

MONTANA COMPETITIVE GRANTS OVERVIEW

2010-2025

2025-2026 Local Government Interim Committee



LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES
DIVISION

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

This overview is an excerpt from a larger multistate analysis comparing competitive grant dollars obtained from the federal government presented to the Local Government Interim Committee at their April 2nd, 2026, meeting.³ This analysis is intended to be used as a companion product to the “Grants by program and population statistics” and “Unfiltered competitive grant data” presented at the committee’s meeting on April 2nd, 2026. Both documents are available on the committee webpage.⁴ For a .xlsx version of either dataset please reach out to Maxwell Parson at Maxwell.parson@legmt.gov or (406)-444-1285. Areas examined in this analysis focus on questions raised by committee members throughout the interim. For additional background, the full multistate analysis, and previous discussions regarding federal grants please visit the committee webpage.*

ASSUMPTIONS & DATA LIMITATIONS

Federal reporting and accounting practices for outlays — the total amount actually received from a grant — were only unified in 2022. Prior years data is often incomplete; to remedy this, obligations — the maximum amount an entity could receive from a grant — are used instead. All data grant data is from USASpending.gov.

Federal Grants are not specifically divided into separate sections based on their area of effect. To make the data more consumable each grant is sorted into a bucket based on its parent program. For a full breakdown see Additional Resources.

The federal government does not mark a grant as “competitive” or “noncompetitive.” To manage this limitation a script was utilized that identified a variety of factors and assigned a “competitiveness score” for each grant. A full breakdown is available in “Additional Resources”.

³ <https://www.legmt.gov/committees/interim/lgic/previous-materials/>

⁴ <https://www.legmt.gov/committees/interim/lgic/studies-topics/#HJ-28>

MONTANA 2010-2025

TABLE 1: MONTANA COMPETITIVE GRANTS BY AREA

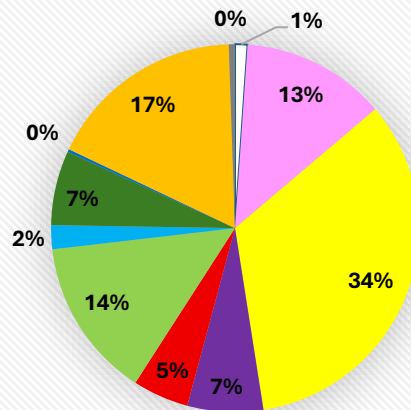
Year	Total	Gov. Functions	Tribal Exclusive Funding	Infrastructure	Social Services	Healthcare	Higher Ed & Research
2010	\$61,548,879.90	\$132,848.23	\$961,106.62	\$16,423,269.00	\$0.00	\$2,708,760.00	\$32,340,360.80
2011	\$141,772,864.37	\$395,917.61	\$13,563,343.92	\$11,112,023.00	\$13,627,040.01	\$7,590,386.00	\$26,507,208.46
2012	\$645,980,102.79	\$4,342,232.40	\$422,254,762.30	\$31,409,292.06	\$21,578,598.43	\$2,612,496.00	\$96,633,189.92
2013	\$248,962,215.05	\$314,706.09	\$12,851,639.95	\$89,835,005.60	\$7,023,092.33	\$22,868,307.00	\$27,823,883.78
2014	\$230,154,656.48	\$1,489,668.12	\$12,145,339.00	\$17,315,948.00	\$27,513,366.32	\$730,176.00	\$75,054,458.10
2015	\$414,963,148.14	\$8,313,234.57	\$29,918,229.06	\$75,885,546.29	\$33,556,636.94	\$8,358,835.00	\$84,467,644.50
2016	\$281,490,308.53	\$3,024,333.93	\$55,657,309.39	\$55,183,474.57	\$22,262,633.12	\$8,049,478.88	\$59,403,266.94
2017	\$303,097,559.95	\$3,191,092.04	\$11,612,897.07	\$77,698,473.39	\$10,298,390.05	\$4,281,362.00	\$44,285,466.14
2018	\$336,204,788.94	\$6,021,615.38	\$30,226,694.65	\$64,910,220.56	\$63,225,246.39	\$7,224,351.38	\$76,504,830.07
2019	\$379,058,327.13	\$4,525,389.49	\$16,053,479.57	\$80,920,304.47	\$45,698,333.83	\$3,130,088.36	\$63,134,740.53
2020	\$890,199,436.92	\$5,672,592.62	\$16,335,339.87	\$288,254,158.18	\$38,879,121.16	\$204,287,345.17	\$156,718,594.74
2021	\$536,464,974.20	\$2,743,386.22	\$49,048,028.97	\$173,692,130.36	\$37,062,148.01	\$42,697,643.03	\$68,649,301.53
2022	\$596,437,771.82	\$6,801,350.07	\$126,473,234.88	\$214,804,918.50	\$33,994,173.04	\$4,384,339.54	\$82,717,397.02
2023	\$1,200,670,508.10	\$7,568,635.96	\$93,402,986.22	\$780,757,250.28	\$47,734,197.50	\$25,772,048.40	\$59,987,282.90
2024	\$512,555,195.84	\$18,574,905.85	\$10,968,654.00	\$216,143,264.42	\$49,329,684.76	\$8,523,301.00	\$54,100,280.93
2025	\$608,151,651.03	\$7,599,857.00	\$38,179,994.00	\$295,983,703.03	\$40,409,343.00	\$10,770,448.00	\$29,478,850.00
Total	\$7,387,712,389.19	\$80,711,765.58	\$939,653,039.47	\$2,490,328,981.71	\$492,192,004.89	\$363,989,365.76	\$1,037,806,756.36

