



MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNT (MECA) BUDGET REPORT

REPORT OVERVIEW

Board Meeting: May 21, 2026
Reporting Period: Through April 30, 2026
State Fiscal Year: 2026

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

TABLE 1: REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS

Category	Amount
Beginning Revenue Balance	\$10,000,000
Appropriated Authority (SFY 2026)	\$7,500,000

TABLE 2: EXPENDITURES TO DATE

Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 50,105.73
Operating Expenses	\$ 4,300.07
Contracted Services	\$ 0.00
Direct Services	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 54,405.80

TABLE 3: REMANING BALANCE

Category	Amount
Remaining Revenue Balance	\$ 9,935,602.37
Remaining Appropriation Balance	\$ 7,445,594.20



KEY FINANCIAL NOTES

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Six pay periods remain to be posted in SFY 2026. In SFY 2027, a full 12 months have been projected. The total anticipated cost for the full year is \$150,458.22.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Rent/office lease expenditures for JAN-APR26 have posted. For SFY 2027, we are projecting a full 12 months of rent. The total anticipated cost for the full year will be \$6,811,66. The board agreed to have in-person quarterly meetings held in Helena MT. DPHHS will reimburse out-of-town board members for travel expenditures that may include mileage, meal per diem, and hotel and in SFY 2027 we are projecting \$7,138.00.

The board has obligated two activities under the Quality Improvement Initiatives in SFY 2027: Technology and Special Needs Training Support for one time funding, spending up to \$1.5 million and expand upon Early Childhood Systems Research through a vendor called Child Trends spending up to \$200,000 (for more information regarding the two activities, please see April 16th board meeting minutes). DPHHS staff has since submitted the necessary paperwork to be routed through the procurement process.

INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs will be deducted from the revenue (cash) balance, but the expenses will not go against the budgeted authority of appropriations as their expenses are non-budgeted. Indirect costs post on a quarterly basis. There were no expenses in SFY 2026 in the 1st QTR (JUL-SEP 2025). 2nd QTR (OCT-DEC 2025) \$4,817.67 posted, 3rd QTR (JAN-MAR 2026) \$5,174.16 posted, and 4th QTR (APR-JUN 2026) will post in July. Indirects are currently averaging just under \$5,000 a quarter. We can expect indirects to increase next state fiscal year as the board has been working to approve/implement activities. For perspective, the DPHHS cost allocation team in the Business Financial Services Division (BFSD) provided an estimate of \$58,164 assuming the board would spend \$7.5 million in SFY 2026.

REVENUE UPDATE

MECA had a starting revenue/cash balance of \$10 million. Annually, in the month of August, we can expect interest from the trust to deposit into the revenue account. In SFY 2026 MECA had a budgeted authority of \$7.5 million in appropriations and in SFY 2027, the budgeted authority will be \$10 million.



MECA BUDGET AND EXPENSE REPORT

TABLE 4: BUDGETED AND NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES

Budgeted Expense	SFY 2026 Actuals YTD	SFY 2026 Projections	SFY 2027 Actuals YTD	SFY 2027 Projections
Salaries	\$36,323.08	\$18,214.22	\$0.00	\$93,930.99
Employee Benefits	\$13,782.65	\$11,169.63	\$0.00	\$56,527.23
Other Services	\$7.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700,000.00
Supplies	\$220.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications	\$199.03	\$103.14	\$0.00	\$611.40
Travel	\$1,756.18	\$1,784.50	\$0.00	\$7,138.00
Rent (Office Space)	\$2,116.81	\$ 1,121.26	\$0.00	\$6,811.66
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracted Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Benefits & Claims (Direct Services to Citizens of MT)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Non -Budgeted Expense	SFY 2026 Actuals YTD	SFY 2026 Projections	SFY 2027 Actuals YTD	SFY 2027 Projections
Indirect Costs	\$9,991.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00