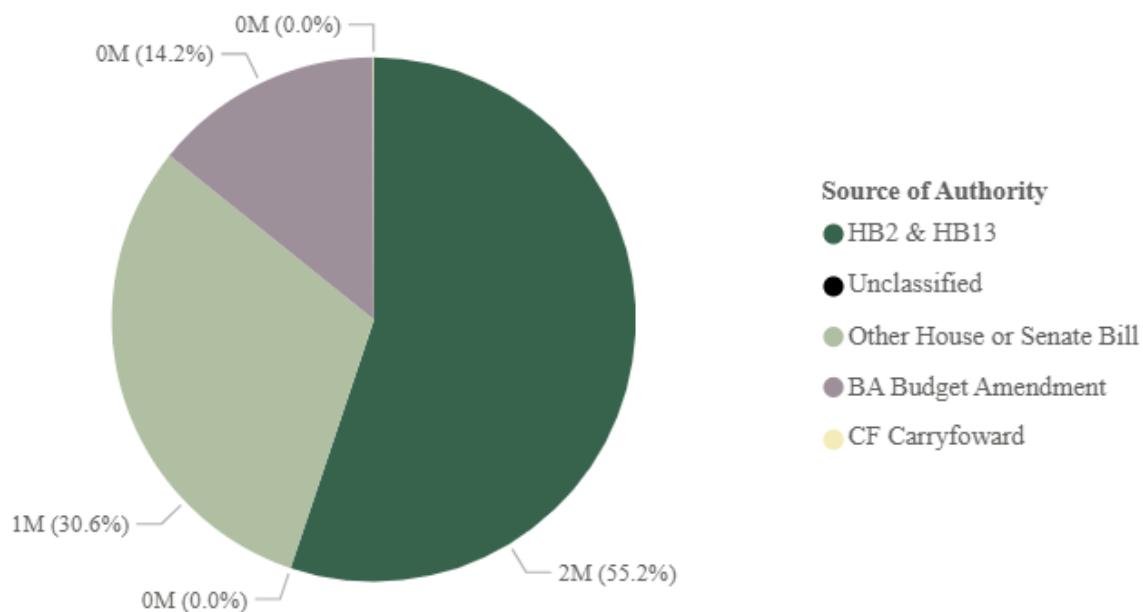


MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

TOTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The total appropriation authority for the Montana Arts Council is shown in the pie chart below. HB 2 and HB 13 provide 55.2% of the total authority for this agency. All types of appropriation authority for this agency are described below, including total budget and the percent expended by source of authority.

Total Modified Budget by Source of Authority



Source of Authority	Modified Budget	Expenditure	% Expenditure
HB2 & HB13	2M	926,421	53.9%
BA Budget Amendment	0M	230,047	52.0%
CF Carryforward	0M	1,299	100.0%
Other House or Senate Bill	1M	953,500	
Unclassified	0M	50	
Total	3,115,014	1,157,767	37.2%

Budget Amendments

Budget amendment authority for the Montana Arts Council comes from federal National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) State & Regional Partnership Agreement grants. These budget amendments increase federal grant fund spending authority if the amount of NEA grants award exceeds HB 2 appropriations. The NEA grants award can be used for operations and grants to arts-related activities, so the budget amendment is split between those two categories as needed. As of November 30, 2025, the Montana Arts Council expended 52.0% of the approximately \$442,000 of budget amendment authority. The agency has two budget amendments for the NEA grants awards – one that expires in December 2025 and another that expires in December 2026. As of November 30, 2025, the agency expended 63.4% and 50.3%, respectively, of those grants awards.

Carryforward Authority

The Montana Arts Council has carryforward authority of approximately \$1,300, which is less than 0.1% of the total appropriation authority. As of November 30, 2025, the agency spent 100.0% of this authority on Strategic Investment Grants – microgrants for artists and teachers to pursue professional development and arts-related activities. Grant applications are reviewed monthly to provide quick turnaround to artists and organizations applying for funding.

Other Bills

The approximate \$954,000 authority in other bills is primarily comprised of funding for cultural and aesthetic projects from HB 9 (2025 Session). The funding is appropriated from the cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund to the Montana Arts Council to disburse to state cultural and artistic agencies for the 2027 biennium. The agency has not spent any of that authority thus far, which is normal – the agency reports that it generally does not spend any of its HB 9 appropriation before January of the first fiscal year of the biennium.

Unclassified

The Montana Arts Council has unclassified appropriation authority of \$50 because of lower workers' compensation premiums. Per 39-71-403(1)(b)(iv), MCA, when workers' compensation premiums are lower than the previous year, state agencies shall reduce personal services appropriations by the amount of the premium reduction. The reductions are included in the accounting system as unclassified authority that will not be spent by the agency.

