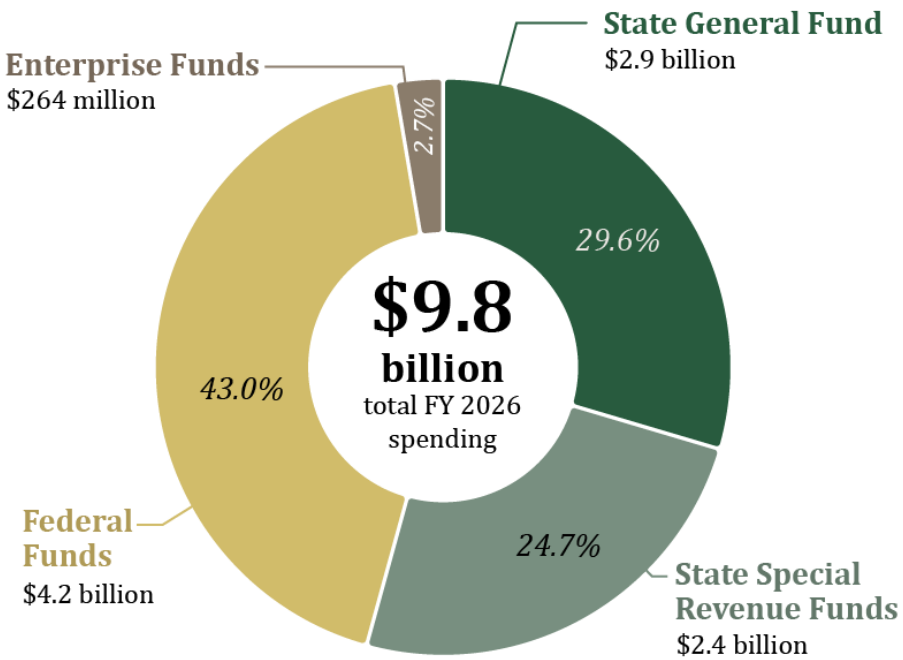
State of Montana Expenditures, Fiscal Year 2026

Federal funds represented 43.0% of state resource spending



Source: Legislative Fiscal Division state resource data.

The state of Montana spent a total of $9.8 billion over the course of Fiscal Year 2026, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Of that amount, slightly less than a third came from the state general fund, 29.6%. A larger share of 43.0% came from federal sources.

Most of the federal funding that flows through the state budget is for health and human services programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Federal funding also supports state highway construction and K-12 education support, among other programs.

The general fund is the state's general-purpose spending account, supported by revenue from income taxes and other sources and used to pay for programs such as state-funded health programs, the state prison system, and state support for local school districts. In contrast, state special revenue funds are used to manage specific-purpose funds such as hunting license fees and gas taxes collected for highway maintenance. The use of these funds is restricted by state law for a defined purpose. State special revenue funds were utilized for 24.7% of spending in FY 2026.

The fourth funding category, enterprise funds, are used to track spending from business-like activities such as the state lottery and the state's liquor warehouse. Instead of relying on tax revenue, enterprise funds are typically self-supporting, meaning their expenses are paid for by revenues generated from their services. Those funds represented 2.7% of spending in FY 2026.

The expenditure figures used here are calculated using the state resources definition outlined in state finance statute. This definition excludes internal fund transfers to avoid double-counting when funding is transferred within state government before being spent externally. It also excludes spending managed separately from the state budget, such as expenditures from funds generated by the Montana University System.

This week's chart figures include spending authorized by 2025's General Appropriations Act (HB 2), as well as funds appropriated by other bills and permanent statutes.

More information on the state budgeting and the associated terminology is available via LFD's guide Understanding State Finances & the Budgeting Process.