Year	Economic Assistance	Environmental Resources	Humanities	Education	Agriculture	Total Per Capita
2010	\$0.00	\$8,982,535.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.12
2011	\$0.00	\$3,214,427.00	\$0.00	\$65,762,518.37	\$0.00	\$142.13
2012	\$2,842,198.61	\$14,890,392.18	\$0.00	\$49,416,940.89	\$0.00	\$643.30
2013	\$20,181,536.21	\$9,389,016.83	\$39,730.00	\$58,635,297.26	\$0.00	\$245.49
2014	\$15,445,263.28	\$9,284,087.96	\$0.00	\$71,176,349.70	\$0.00	\$225.06
2015	\$818,441.00	\$17,095,955.51	\$847,450.95	\$155,561,174.32	\$140,000.00	\$402.29
2016	\$4,648,629.09	\$20,241,355.56	\$924,370.00	\$51,365,278.05	\$730,179.00	\$270.11
2017	\$5,034,948.96	\$39,069,137.33	\$1,036,418.01	\$102,388,973.58	\$4,200,401.38	\$287.61
2018	\$2,206,939.35	\$26,290,575.75	\$1,018,286.51	\$58,332,873.90	\$243,155.00	\$316.63
2019	\$2,499,774.47	\$34,807,413.60	\$1,820,501.70	\$126,241,327.19	\$226,973.92	\$354.22
2020	\$29,110,656.70	\$17,374,550.46	\$1,662,247.38	\$127,031,477.23	\$4,873,353.41	\$818.78
2021	\$9,761,191.00	\$25,729,845.40	\$2,192,764.09	\$115,333,316.27	\$9,555,219.32	\$484.82
2022	\$16,468,247.50	\$51,110,383.32	\$1,523,166.05	\$51,449,739.00	\$6,710,822.90	\$531.54
2023	\$4,403,875.00	\$67,391,827.07	\$2,086,833.05	\$104,030,771.00	\$7,534,800.72	\$1,061.32
2024	\$19,867,983.00	\$52,500,181.88	\$3,188,802.00	\$76,419,163.00	\$2,938,975.00	\$450.70
2025	\$22,092,012.00	\$86,078,919.00	\$2,214,794.00	\$72,404,756.00	\$2,938,975.00	\$531.28
Total	\$155,381,696.17	\$483,450,604.10	\$18,555,363.74	\$1,285,549,955.76	\$40,092,855.65	N/A

