



Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF)

What is it?

The IWF is an account in the state's Special Revenue Fund used to hold money collected from phone calls and canteen purchases. (At no time are these funds intermingled with the DOC's general budget.) Money in this account includes \$23,000/month received as part of the Montana Department of Corrections' contract with its communications provider, CenturyLink.

Funds from the account are distributed among Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison and Pine Hills Correctional Facility based on phone and canteen usage at each facility. Crossroads Correctional Center, Dawson County Correctional Facility and Great Falls Regional Prison also have IWF accounts, but do not receive funds from the DOC's contract with CenturyLink as each of those facilities has its own communications provider.

The chart below demonstrates revenue collected and how the funds were expended in 2019 through 2021. Funds expended in 2020 were higher than normal due to inmate needs related to COVID-19.

How is the money used?

The funds in this account are used for the benefit of inmates and their families as provided for under MCA 53-1-109. Items and services purchased with this money are not allocated for in funding the DOC receives through the Montana Legislature. Past purchases have included recreation equipment, Netflix subscriptions, hobby supplies, kits for indigent inmates, pool tables, release assistance (rent), burial costs for inmates, updates to basketball court floors, a welding simulator, and more.

Who decides how the money is used?

Teams comprised of designated facility staff and inmate IWF representatives meet regularly and vote on how the funds should be used as provided for by statute.

Expenditure Explanation

Personal Services – officer wages to supervise inmates when attending funerals in the community and visits by inmate family members.

Inmate Workers – hourly wages for inmate workers.

Contracted Services – Netflix subscriptions, access to Lexis-Nexis, inmate burial costs, kits for indigent inmates

Supplies and Materials – Games, supplies for American Indian religious ceremonies, hobby supplies, funds applied to inmate commissary accounts during COVID-19, etc.

Communications – Postage (indigent inmates, sending gifts, books to children of inmates), HiSet program transcripts, library books

Travel – Costs for inmate travel for funeral attendance and death bed visits by inmate families

Rent – Printers for inmate use (leased from a vendor)

Repair and Maintenance – Renovation of basketball court floors, repair of recreational equipment

Other expenses – Rent assistance for inmates upon release, television services, sex offender treatment services, industry programs

Equipment – Gym equipment, pool tables, welding simulator

Expenditures	2019	2020	2021
Personal Services	\$13,800.13	\$15,937.46	\$6,085.61
Inmate Workers	\$41,443.01	\$49,384.11	\$30,496.89
Contracted Services	\$10,086.00	\$9,951.23	\$7,156.96
Supplies & Materials	\$295,506.44	\$452,637.02	\$449,001.81
Communications	\$6,767.69	\$5,490.62	\$3,237.69
Travel	\$1,401.00	\$549.50	\$1,717.39
Rent	\$1,289.00	\$960.00	\$295.50
Repair & Maintenance	\$4,078.78	\$5,566.79	\$2,007.24
Other Expenses	\$212,951.53	\$193,734.48	\$194,251.49
Equipment	\$0.00	\$90,908.54	\$68,655.00
TOTAL Expenditures	\$587,323.58	\$825,119.75	\$762,905.58
REVENUE Available	\$609,472.59	\$566,265.28	\$774,711.33

*Revenue represented above includes only the amount collected each year, not cash balances from previous years.