HB 2 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

The following chart shows the HB 2 budget as passed by the legislature, including the pay plan, and the HB modified budget from July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025. Net modifications to the budget include operating plan changes from one expenditure account to another, program transfers, reorganizations, and agency transfers of authority. The [positive modifications](#) and [negative modifications](#) are shown by program, expenditure account, and fund type.

Legislative Budget Compared to Modified Budget - HB 2 Only

Agency Name	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
Montana Arts Council	1,718,140	1,718,090	-50
Total	1,718,140	1,718,090	-50
<hr/>			
Expenditure Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
61000 Personal Services	794,115	794,065	-50
62000 Operating Expenses	311,296	311,296	0
66000 Grants	567,238	567,238	0
69000 Debt Service	45,491	45,491	0
Total	1,718,140	1,718,090	-50
<hr/>			
Fund Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
01 General	680,402	680,384	-18
02 State/Other Spec Rev	228,451	228,439	-12
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	809,287	809,267	-20
Total	1,718,140	1,718,090	-50

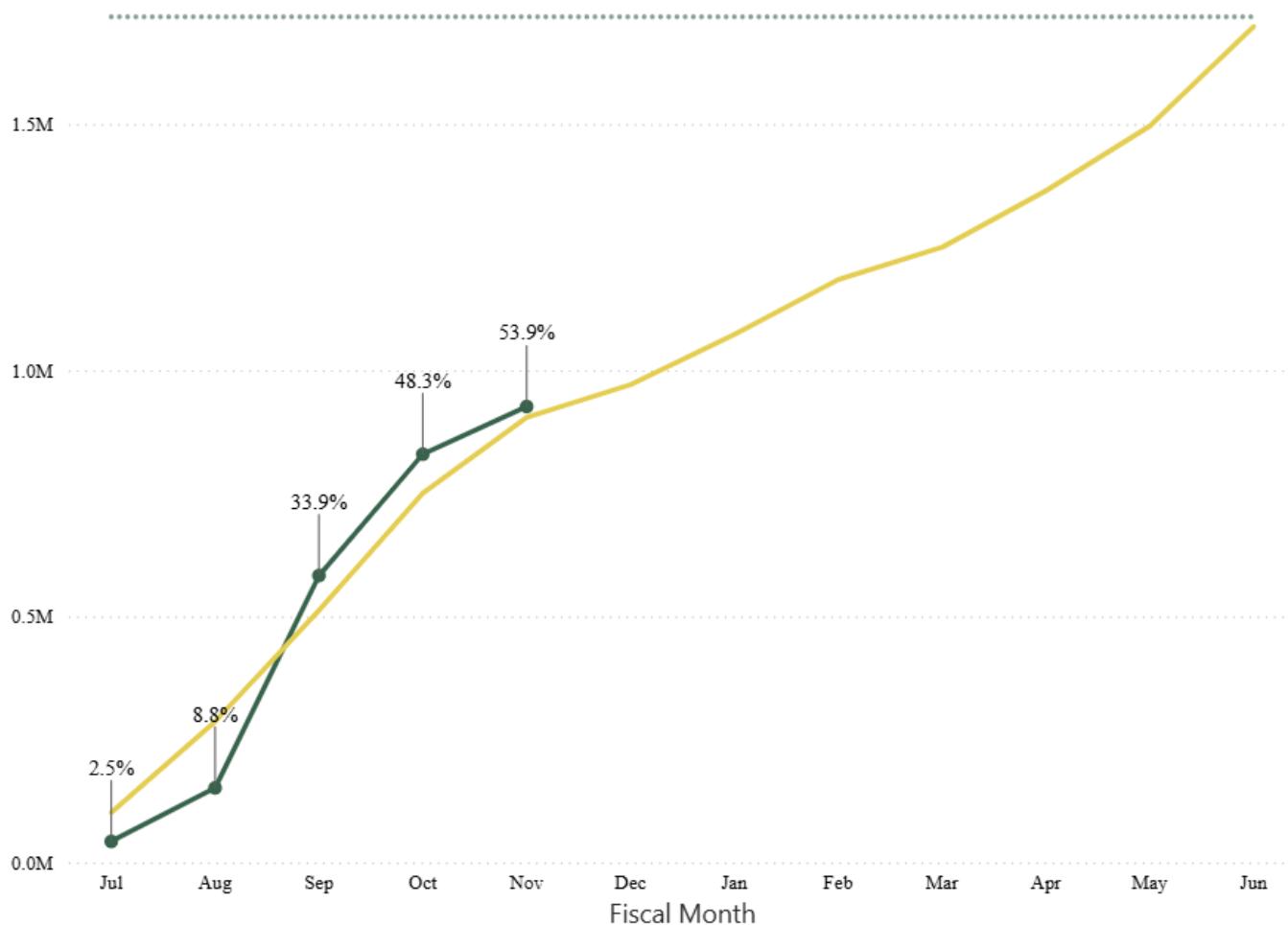
The Montana Arts Council's FY 2026 modified budget totals approximately \$1.7 million. Net modifications to the budget amount to a \$50 reduction due to lower workers' compensation premiums.

