.

CATEGORY #40 Transportation

A program, story, or segment wherein a transportation theme is the main emphasis (i.e. construction updates, roadways, commuting, bicycling, trains, public transportation, airports, road crew, ports/ waterways, etc.).

NEW! CATEGORY #41 Water

A program, story, or segment that centers on a water-related theme as the primary focus. Highlight topics such as water sourcing, distribution, quality, conservation, safe drinking water, or wastewater services to engage and inform your audience.

CATEGORY #42 Promotion of a City/ County/Public Agency

Promotes the overall image of a city, county, special district, hospital, airport, school district or other public agency.

CATEGORY #43 Documentary

Non-fiction program, story or segment that profiles an individual, group or issue in depth and is produced primarily on location or using historical footage.

CATEGORY #44 Public Education

(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Program, story or segment produced to educate the public on a specific issue (i.e., recycling, transportation, and water conservation).

CATEGORY #45 Public Education

(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Program, story or segment produced to educate the public on a specific issue (i.e., recycling, transportation, and water conservation).

CATEGORY #46 Community Awareness

(Operating Budget to $200,000)

Program, story or segment produced to promote general awareness of community programs, services and activities; i.e., beautification awards, crime prevention programs, economic development initiatives.

CATEGORY #47 Community Awareness

(Operating Budget $200,000 – $400,000)

Program, story or segment produced to promote general awareness of community programs, services and activities; i.e., beautification awards, crime prevention programs, economic development initiatives.

CATEGORY #48 Community Awareness

(Operating Budget $400,000–$1,000,000)

Program, story or segment produced to promote general awareness of community programs, services and activities; i.e., beautification awards, crime prevention programs, economic development initiatives.

CATEGORY #49 Community Awareness
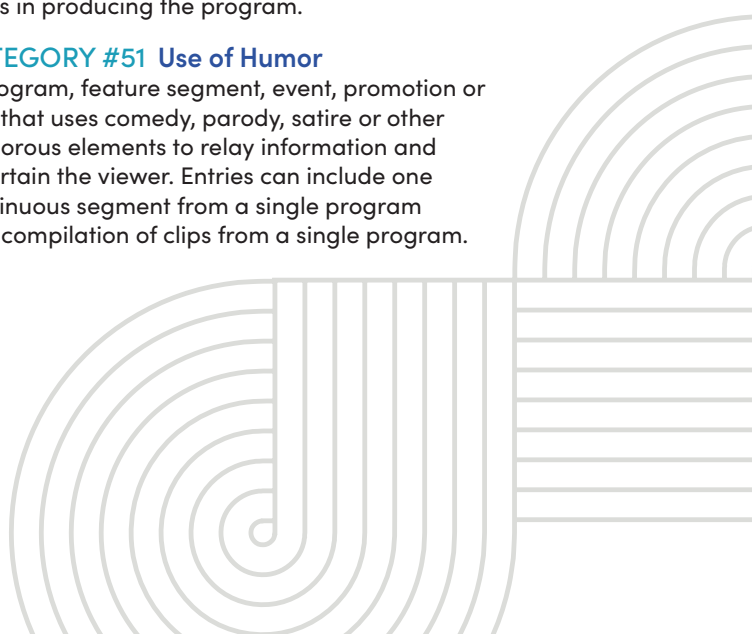
(Operating Budget Over $1,000,000)

Program, story or segment produced to promote general awareness of community programs, services and activities; i.e., beautification awards, crime prevention programs, economic development initiatives.

UPDATED CATEGORY #50 Partnership Production

Program, story, or segment produced for your organization either by hiring an outside production company, consultant or agency, or by partnering with another organization that helps in producing the program.

CATEGORY #51 Use of Humor

A program, feature segment, event, promotion or PSA that uses comedy, parody, satire or other humorous elements to relay information and entertain the viewer. Entries can include one continuous segment from a single program or a compilation of clips from a single program.

