

Statement No. 54 of the
Governmental Accounting
Standards Board

Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions

February 2009



Governmental Accounting Standards Board
of the Financial Accounting Foundation
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Governmental Fund Type Definitions

28. Governmental fund types include the general fund, special revenue funds, capital projects funds, debt service funds, and permanent funds, as discussed in paragraphs 29–35.

General Fund

29. The general fund should be used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds

30. Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The term *proceeds of specific revenue sources* establishes that one or more specific restricted or committed revenues should be the foundation for a special revenue fund. Those specific restricted or committed revenues may be initially received in another fund and subsequently distributed to a special revenue fund. Those amounts should not be recognized as revenue in the fund initially receiving them; however, those inflows should be recognized as revenue in the special revenue fund in which they will be expended in accordance with specified purposes. Special revenue funds should not be used to account for resources held in trust for individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

31. The restricted or committed proceeds of specific revenue sources should be expected to continue to comprise a substantial portion of the inflows reported in the fund.² Other

²For revolving loan arrangements that are initially funded with restricted grant revenues, the consideration may be whether those restricted resources continue to comprise a substantial portion of the *fund balance* in the fund's balance sheet.

resources (investment earnings and transfers from other funds, for example) also may be reported in the fund if those resources are restricted, committed, or assigned to the specified purpose of the fund. Governments should discontinue reporting a special revenue fund, and instead report the fund's remaining resources in the general fund, if the government no longer expects that a substantial portion of the inflows will derive from restricted or committed revenue sources.

32. Governments should disclose in the notes to the financial statements the purpose for each major special revenue fund—identifying which revenues and other resources are reported in each of those funds.

Capital Projects Funds

33. Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. Capital projects funds exclude those types of capital-related outflows financed by proprietary funds or for assets that will be held in trust for individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

Debt Service Funds

34. Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. Debt service funds should be used to report resources if legally mandated. Financial resources that are being accumulated for principal and interest maturing in future years also should be reported in debt service funds.

Permanent Funds

35. Permanent funds should be used to account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs—that is, for the benefit of the government or its citizenry. Permanent funds do not include private-purpose trust funds, which should be used to report situations in which the government is required to use the principal or earnings for the benefit of individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION

36. The requirements of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2010. Early implementation is encouraged. Fund balance reclassifications made to conform to the provisions of this Statement should be applied retroactively by restating fund balance for all prior periods presented. Changes to the fund balance information presented in a statistical section may be made prospectively, although retroactive application is encouraged. If the information for previous years is not restated, governments should explain the nature of the differences from the prior information.

<p>The provisions of this Statement need not be applied to immaterial items.</p>

This Statement was adopted by the affirmative votes of six members of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Mr. Williams dissented.