

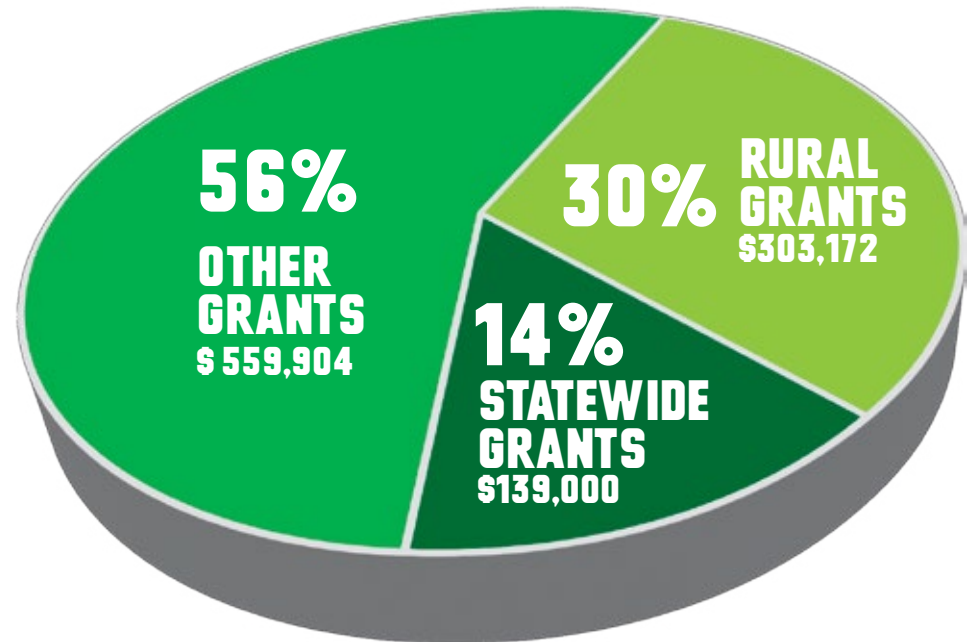
MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS FY 2025



PUBLIC FUNDING IS ALL ABOUT ACCESS

- 44% of Montanans are considered rural. But nationwide, only 6-7% of private foundation funds reach rural areas.
- The NEA distributes funds to 678 more counties across the U.S. than private foundations do.
- Nationwide, 19% of state agency grants reach into rural areas. In Montana, 30% of MAC awards reach outside the 7 bigger communities, and an additional 14% go to statewide organizations that serve almost every town from Yaak to Alzada.
- NEA funds (directly, or through state arts agencies like MAC) award funds in all 436 congressional districts.

MAC AWARDED A TOTAL OF \$1,002,076 IN GRANTS ACROSS MONTANA IN FY 2025



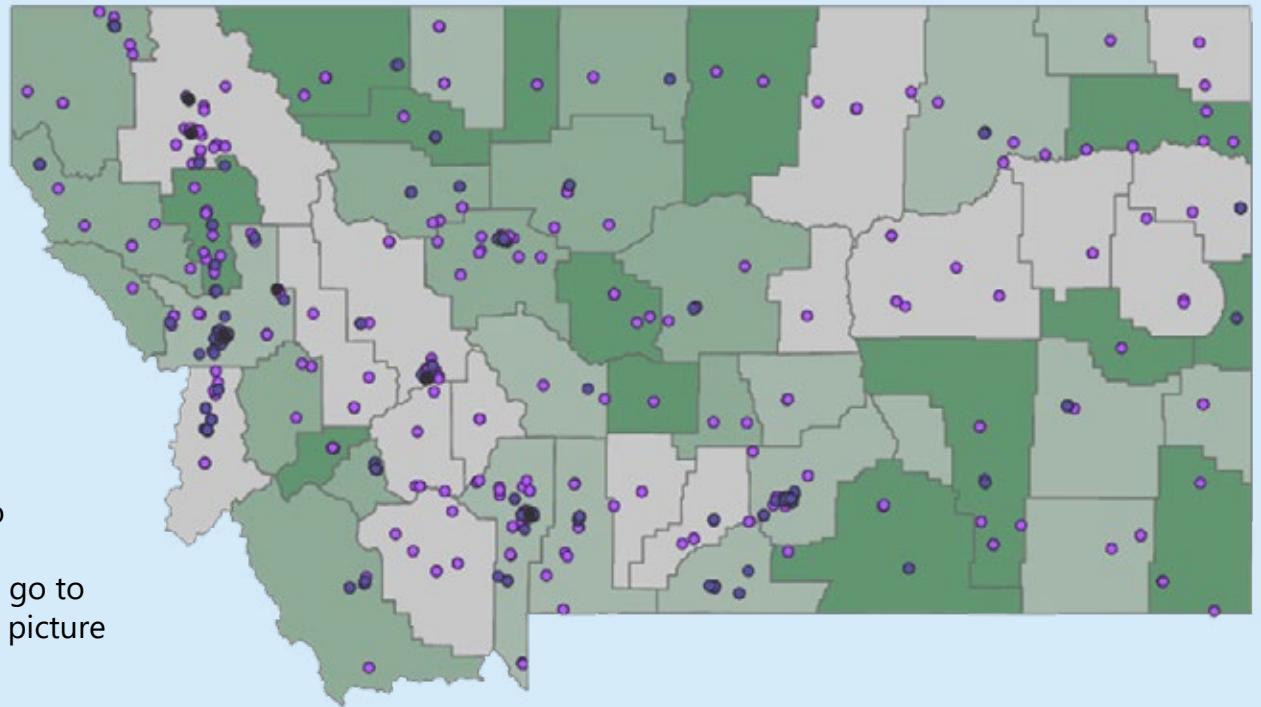
- NEA funds reach all of Montana's 56 counties.
- Public funding makes up 5–9% of nonprofit arts organization revenues. Arts organizations are highly entrepreneurial in their development of revenue streams. But earned revenue doesn't cover the whole cost of arts production. The role that public funding plays is to keep experiences affordable to most Americans—rather than forcing ticket prices to cover a greater share, which would make arts experiences less accessible to working citizens, children, and families.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL FY2023 GRANTS AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FY2024 GRANTS BY COUNTY POVERTY RATES

Public funding is not about creating art. It's about ensuring that all Montanans have the opportunity to experience arts and culture in the way that means most to them—even if they live far from well-resourced, urban areas.

Public funding also brings many arts experiences to lower-income communities:

- Private philanthropy tends to focus on limited missions that focus on specific geographies or art forms. As a result, philanthropic funding tends to be concentrated in urban communities, the two costs, and larger institutions.
- Nationwide, 32% of state arts agency grants go to high poverty communities. In Montana, that picture looks like this:



Grants By Type

- NEA direct grant
- State Grant
- State Grant Activity Location

2022 Poverty Rates

- 9.8% and below
- 9.9% to 12.7%
- 12.8% to 16.9%
- 17.0 and above