

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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Montana Airports Secure FY 2027 Grant and Loan Awards

The Montana Aeronautics Board awarded approximately \$3.33 million in airport grant and loan funding for state fiscal year (FY) 2027, supporting a broad slate of infrastructure and safety improvements at public use airports across Montana. These state dollars help communities preserve and upgrade infrastructure at their airports.

Each year, airport sponsors submit proposals for projects ranging from runway and taxiway work to lighting, navigational aids, weather reporting systems, fencing, and snow removal equipment. State grant and loan awards made to federally funded airports (71 of 126 airports in Montana are federally funded) leverage significant federal dollars for major construction and rehabilitation projects.

For FY 2027, public use airports across Montana requested roughly \$5.1 million in state assistance, reflecting strong demand for pavement preservation, safety enhancements, and capacity upgrades. After careful review, the Aeronautics Board awarded all available grant funding, supporting both federally funded and non federally funded efforts at airports of all sizes statewide.

**For more information on the Loans and Grants Program, scan the QR Code.*



A complete list of airport awards for FY 2027 funding is below:

Airport Project	GRANT	LOAN
ANACONDA	\$12,600	
BROADUS	\$2,970	
BUTTE	\$58,829	
CANYON FERRY	\$58,615	
CHESTER	\$5,850	
CHINOOK	\$11,318	
CHOTEAU	\$130,245	
CIRCLE	\$4,950	
COLSTRIP	\$18,525	
CULBERTSON	\$9,500	
CUT BANK	\$395,892	
DEER LODGE	\$269,980	\$28,264
DUTTON	\$142,500	
EUREKA	\$22,106	
FAIRFIELD	\$19,000	
GARDINER	\$90,250	
GERALDINE	\$39,792	
GLASGOW	\$96,193	
GLENDIVE	\$36,077	
HAMILTON	\$34,200	
HARLEM	\$11,318	
HARLOWTON	\$10,545	
HAVRE	\$47,500	
HELENA	\$235,600	

Airport Project	GRANT	LOAN
HOT SPRINGS	\$94,525	
JORDAN	\$15,349	
LAUREL	\$51,007	
LEWISTOWN	\$118,750	
LIBBY	\$38,270	
LIVINGSTON	\$22,050	
MALTA	\$23,893	
MILES CITY	\$15,200	
PLAINS	\$14,155	
PLENTYWOOD	\$33,912	
POLSON	\$30,960	\$5,040
RED LODGE	\$63,233	
ROUNDUP	\$7,421	
SHELBY	\$11,875	
SIDNEY	\$137,600	
ST IGNATIUS	\$495,000	
STEVENSVILLE	\$57,600	
TERRY	\$13,945	
THOMPSON FALLS	\$13,870	
THREE FORKS	\$6,305	
TURNER	\$69,174	
WEST YELLOWSTONE	\$231,555	
Totals	\$3,330,004	\$33,304

2026 Montana Aviation Scholarships Awarded

Strong support from Montana's aviation community including organizations, businesses, families, and individual donors made it possible to award a new round of Montana Aviation Scholarships in 2026. This long running program helps Montana students and professionals move forward with flight training, aircraft maintenance education, and other aviation studies.

For the 2026 cycle, \$63,500 in scholarship funding is available to help Montanans offset the cost of aviation education and training, reflecting the continued generosity of returning sponsors and the addition of new partners. Scholarship committees once again faced the difficult task of selecting recipients from a very competitive pool of applicants, highlighting both the growing interest in aviation careers and the ongoing need for financial assistance for aviation education.

2026 Scholarship Award Recipients

Scholarship	Amount	Recipient
38 North Aviation Training	\$2,000	Sophie Allen
Aerotrux Maintenance Training-Avionics Technician	\$2,000	Aiden Fouhy
Anonymous Donation	\$2,000	Annabelle Stimmel
	\$2,000	Brenna Youmans
	\$2,000	Rebecca Tarplee
	\$2,000	Aaron Trueblood
AOM Flight Training	\$4,000	Molly Gilman
AOM Mechanic	\$4,000	Timothy Hogan
Brett Thoft Memorial	\$2,500	Aiden Fouhy
	\$2,500	Molly Gilman
Briar Creek	\$4,000	Chelsea Cough
Edwards Jet Center	\$2,000	Jack Hanson
Glacier Flight Training	\$500	Gavin Dee
Hayden Oakland Memorial Foundation	\$2,500	Aiden Fouhy
	\$2,500	Cole Johnson
Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training	\$2,000	Robert Truc
Montana Ninety-Nines	\$2,500	Lucy Marzo
	\$2,500	Alexandra Calloway-Nation
MPA Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician	\$2,000	Timothy Hogan
MPA Aviation Maintenance	\$2,000	Aiden Fouhy
MPA Central Montana Flight Training	\$4,000	Chelsea Cough
MPA Junior Pilot	\$4,000	Molly Gilman
MPA Mike Ferguson Flight Training	\$4,000	Colton Wormwood
Ridgeline Aviation Flight Training	\$2,000	Kyle Hayes
Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight	\$2,000	Molly Gilman

Scan the QR Code for more information about the Montana Aviation Scholarships.



