

HB 924: GENERALLY REVISE STATE FINANCE LAWS

Montana Early Childhood Account, Board, Services, and Activities

September 4, 2025



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HB 924 was passed by the 2025 Montana Legislature, creating the Montana Growth and Opportunity Trust and establishing the Montana Early Childhood Account, Board, and Funding.

Section 17 establishes the Montana Early Childhood Account to the credit of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and establishes that the funds deposited in the account may only be used for programs and grants authorized in Section 20 of the bill. Section 17 further states that the Department may not use the funds to pay expenses of any other program or service administered by the Department.

Section 19 establishes the Montana Early Childhood Account Board, consisting of ten members appointed by the governor. This section articulates what sector(s) the members are required to represent on the board. The board member's terms are three years, and the board is allocated to DPHHS for administrative purposes. Section 19 also gives DPHHS the authority to employ staff and adopt rules.

Section 20 establishes the eligible uses of the Montana Early Childhood Account that the board may fund. This section further instructs DPHHS to report to the Education Interim Committee and the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee on the services and activities funded as authorized in Section 20 of the statute by September 1 of each year.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

DPHHS is actively recruiting for an Early Childhood Account Specialist within the Early Childhood and Family Support Division (ECFSD).

The announcement of the governor-appointed board members is pending. No meetings have been held with the board, pending their appointment and hiring of staff.

The board is anticipated to convene in October 2025, pending the successful hiring of staff and appointment of board members, to begin drafting program rules.

The board will use the Early Childhood System Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis to drive funding priorities per the statute. These documents are anticipated to be available in December 2025.

FUNDED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

To date, no programs or activities have been funded.