The University of Michigan
Regents Communication

Item for Information

Research Award and Expenditure Report

Background and Summary

Attached is the November 2026 Research Award and Expenditure Report, prepared by the Office of the Vice President for Research. This item is provided for information and does not request action by the Board of Regents.

- **Year-to-date activity** includes $576.3 million in research expenditures, with expenditures, proposal submissions and new awards all running ahead of last year.
- **Month-by-month charts** compare research expenditures, proposal submissions and new awards across fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027.
- **Top September awards** identify major new awards by sponsor category, including federal agencies, industry and foundations.

This report summarizes the overall trends in grant and contract activity across all three campuses of the University of Michigan through the third month of Fiscal Year 2027, which ended September 30, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:



Patricia D. Hurn
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation
November 2026

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Office of the Vice President for Research

Regents Communication

Research Award and Expenditure Report

November 2026

Prepared by the Office of the Vice President for Research

Fiscal Year 2027, Through Month 3 (ended September 30, 2026)

Report Contacts

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Overview

This report summarizes overall trends in grant and contract activity across all three campuses of the University of Michigan **through the third month of Fiscal Year 2027, which ended September 30, 2026.**

$576M

Total research expenditures, YTD FY2027 (through September 30, 2026)

▲ 2.2%

Research expenditures up vs. prior year

▲ 5.1%

Number of research submissions up vs. prior year

▲ 26.4%

Value of those submissions up vs. prior year

▲ 8.0%

Value of new research awards up vs. prior year

▲ 10.6%

Number of new research awards up vs. prior year

Highlights This Month

$32.9 Million · National Science Foundation

Awarded to Louise Willingale, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and associate director of the NSF ZEUS laser facility, to operate the most powerful laser in the United States as a national user facility for the next five years. Research teams from across the country compete for time on ZEUS, whose pulses last just 25 quadrillionths of a second, to pursue work in areas from soft-tissue medical imaging and cancer treatment to astrophysics and national security.

$22.4 Million · National Institutes of Health

Awarded to Henry Paulson, the Lucile Groff Professor of Neurology and director of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, to lead the next five years of a statewide effort with Michigan State and Wayne State universities to understand, treat and prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The center follows hundreds of Michigan volunteers over time, studies donated brain tissue through the Michigan Brain Bank, uses that data to tailor clinical trials and runs weekly wellness programs for the family members who carry much of the weight of the disease.

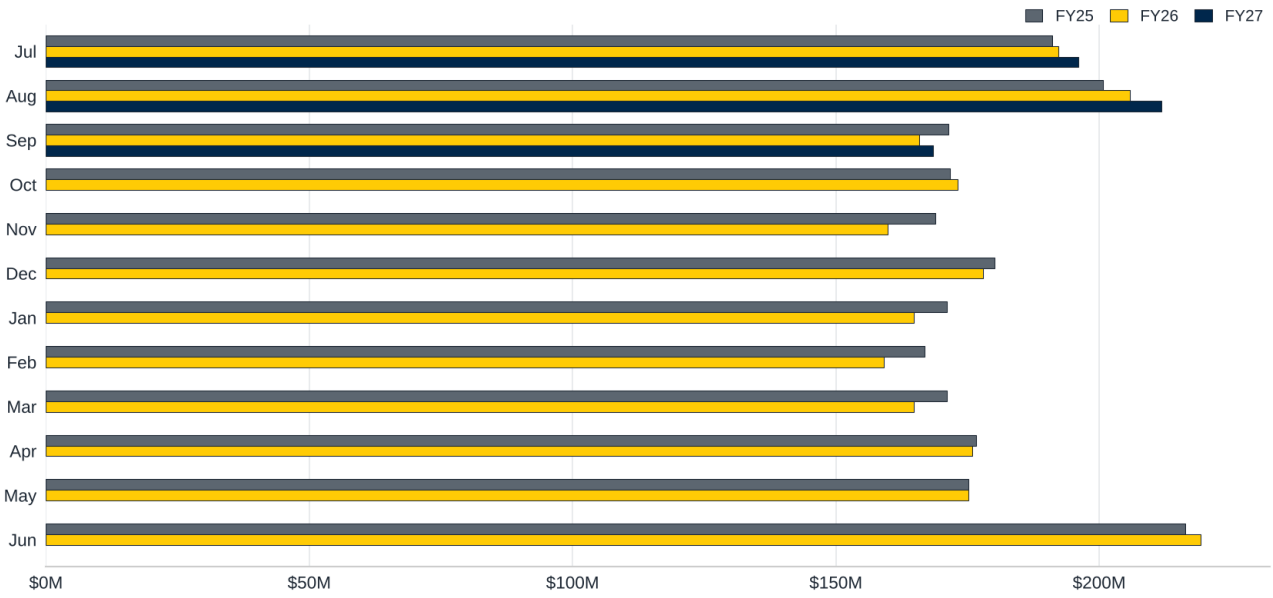
$2.0 Million · Polyolefin Particle Research Institute