Social Media Categories

CATEGORY #52 Social Media - Short Form (Under 60 seconds)
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Creative, engaging, and innovative use of video designed for social media that delivers a clear message and focuses on storytelling, visuals, and impact. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

CATEGORY #53 Social Media - Short Form (Under 60 seconds)
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Creative, engaging, and innovative use of video designed for social media that delivers a clear message and focuses on storytelling, visuals, and impact. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

CATEGORY #54 Social Media - Long Form (Over 60 seconds)

Creative, engaging, and innovative use of video designed for social media that delivers a clear message and focuses on storytelling, visuals, and impact. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

CATEGORY #55 Social Media Campaign or Series

Connected series of video social media posts that showcase creativity, storytelling, and engagement on a single topic or event. Campaign can be cross-platform as long as the videos are significantly different. Entrants will need to provide links to each post in the campaign (minimum of 2). Entry description field should include a campaign overview. Entries must showcase a cohesive campaign and effective use of platform features (e.g., Stories, Reels, native analytics). (vertical video encouraged but not required)

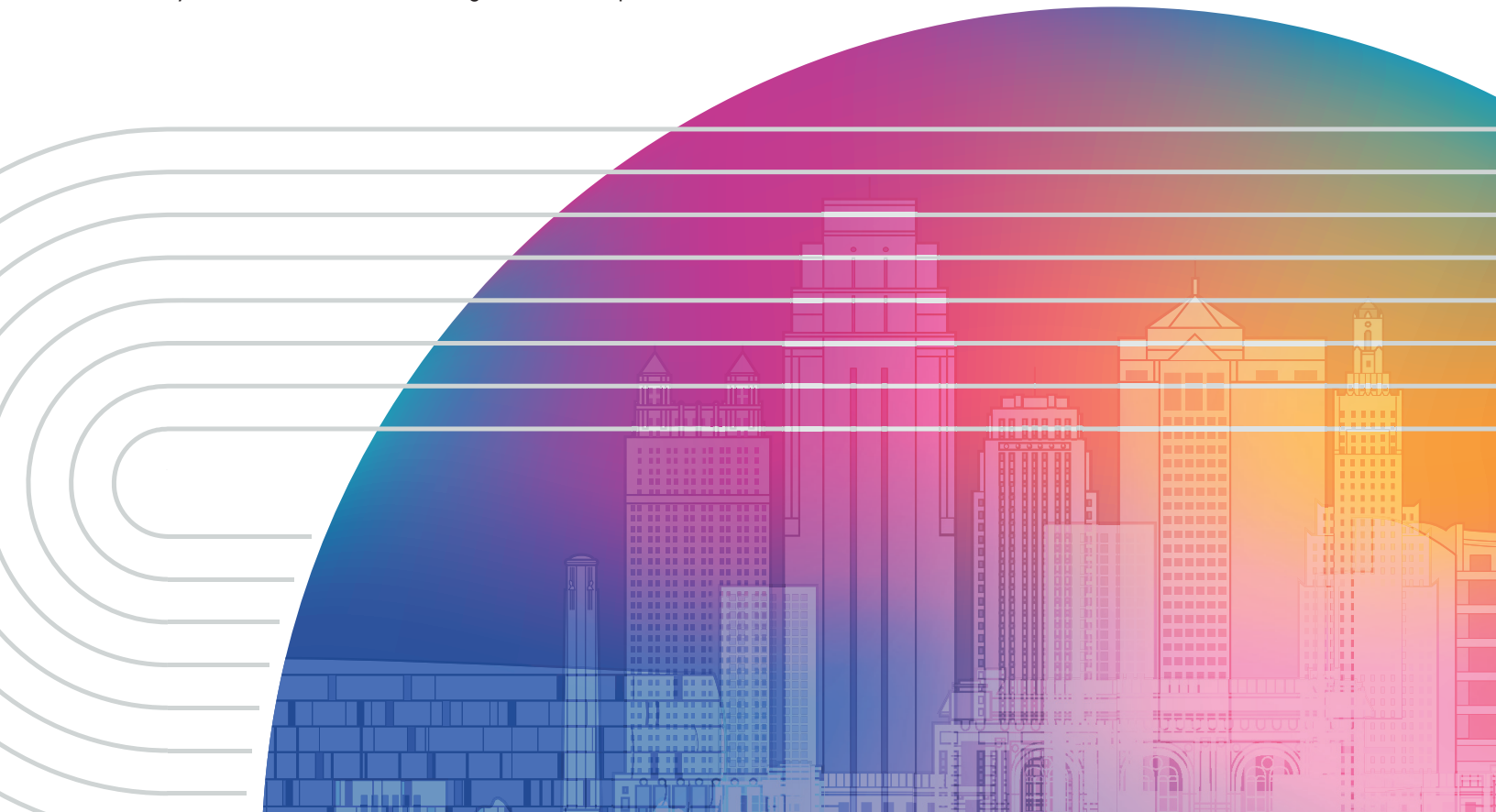## NEW! CATEGORY #56 Social Media – Collaboration

