



*Plain Text Edition*

# **Follow the Money: The U.S. Budget and You**

## **Part 2: What is the federal budget?**

## 2. What is the federal budget?

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A **budget** is a plan for getting and spending money. A budget has four main parts:

1. The amount of money you want to have
2. How you plan to get the money.
3. What you want to buy with the money.
4. How much money you want to spend on each thing

Anyone can have a budget. You might have a budget to keep track of how much money you spend on things you want or need.

The government has budgets too. **State governments** are in charge of one state, like Texas or Florida. The **federal government** is in charge of our entire country. State governments and the federal government each have their own different budgets. This toolkit will focus on the federal government.

The federal government uses its budget to decide how much money to spend on:

- Medicaid
- Roads
- Police
- Science research to look for cures for diseases

The federal government makes a budget every year. The year the budget is for is called the **fiscal year**.

A fiscal year starts and stops at different times than a regular year. A normal year is like a calendar. A normal year starts in January and ends in December. The federal government's fiscal year is different. The fiscal year starts in October and ends in September. For example, the normal year for 2019 starts in January 2019 and ends in December 2019. The fiscal year for 2019 starts in October of 2018 and ends in September of 2019.

## Normal year: January-December

<b>January</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>February</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>March</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>April</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<b>May</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>June</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>July</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>August</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
<b>September</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>October</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>November</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>December</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## Fiscal year: October-September

<b>October</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>November</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>December</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>January</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
<b>February</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>March</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>April</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>May</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
<b>June</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>July</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>August</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>September</b> <small>Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat</small> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30