Awarded to Anne McNeil, the Carol A. Fierke Collegiate Professor of Chemistry and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor in LSA, to build a faster and cheaper way to identify the tiny plastic particles that turn up in air, water and soil. Her team pairs spectroscopy with machine learning so a lab can tell not just whether a speck is plastic but which kind and where it likely came from, and shares its data and methods openly to help build the evidence base that regulation of microplastics will require.

Expenditures

Total research expenditures each month, comparing fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. Fiscal Year 2027 includes July, August and September, its first three months. Across the two completed years, spending stays relatively steady and reaches its highest point at fiscal year end in June.

Fiscal Year	Year-to-Date Total
FY25	**$563,242,022**
FY26	**$563,898,155**
FY27	**$576,253,279**

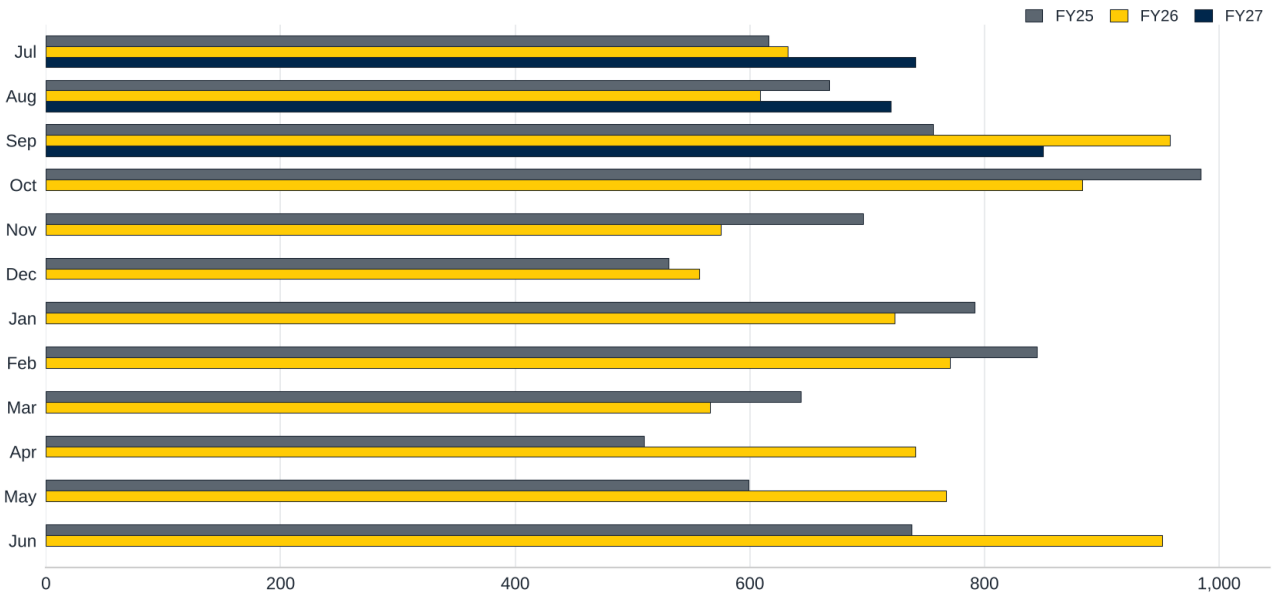


Monthly research expenditures ($M), FY25–FY27

Submissions by Count

Number of proposals submitted to sponsors each month, comparing fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. Fiscal Year 2027 includes July, August and September, its first three months. Submission activity typically peaks in the fall (September and October) and again in late winter (February), reflecting common sponsor deadline cycles.