A social media program, post, or series created using a platform's collaboration features and produced in partnership with another social media account, department, agency, or community organization. This category celebrates collaborative content that leverages shared posting, cross audience reach, and unified storytelling to amplify impact and engagement. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

NEW! CATEGORY #57 Social Media – Event Promotion/Recap

A social media video created specifically for social platforms that promotes, highlights, or recaps a community event. Entries should demonstrate strong platform native storytelling, timely posting, and engaging visuals designed to capture attention, drive engagement, and connect audiences to the event experience. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

NEW! CATEGORY #58 Social Media – Best Use of Trending Features

Innovative and creative use of trending social media features, including trending audio, duets, reactions, pop culture references, or viral formats. This category highlights content that adapts trends to fit the organization's voice while boosting engagement, relevance, and audience connection. (vertical video encouraged but not required)

Series or Compilation Categories

Programs entered in these categories must be individual programs, stories or segments with the same title or theme that were produced on an on-going basis with at least three separately produced and scheduled episodes or segments within the awards year. **The entry must consist of one continuous excerpt from three (3) different programs or segments in the series. Each excerpt should not exceed five (5) minutes in length. A bridge of black or a slate description of the next excerpt must separate each segment. Entry should not exceed 15 minutes in total running time.**

CATEGORY #59 Public Information Series

Programs, stories or segments having a common theme throughout the series - such as health, public safety, lifestyle, gardening, etc.

UPDATED   CATEGORY #60 News or Magazine Series

Programs in this category may be submitted as either a News Series or a Magazine Format Series. Entries must include a composite of content from a minimum of three different episodes. Programming segments may include, but are not limited to, news features, sports, commentary, interviews, how-to segments, and other feature-style content.

Promotion/PSA Categories

CATEGORY #61 Event/Program Promotion
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Single spot **(not to exceed 2 minutes)** promoting a city, organization, community event or specific program on the channel. (horizontal entries only)

CATEGORY #62 Event/Program Promotion
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Single spot **(not to exceed two minutes)** promoting a city, organization, community event or specific program on the channel. (horizontal entries only)

CATEGORY #63 Public Service Announcement
(Operating Budget Under $350,000)

Single spot **(90 seconds maximum)** related to a local government agency supported or sponsored issue, topic, cause or service.

CATEGORY #64 Public Service Announcement
(Operating Budget Over $350,000)

Single spot **(90 seconds maximum)** related to a local government agency supported or sponsored issue, topic, cause or service.

CATEGORY #65 Public Service Announcement Campaign

A minimum of three spots **(not to exceed two minutes each in length)** that focuses on a single issue, topic or cause of a government related/sponsored community awareness effort.

Craft Categories

All entries in the Craft categories can include one continuous segment from a single program or a compilation of clips from a single or multiple programs. Entry should not exceed 10 minutes in length. The entry may be from any type of programming (i.e. documentary, PSA, news, public information, etc.).

CATEGORY #66 Videography

This award is intended to recognize excellence in the art and craft of videography. The entry should display a skillful use of framing, composition, camera moves, camera angles, use of on-camera filters, and creativity. NOTE: Entries displaying high levels of post-production effects are discouraged from entering this category and judges will be instructed to not consider these post-production elements when judging an entry. In your online entry in the DESCRIPTION BOX, explain how the video techniques enhanced the effectiveness of the program.

CATEGORY #67 Editing

This award is intended to recognize excellence in the art and craft of editing. The entry should display a skillful use of timing, transitions and creativity. NOTE: In your online entry in the DESCRIPTION BOX, explain how the editing techniques enhanced the effectiveness of the program.

