



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Federal funding update
Date: June 1, 2025

We continue to closely monitor the status of federal funding awards and agreements. These dollars accounted for 19% of the Montana State Library's Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States funding

- As of June 1, the Montana State Library (MSL) has requested the remainder of our Fiscal Year 2024 Grants to States award. These dollars are budgeted to be spent by June 30, 2025.
- On June 2, IMLS informed MSL our allotment for FY 2025 is \$1,424,093 or about \$3,000 less than the FY 2024 award. According to IMLS, MSL should receive the official award notification in the next week or so. These dollars are spent in state FY 2026 and must be spent by September 2026.
- Information about the status of IMLS funds is available online at: [Federal Library Funds at Work](#).

Natural Resource Information Systems federal funding

- Over 30% the funds for the Water Information System and the Montana Natural Heritage Program come through agreements from federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Bonneville Power Administration.
- The current state fiscal year agreement with the BLM funds was briefly paused earlier this year however MSL has since received authority to resume spending.
- Other current state fiscal year dollars are secure.
- The Montana NRCS office has proposed a renewal of the five-year agreement with the Montana State Library that would begin in FY 2026, and the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service have proposed funding through state fiscal year

2026. This funding requires final approval from federal offices in Washington and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

- The USGS Data Collaboration Announcement (DCA) is expected to open for applications in late 2025, but currently has no dedicated budget.
- Federal partners have also expressed that there is currently too much uncertainty to begin to discuss renewals to agreements that extend beyond FY 2026, though this would typically be the period when we would begin to negotiate those agreements.
- Information about the status of federal natural resource information funds is available online at: [Federal Natural Resources Funds at Work](#).

The Education Interim Budget Committee intends to monitor the availability of federal funds throughout the interim. They would like education agencies to report on the status of federal funds, the budget line items funded by federal dollars, the potential impact of the loss of federal funds, and the perceived level of threat to federal funds.

Finally, the Governor's Office and the Legislature continue to monitor the status of federal funding. [House Bill 863](#) stipulates triggers that would result in a special legislative session to consider how to address the loss of funds.