Fiscal Year	Year-to-Date Total
FY25	**2,040**
FY26	**2,199**
FY27	**2,311**

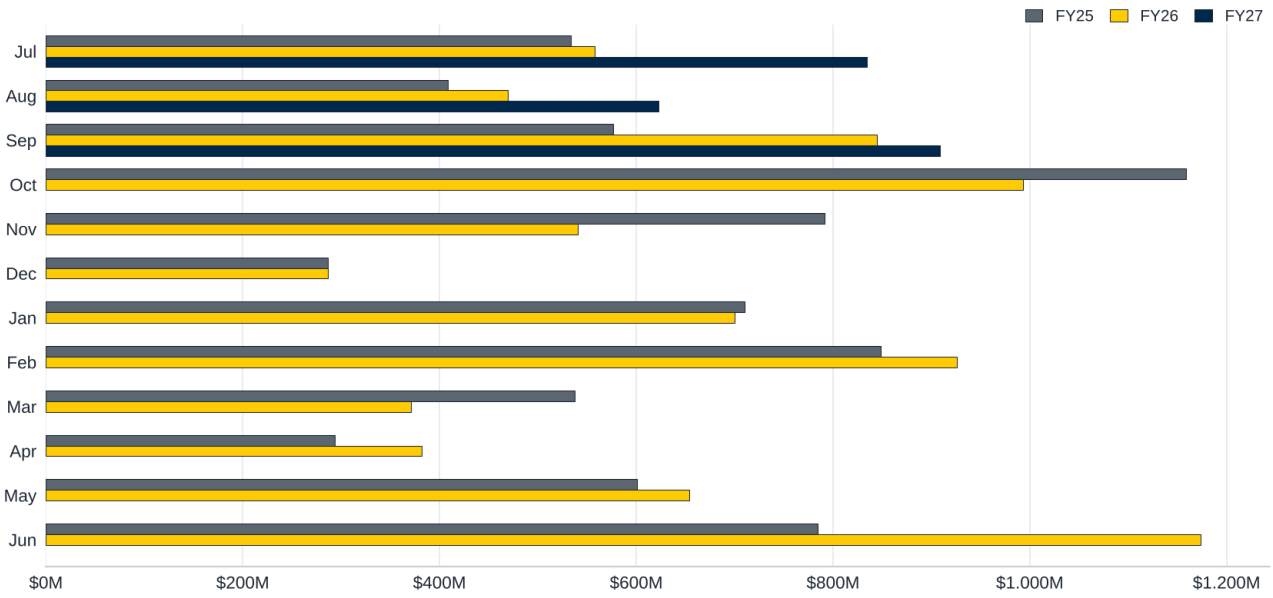


Monthly proposal submissions (count), FY25–FY27

Submissions by Amount

Total dollar value of proposals submitted to sponsors each month, comparing fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. Fiscal Year 2027 includes July, August and September, its first three months. Monthly totals vary widely because a small number of large proposals can drive a single month well above the others.

Fiscal Year	Year-to-Date Total
FY25	**$1,518,476,167**
FY26	**$1,871,587,724**
FY27	**$2,366,020,557**