HB 2 APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The following chart shows the appropriated budget for the agency compared to expenditures through November 30, 2025.

Monthly Expenditures Compared to Historical Average

● FY 2026 Budget ● Cumulative Monthly FY 2026 Expenditures ● Cumulative Historical Monthly Average Expended



Program Name	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ 01 PROMOTION OF THE ARTS	1,718,090	926,421	53.9%
Total	1,718,090	926,421	53.9%
 Expenditure Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ Personal Services	794,065	299,164	37.7%
⊕ Operating Expenses	311,296	81,864	26.3%
⊕ Grants	567,238	522,647	92.1%
⊕ Debt Service	45,491	22,746	50.0%
Total	1,718,090	926,421	53.9%
 Fund Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
⊕ 01 General	680,384	363,100	53.4%
⊕ 02 State/Other Spec Rev	228,439	80,471	35.2%
⊕ 03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	809,267	482,850	59.7%
Total	1,718,090	926,421	53.9%

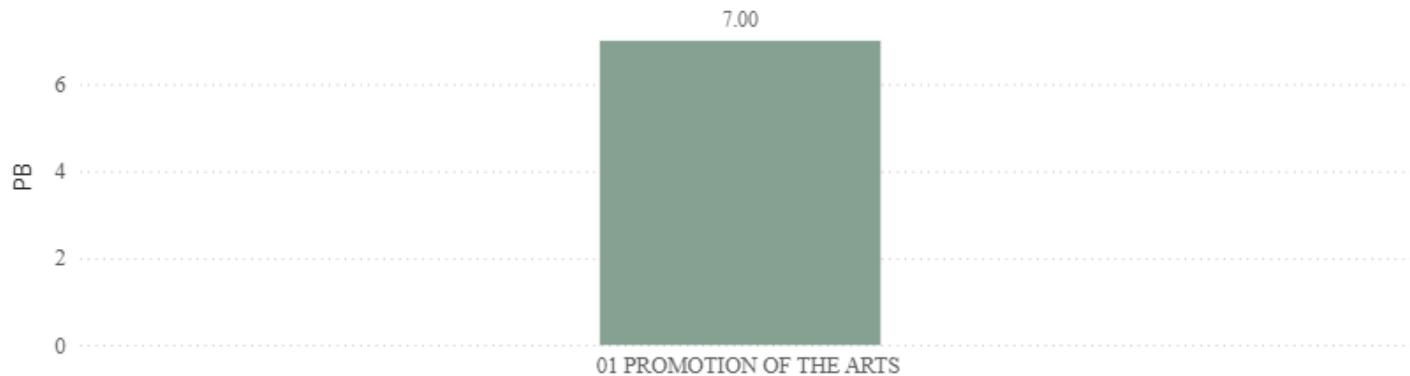
The Montana Arts Council expended 53.9% of its approximately \$1.7 million HB 2 modified budget through November 30, 2025. This is in line with its 5-year Olympic average of 52.6%.

Slightly higher-than-average expenditures for this point in the fiscal year are largely driven by grants spending. As of November 30, 2025, the agency spent 92.1% of its modified grants budget. The agency typically disburses its grant funding in the first half of the fiscal year to allow grantees maximum time to work, collect data, and submit final reports, thus accounting for the high expenditures in grants. The timing of grants disbursement and the December 31, 2025 funding expiration date for one National Endowment for the Arts grants award accounts for the agency spending 59.7% of its federal special revenue at this point in the fiscal year.

Personal Services

Appropriations for personal services in the Montana Arts Council total approximately \$794,000 and are 37.7% expended through November 30, 2025. The following chart shows the filled and vacant positions budgeted (PB) within the agency as of November 1, 2025. At this point in time, the department had 7.00 HB 2 PB and 100.0% of these positions were filled.

Position Status • Filled



The chart below shows the hourly utilization percentage, when compared to the available hours, for the Montana Arts Council for each fiscal year since FY 2021. The agency utilized 99.6% of the hours budgeted through November 1, 2025.

