

Support Low Power FM Radio

Low Power FM — or LPFM — stations are community-based nonprofit radio stations that broadcast at the local level to neighborhoods and small towns throughout the country.

Run by nonprofits like colleges, churches, schools, labor unions and other community groups, LPFM stations provide local coverage, information and perspectives that are not available anywhere else. These noncommercial stations are uniquely positioned to meet local needs by:

- Giving a voice to local groups and people who otherwise lack access to the media < radio the on music local Putting>
- Offering a platform for discussing local issues
- Providing news, information and viewpoints traditional media ignores
- Offering a training ground for students and others looking for a start in the radio business
- Strengthening neighborhood and community identity
- Issuing vital safety information during local emergencies

LPFM stations may have a limited broadcast range — they operate at 100 watts or less and have a broadcast reach of just a few miles — but their impact on local communities is immense. From the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts to Southwest Florida to the farming fields of the Pacific Northwest, LPFM stations are injecting a much-needed vibrancy into a radio dial gone stale from years of commercial consolidation.

Congress, the FCC and LPFM

After Congress first authorized LPFM stations in 2000, the Federal Communications Commission began to issue LPFM licenses, awarding more than 800 licenses to civil rights organizations, schools and church groups across the country. Read more about LPFM success stories [here](#).

Soon after, Congress — under pressure from big-media lobbyists — passed a misguided piece of legislation that radically reduced the radio spectrum available to LPFM stations. This action was a response to claims that LPFMs would interfere with signals from full-power radio stations. Since then, thousands of applications for LPFM licenses have been blocked, preventing local communities from launching their own LPFM stations.

Congress ordered the FCC to study the issue, and in 2003, the FCC released a \$2 million study — known as the "Mitre Report" — which found that increasing the number of LPFM stations would not interfere with full-power stations. The FCC then urged Congress to repeal the LPFM restrictions.

Local Community Radio Act

On Dec. 18, 2010, [jQuery1336423112371="28">Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act](#), which promises to open the radio dial to thousands of new LPFM stations across the country, bringing fresh music, local perspectives and community news to the public airwaves.

President Obama signed the bill into law in early 2011.

Find out more about LPFM and community radio from the [Prometheus Radio Project](#).