CATEGORY #68 Visual Effects

For excellence in creating or manipulating imagery digitally and blending visual elements within a production. NOTE: Entry may include a before and after video to demonstrate the craft that might not be evident by only seeing the final product (ex. Removing a billboard, fixing a dent on a car bumper, adding trees to a landscape.) Other examples of entries could be animations, opens, effects and transitions within a story or program, logos, bumpers, station IDs. Include audio portion with entry.

CATEGORY #69 Storytelling

For excellence in a single story or series up to three video stories focused on storytelling through writing and/or photojournalism techniques.

CATEGORY #70 Talent

This award is intended to recognize excellence in on-camera talent for a team or single individual. Entry should represent talent in one (1) or more roles as commentator (i.e. sports, anchor, reporter, presenter/demonstrator, host, guest, spokesperson or actor). Only one entry per individual.

Overall Excellence Categories

Overall Excellence is intended to honor a government access station for serving its community through the variety of locally produced programming shown on the channel. **Requirements:** The entry must be one video consisting of excerpts from a minimum of 10 different programs (excerpts could include: programs, public meetings, PSAs, promos, programs designed specifically for social media, etc.) and have been cablecast/published between April 14, 2025 and April 12, 2026. The entry may not exceed 15 minutes in length and silent slates are mandatory and must separate the excerpts. The slates must consist of white letters on a black background and include the title and type of program (i.e., news, magazine, documentary, event, etc.). The slates can be up to 5 seconds in length and must be counted in the 15 minutes allowed. The entry may include segments of programs included in other categories. **No written summary of your channel is required.**

CATEGORY #71 Overall Excellence
(Operating Budget to $325,000)

CATEGORY #72 Overall Excellence
(Operating Budget $325,000 – $500,000)

CATEGORY #73 Overall Excellence
(Operating Budget $500,000 – $1,000,000)

CATEGORY #74 Overall Excellence
(Operating Budget over $1,000,000)

Call for Entries Deadline:
April 13, 2026

NATOA GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMING AWARDS Entry Form

THIS IS A SAMPLE ENTRY FORM ONLY. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.NATOA.ORG. DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR ENTRY.

MEMBER ENTRY FEES	NON-MEMBER ENTRY FEES
Categories 1- 65 Online Entry - $85 per entry	Categories 1- 65 Online Entry - $135 per entry
Categories 66-70 Online Entry - $75 per entry	Categories 66-70 Online Entry - $125 per entry
Categories 71-74 Online Entry - $95 per entry	Categories 71-74 Online Entry - $150 per entry

I hereby certify that I am authorized by the jurisdiction/organization below to make this entry and to give NATOA permission to exhibit and distribute this entry consistent with the language set forth in the Call for Entries brochure under Video Release. (NATOA assumes that the jurisdiction/non-profit has full rights to all material used in entries and accepts no liability in the matter.)

Name of Jurisdiction/Organization_____

Contact Name_____Contact Title_____

Address_____

City, State_____Zip_____

Telephone Number_____Fax Number_____

Email_____

Annual Operating Budget (see Eligibility Requirements)_____

Signature of Contact Named Above_____

Program Title_____

Program Category Number and Title_____

Briefly State Program Objective (approx. 25 words)_____

_____

_____

Year Channel/Facility Became Operational_____

Number of Production Staff (full-time equivalents)_____Number of Volunteers/Interns_____

Outside Production Facilities_____

Annual Production Operating Budget (See definition of Part I)_____

Number of Government Channels Under the Jurisdiction's Responsibility_____

List any alternative media your programming is shown on (Roku, Dish, Netflix, etc) _____

Are outside production resources used on any of the productions on this page?   ☐ YES   ☐ NO

If yes, please estimate the cost in the past year_____

What percentage of your productions are done in-house?_____

By Volunteers/Interns_____ By Outside Production Facilities_____

Which edit system does your channel use?_____

What type of cameras does your station use?_____

What type of productions do you produce?_____

What is your annual spending budget for equipment? _____

Entry URL_____

List the timecode of the clip that should be used for the GPA Awards video if a winner:_____

Call for Entries Deadline: April 13, 2026

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