

**Program Budget Comparison**

The following table summarizes the total executive budget for the program by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Fiscal 2012	Approp. Fiscal 2013	Budget Fiscal 2014	Budget Fiscal 2015	Biennium Fiscal 12-13	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Biennium Change	Biennium % Change
Operating Expenses	209,409	209,408	209,409	209,409	418,817	418,818	1	0.00%
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,408</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$418,817</b>	<b>\$418,818</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
General Fund	209,409	209,408	209,409	209,409	418,817	418,818	1	0.00%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,408</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$418,817</b>	<b>\$418,818</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Program Description**

The Montana National Guard Scholarship Program provides scholarships to eligible Montana National Guard personnel enrolled as undergraduate students in Montana colleges, universities, or training programs. The program assists Montana in recruiting and retaining personnel in both the Army and Air National Guard and in enhancing its operational readiness to assume both state and federal active duty missions. Scholarships also reward guard members for their service to the state by helping defray their educational costs at Montana post-secondary institutions.

**Program Highlights**

<p><b>Scholarship Program</b> <b>Major Budget Highlights</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The executive proposes to fund the 2015 biennium budget at the FY 2012 base budget level with no adjustments</li> </ul>

**Program Discussion**

The 1999 Legislature first provided \$250,000 in general fund to provide scholarships of up to \$500 per semester to enlisted Montana National Guard personnel enrolled as full-time undergraduate students in colleges, universities, or training programs. The funding was to provide \$500 scholarships for 500 student-semesters; which is equivalent to 125 students attending two semesters in each of the two years of the biennium.

In FY 2012, 287 students were awarded scholarships of up to \$1,800 a year for college, universities, or other training programs. Funding for the program remains static for the 2015 biennium.

<p><b>LFD COMMENT</b></p>	<p>The Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education provides tuition waivers for honorably discharged veterans who have served during the Vietnam War or were awarded various medals for service since, including serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. The policy outlines the conditions that must be met for the veteran to qualify for the waiver, including exhausting education benefits offered through federal resources. Many of the members of the National Guard qualify for these waivers due to their service in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.</p>
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**Funding**

The following table shows program funding, by source for the 2015 biennium as recommended by the Governor.

Total Department Of Military Affairs Funding by Source of Authority 2015 Biennium Budget - Scholarship Program							
Funds	HB 2	Non-Budgeted Proprietary	Statutory Appropriation	Total All Sources	% Total All Funds	MCA Reference	Statutory Category
General Fund	\$418,818	\$0	\$0	\$418,818	100.0%		
Total All Funds	\$418,818	\$0	\$0	\$418,818	100.0%		
<b>Percent - Total All Sources</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>				

This program is funded entirely from the general fund.

**Budget Summary by Category**

The following summarizes the total budget by base, present law adjustments, and new proposals.

Budget Item	-----General Fund-----				-----Total Funds-----			
	Budget Fiscal 2014	Budget Fiscal 2015	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Percent of Budget	Budget Fiscal 2014	Budget Fiscal 2015	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Percent of Budget
Base Budget	209,409	209,409	418,818	100.00%	209,409	209,409	418,818	100.00%
Statewide PL Adjustments	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
Other PL Adjustments	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
New Proposals	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$418,818</b>		<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$209,409</b>	<b>\$418,818</b>	