New Fuel System in Anaconda

Last year, Bowman Field in Anaconda installed a brand new 8,000-gallon 100LL Self-Serve Fuel System. The airport is excited to be able to offer fueling opportunities to the flying public.

For more information contact airport manager Monte Belgarde at 406-563-8275.

AOPA President Steps Down

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is launching a search for a new president and CEO as Darren Pleasance transitions from the role as president into an advisory role. Because the position is expected to be based full time at AOPA headquarters in Frederick, Maryland, leaders determined this is the right time for a transition, as Pleasance has been commuting from Bend, Oregon since taking the role in January 2025. During the interim, Chief Financial Officer Jill Baker and Senior Vice President of Membership Strategy and Growth Katie Pribyl, of Montana, will serve as acting co-presidents while the Board of Trustees conducts a formal search for AOPA's next leader.

FAA Organizational Overhaul

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has begun the largest reorganization in its history, creating a new agency wide Safety Management System office and several new divisions to modernize the National Airspace System and better integrate emerging technologies like drones and electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft (eVTOLs). The overhaul adds dedicated offices for airspace modernization and advanced aviation technologies, consolidates finance, internet technology, human resources, and policy functions under central leadership, and shifts more positions to permanent roles, with officials emphasizing that no layoffs are planned.

To read more, visit: generalaviationnews.com/2026/01/28/faa-organizational-overhaul-begins/





2026 Aviation Awareness Art Contest



The MDT Aeronautics Division's Aviation Awareness Art Contest allows students to broaden their knowledge and promote interest in careers within the aviation. The contest is open to all students in K - 12 in public, private, and home schools. Students should research aviation in Montana and then illustrate a subject of their choosing.

For more details and to download the flyer, visit: mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.aspx

Submissions will be accepted until April 10th.

Artwork must have a Montana aviation theme.

For more details and to download the full flyer, go to mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.aspx or scan the QR Code.

For further information, please contact Barbara Barnum
406-444-2506 or bbarnum@mt.gov



Maintenance Spotlight

It is the heart of Montana's winter, and our airplanes notice it too! Adjusting engine oil for winter flying is an important part of protecting your aircraft and ensuring reliable starts in Montana's cold temperatures. As outside air temperatures drop, oil thickens and flows more slowly, which can make starting harder and delay lubrication of critical engine parts during the first few seconds after startup.

Most piston aircraft engines use heavier, single weight oils (such as SAE 50) in summer and either lighter straight weight oil (such as SAE 30 or 40) or a multigrade oil (such as 15W 50 or 20W 50) when consistently operating in colder conditions, following the temperature ranges in the engine manufacturer's service instructions or the aircraft Pilots Operating Handbook (POH). Multi-viscosity oils act like a lighter oil at low temperatures for better cranking and quicker oil pressure, yet protect like a heavier oil once the engine is warm. Regardless of oil choice, cold weather operations should still include proper preheating any time temperatures drop below the range recommended by your engine manufacturer to ensure the oil can circulate quickly and the engine reaches an adequate operating temperature in flight.

Do You Know of an Aviation Event in Montana?

The MDT Aeronautics Division relies on the aviation community to share upcoming events. Events will be added to the Montana and the Sky calendar of events (below). Please submit content at least 30 days before the first day of the month you want your event included in. Email event information to mdtad@mt.gov.

Calendar of Events

March 1 - Annual Aircraft and Pilot registration renewals for 2026 due.

March 5 - Blackfoot Aviation, Missoula. GA Seminars - *Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Refresh* with speaker James Wassem. Starts 6:30 p.m. at hanger #3 of the East LZ hangers. 4198 Corporate Way. For more information contact Kendon Campbell at kendonc@blackfootaviation.net or 406-519-3757.

March 12 - Blackfoot Aviation, Missoula. GA Seminars - *Instrument Flight Rules (IFR)* with speaker Tim Mead. Starts 6:30 p.m. at hanger #3 of the East LZ hangers. 4198 Corporate Way. For more information contact Kendon Campbell at kendonc@blackfootaviation.net or 406-519-3757.

April 9 - Blackfoot Aviation, Missoula. GA Seminars - *Montana Accident Case Studies* with speaker Jeff Vercoe. (FAA Safety with WINGS credit). Starts 6:30 p.m. at hanger #3 of the East LZ hangers. 4198 Corporate Way. For more information contact Kendon Campbell at kendonc@blackfootaviation.net or 406-519-3757.

April 18 - Helena Airport. Montana EAA chapter 344 will be hosting a free Young Eagles Flight Event for youth ages 8 to 17. 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For on-line registration, go eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights or contact Dave Lehman at yechapter344@earthlink.net.