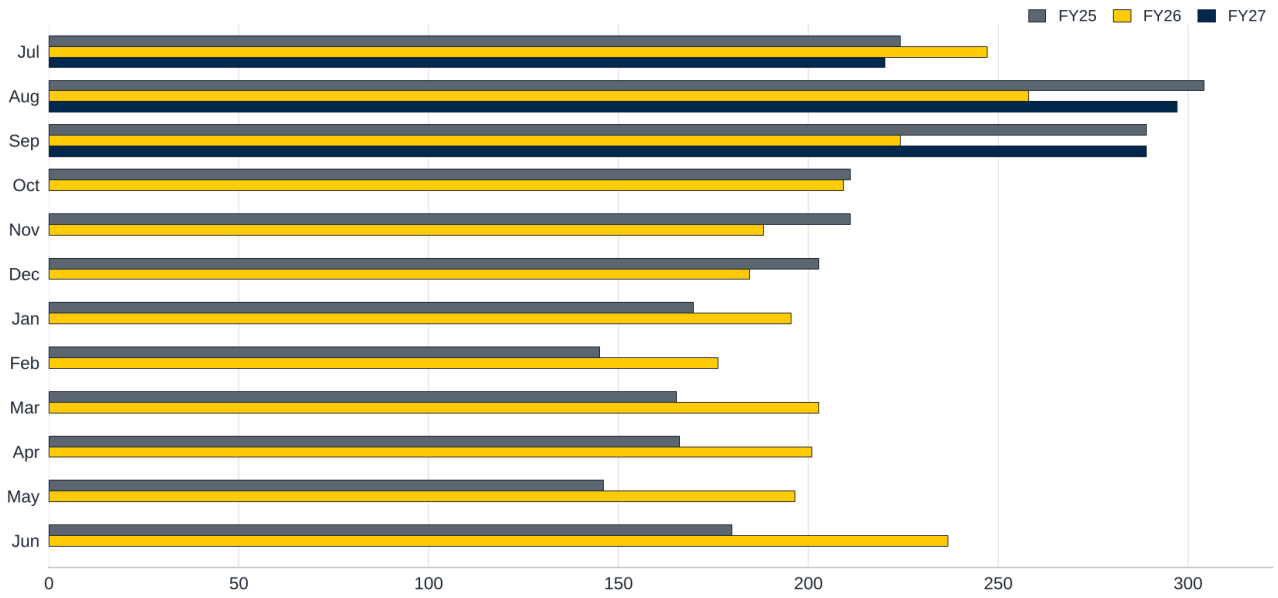


Monthly proposal submissions ($M), FY25–FY27

Awards by Count

Number of new awards received from sponsors each month, comparing fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. Fiscal Year 2027 includes July, August and September, its first three months. Award counts are highest in the late summer and early fall (August and September) as sponsors finalize funding decisions.

Fiscal Year	Year-to-Date Total
FY25	**817**
FY26	**729**
FY27	**806**

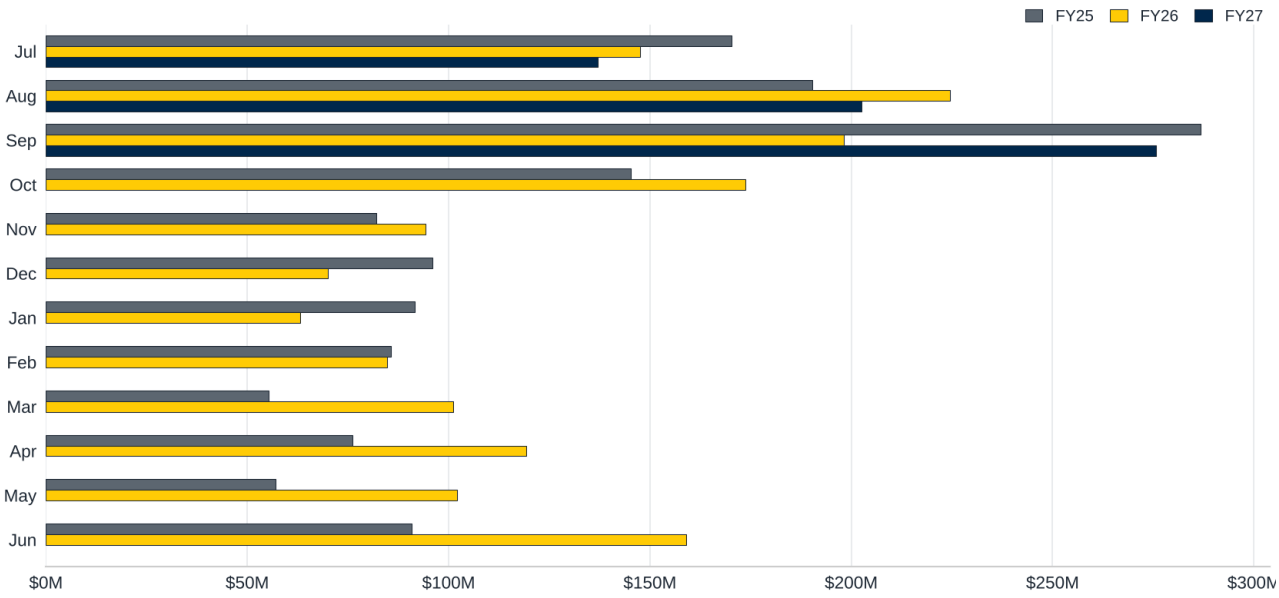


Monthly new awards (count), FY25–FY27

Awards by Amount

Total dollar value of new awards received each month, comparing fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. Fiscal Year 2027 includes July, August and September, its first three months. Because individual large awards can dominate a month, the totals swing more sharply than the award counts do.

Fiscal Year	Year-to-Date Total
FY25	**$647,234,556**
FY26	**$570,095,332**
FY27	**$615,467,776**



Monthly new awards ($M), FY25–FY27

Top Monthly Awards — September 2026

The largest new awards received in September 2026, grouped by sponsor category.