TABLE 2: MONTANA COMPETITIVE GRANTS, SELECTED SAMPLES

Year	Tribal Obligations per Tribal Member pop.	Infrastructure Obligations per Mile of Federal Highway	Environmental Obligations per Acre of Federal Land	Higher Ed Obligations per FTE Student pop.
2010	\$15.59	\$701.19	\$0.33	\$831.18
2011	\$203.52	\$474.39	\$0.12	\$648.21
2012	\$6,481.47	\$1,335.88	\$0.55	\$2,371.48
2013	\$185.67	\$3,818.54	\$0.35	\$692.67
2014	\$173.42	\$736.07	\$0.34	\$1,903.58
2015	\$459.53	\$3,225.74	\$0.63	\$2,185.28
2016	\$840.35	\$2,346.24	\$0.75	\$1,565.22
2017	\$178.91	\$3,306.74	\$1.44	\$1,163.02
2018	\$444.43	\$2,759.44	\$0.97	\$2,047.01
2019	\$237.47	\$3,442.25	\$1.28	\$1,735.66
2020	\$249.31	\$12,268.22	\$0.64	\$4,445.67
2021	\$767.62	\$7,384.24	\$0.95	\$2,051.74
2022	\$2,098.90	\$9,131.31	\$1.88	\$2,455.62
2023	\$1,466.46	\$33,187.00	\$2.48	\$1,774.19
2024	\$178.21	No Data	\$1.93	\$1,567.99
2025	No Data	No Data	No Data	\$835.45

Area of effect



- Gov. Functions
- Tribal Funding
- Infrastructure
- Social Services
- Healthcare
- Higher Ed
- Economic assistance
- Environmental
- Humanities
- Education
- Agriculture

MULTISTATE COMPARISONS

TABLE 3: TOTAL YEARLY COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Year	Idaho	Montana	North Dakota	South Dakota	Utah	Wyoming
2010	\$121,034,870.82	\$61,548,879.90	\$43,586,967.24	\$43,982,334.50	\$100,666,816.39	\$28,864,834.47
2011	\$85,371,866.66	\$141,772,864.37	\$96,432,139.08	\$131,950,974.62	\$181,068,084.22	\$62,175,640.36
2012	\$203,848,462.37	\$645,980,102.79	\$613,484,301.28	\$740,988,432.12	\$230,066,166.48	\$199,315,707.26
2013	\$96,784,983.44	\$248,962,215.05	\$221,783,122.93	\$191,809,034.36	\$191,246,220.86	\$74,190,066.46
2014	\$138,509,989.66	\$230,154,656.48	\$164,398,357.53	\$215,281,382.17	\$256,895,600.16	\$83,411,357.60
2015	\$248,592,296.69	\$414,963,148.14	\$247,770,992.48	\$249,866,236.41	\$376,771,587.89	\$86,031,609.75
2016	\$238,081,598.15	\$281,490,308.53	\$247,272,843.13	\$232,824,723.78	\$363,509,042.40	\$151,169,449.27
2017	\$195,132,130.59	\$303,097,559.95	\$274,849,495.92	\$173,417,584.93	\$416,151,148.06	\$150,339,803.41
2018	\$236,865,000.37	\$336,204,788.94	\$215,596,541.63	\$190,743,772.18	\$488,940,378.51	\$123,892,753.00
2019	\$283,074,826.32	\$378,831,353.21	\$296,577,077.32	\$371,978,836.91	\$431,500,232.82	\$140,358,866.47
2020	\$584,206,772.64	\$885,553,057.43	\$748,203,717.61	\$474,725,534.09	\$1,045,239,029.23	\$436,100,992.31
2021	\$328,043,489.43	\$531,783,108.29	\$347,996,600.83	\$402,654,428.37	\$688,441,548.12	\$237,310,244.11
2022	\$959,638,680.82	\$599,282,168.24	\$370,126,206.70	\$421,054,629.02	\$649,734,080.75	\$243,288,758.78
2023	\$736,654,851.12	\$1,199,846,530.28	\$652,705,735.31	\$668,287,746.22	\$778,164,941.00	\$552,431,335.93
2024	\$397,505,206.43	\$517,151,021.56	\$550,696,130.26	\$497,351,262.92	\$798,584,716.01	\$228,111,630.04
2025	\$332,311,077.48	\$608,151,651.03	\$343,093,631.78	\$503,321,432.27	\$763,472,527.90	\$213,387,646.29