May 14 - Blackfoot Aviation, Missoula. GA Seminars - *Density Altitude/Aircraft Performance* with speaker Kurt Kleiner. (FAA Safety with WINGS credit). Starts 6:30 p.m. at hanger #3 of the East LZ hangers. 4198 Corporate Way. For more information contact Kendon Campbell at kendonc@blackfootaviation.net or 406-519-3757.

May 15 -17 - Cub Doctor. Roundup. Clyde Smith Jr aka "The Cub Doctor" returns to Montana for his Fabric Piper Restoration and Maintenance Workshop Seminar. Will be held at Bar T Aero Hangar #15 (RPX) in Roundup. For more information and to register, contact Clint Worman at gccranch@rangeweb.net. Limited seating available so call ASAP!

May 30 - John Beer Memorial Poker Run. Columbus. Breakfast starts at 8 a.m., card draw and activities at 10 a.m. and lunch at 12 p.m. Coolest airplane contest, kids paper airplane contest and 5 card poker. For more information, contact Carter Beer at 406-855-3200.

May 30 - EAA Chapter 344 Pancake Breakfast, Helena. Starts at 7:30 a.m. at Morrison Park located on the Southwest corner of Helena Airport near Sky Service. Breakfast by donation, Young Eagles Flights, and aircraft on display. For more information contact Brenna Youmans at 970-286-4220.

June 13 - Townsend Fly-In. Sponsored by the Broadwater County Airport Board. Breakfast served for a fee and proceeds go to the local 4H club. For more information, contact Jess Lancello at 406-860-5355 or jessarnold@hotmail.com.

June 20 - Big Timber Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. followed by a pig roast lunch starting at 10 a.m. Breakfast and lunch are free. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Kirk Bryan at 406-930-1780.

July 11 - 12 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday, July 11, 4 to 8 p.m., free BBQ with all the fixin's. Sunday, July 12, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes. Helicopter rides both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 23 - 26 - Big Sky Balloon Rally, Billings. For event information go to, bigskyballoonrally.com.

August 9 - Hysham Fly-In. Breakfast available for a small donation 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Baue at 406-342-5328.

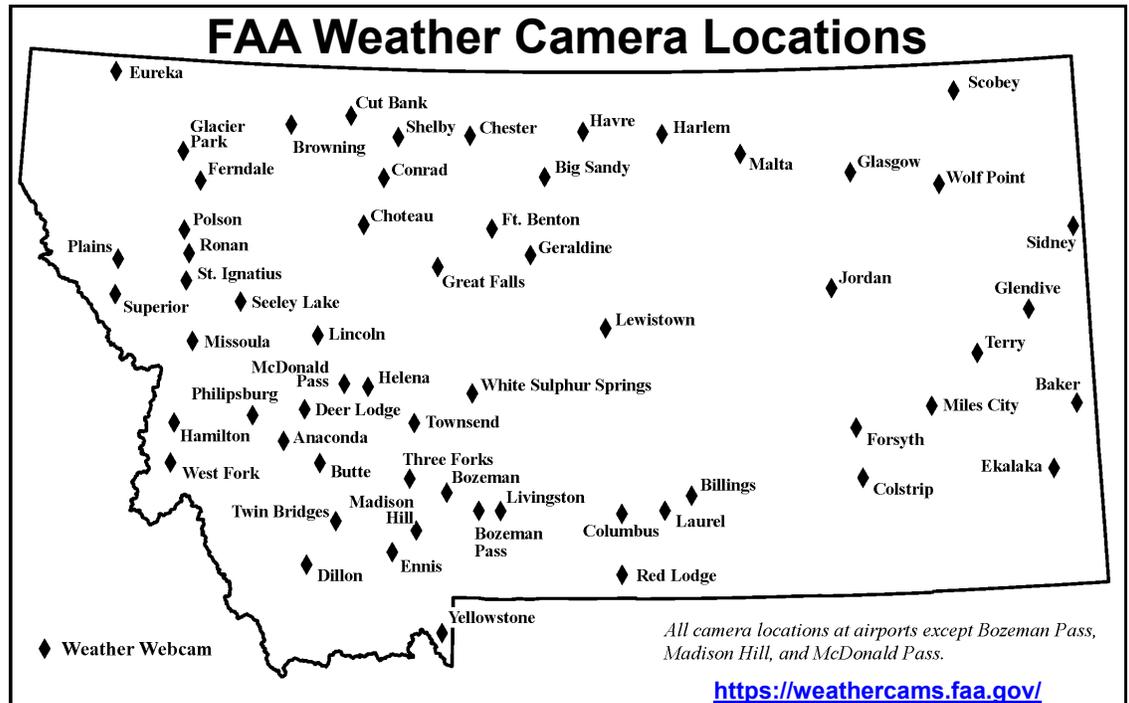
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