National Science Foundation

Principal Investigator	Willingale, Louise
Department	CoE EECS - ECE - USL
Award Title	The NSF ZEUS Multi-Petawatt user facility: Operations
Sponsor	National Science Foundation
Award Total	**$32,883,695**
Duration (years)	5.0

Principal Investigator	Fischer, Alexandra Paige
Department	Sch for Environ and Sustain
Award Title	FIRE-WUI: Emerging Wildfire Hazards in High-Biomass Forests and Community Adaptation
Sponsor	National Science Foundation
Award Total	**$2,995,072**
Duration (years)	5.0

Principal Investigator	Allgeier, Jacob
Department	LSA Ecology & Evolutionary Bio
Award Title	Collaborative Research: Quantifying secondary production in complex tropical seascapes using ecosystem level manipulations
Sponsor	National Science Foundation
Award Total	**$951,948**
Duration (years)	4.0

National Institutes of Health

Principal Investigator	Paulson, Henry
Department	MM Neurology Department
Award Title	Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Sponsor	Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health
Award Total	**$22,367,755**
Duration (years)	4.8

Principal Investigator	Lauring, Adam
Department	MM Int Med-Infectious Diseases
Award Title	Leveraging complex observational data to understand human influenza transmission
Sponsor	Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health
Award Total	**$14,226,356**
Duration (years)	4.8

Principal Investigator	Noppert, Grace
Department	SRC-Social Envir & Health
Award Title	The National Neighborhood Data Archive: A Resource to Understand Health Risk & Resilience for Aging in The United States
Sponsor	Health and Human Services, Department of-National Institutes of Health
Award Total	**$10,977,297**
Duration (years)	4.8

Department of Defense

Principal Investigator	Burgers, Alexander
Department	CoE EECS - ECE - OPT
Award Title	(MURI) Dynamically-Controlled Atomic Metasurfaces for Novel Quantum Photonics
Sponsor	Defense, Department of-Air Force, Department of the
Award Total	**$7,500,000**
Duration (years)	5.0

Principal Investigator	Wang, Thomas
Department	MM Int Med-Gastroenterology
Award Title	Sedation-Free Detection of Early-Onset Upper GI Cancers at the Point-of-Care
Sponsor	Defense, Department of-Defense Health Agency
Award Total	**$4,196,553**
Duration (years)	4.0

Principal Investigator	Ceccio, Steven
Department	CoE Naval Arch & Marine Dept
Award Title	Experimental Analysis of Incipient Vortex Cavitation Resulting From Non-Linear Interaction of Inclined Vortices
Sponsor	Defense, Department of-Navy, Department of the
Award Total	**$949,999**
Duration (years)	4.0

Department of Energy

Principal Investigator	Bucsek, Ashley
Department	CoE Mechanical Engineering
Award Title	AI-enabled real-time reconstructions and interpretation for rapid 3D Xray diffraction and imaging of materials under stress and extreme environments
Sponsor	Energy, Department of
Award Total	**$207,098**
Duration (years)	0.7

Industry

Principal Investigator	McNeil, Anne
Department	LSA Chemistry
Award Title	Machine Learning-Driven Analytical Characterization Decision Tree for Automated, Cost-Effective Identification of Micro- and Nano-plastic Particles in Complex Matrices
Sponsor	Polyolefin Particle Research Institute
Award Total	**$2,033,022**
Duration (years)	3.0

Principal Investigator	Gardner, Thomas
Department	MM Ophthal. & Visual Science
Award Title	Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative Consortium (“MTM Vision Consortium”)
Sponsor	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Award Total	**$1,500,000**
Duration (years)	3.0

Principal Investigator	Pianko, Matthew
Department	MM Int Med-Hematology/Oncology
Award Title	A Phase 2, Open-Label, Single-Arm, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Efficacy of Cemsidomide + Dexamethasone in Subjects With Relapsed/ Refractory Multiple Myeloma
Sponsor	C4 Therapeutics, Inc.
Award Total	**$1,312,511**
Duration (years)	6.0

Foundations

Principal Investigator	Whyte, Kyle
Department	Sch for Environ and Sustain
Award Title	Restoring ecological systems and food sovereignty as facilitators of tribal health equity
Sponsor	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Award Total	**$500,000**
Duration (years)	3.0

Principal Investigator	Clemetson, Lynette
Department	Wallace House
Award Title	Great Lakes Local News Fellowship
Sponsor	Joyce Foundation
Award Total	**$200,000**
Duration (years)	2.0

Principal Investigator	Anderson, Elizabeth
Department	LSA Philosophy
Award Title	Using Technology/AI to Promote Democratic Information-Flows
Sponsor	John Templeton Foundation
Award Total	**$50,000**
Duration (years)	2.2

Principal Investigator	Khan, Osman
Department	Stamps School of Art & Design
Award Title	We Were Strangers Once
Sponsor	Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Award Total	**$50,000**
Duration (years)	1.0