TABLE 4: COMPETITIVE GRANTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GRANT OBLIGATIONS

Year	Idaho	Montana	North Dakota	South Dakota	Utah	Wyoming
2010	34%	27%	32%	40%	18%	9%
2011	16%	32%	28%	35%	38%	14%
2012	45%	70%	76%	88%	26%	39%
2013	16%	29%	41%	67%	19%	18%
2014	19%	24%	23%	32%	20%	20%
2015	10%	17%	14%	19%	10%	8%
2016	8%	11%	13%	10%	10%	11%
2017	7%	10%	13%	11%	10%	10%
2018	8%	10%	11%	12%	12%	10%
2019	9%	11%	15%	16%	9%	10%
2020	15%	22%	28%	21%	17%	27%
2021	7%	12%	12%	13%	9%	12%
2022	18%	14%	13%	16%	10%	13%
2023	14%	24%	22%	24%	12%	26%
2024	8%	13%	21%	18%	12%	12%
2025	7%	13%	14%	19%	11%	15%
Total	11%	16%	19%	20%	12%	15%

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

AREAS OF EFFECT

Federal grants are organized by a “parent” program. However, these programs are not explicitly tied to an area of effect. To remedy this, each parent program is organized into one of 11 “buckets.” Below are the buckets as well as an example of what types of grants are included in each.

- Government Affairs:
 - o Includes funds for justice system, military, and taxation projects
- Tribal exclusive funding:
 - o Includes funds that are only available to Tribal entities
- Infrastructure and associated projects:
 - o Includes traditional infrastructure such as roads and bridges as well as broadband expansion, fire fighter preparedness (non-wildfire), and pipeline repair and replacement
- Social Services:
 - o Includes funds for nutrition assistance, homelessness, and elder assistance
- Healthcare:
 - o Includes funds for vaccinations, public health, and healthcare workers
- Higher Ed and Research:
 - o Includes funds for research and direct payments to institutions
- Economic Assistance:
 - o Includes funds for job training and business development
- Environmental resources:
 - o Includes funds for forest management, endangered species, and wildfire
- Humanities:
 - o Includes funding for the arts and volunteer programs
- Education:
 - o Includes funding for K-12 institutions
- Agriculture:
 - o Includes funds for specialty crops, pest control, and animal care

COMPETITIVENESS RANKINGS

The federal government does not uniformly indicate whether a grant is competitive but instead provides additional information in the original posting. Due to federal data retention policies not all of these postings are still available. To navigate this, two aspects of each grant are examined. First, whether it was a block grant, formulaic grant, or a project grant. Second, the original posting language for all grants for which it is available is analyzed and flagged when one or more of the following terms appears: "competitive," "merit," "peer review," "discretionary," "nofo," "foa," "rfp," and "funding opportunity." These terms generally indicate that a grant is competitive.

Grants that were project grants and had the above language were classified as “competitive;” project grants without the language were classified as “likely competitive;” non-project grants that did contain the language were classified as “potentially competitive;” and non-project grants without the above language were classified as “non-competitive” and were not used in this analysis. Grants that did not have a type were classified as “inconclusive” and were also excluded from this analysis.

SOURCES

Montana

- Population: FRED.stlouisfed.org. “Resident Population in Montana (MTPOP).” March 26, 2026. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MTPOP>
- Student Population: Montana University System. “MT University System Enrollment by Institution.” March 26, 2025. <https://www.mus.edu/data/dashboards/FTE-enrollments.html>