



Outagamie Waupaca Library System
225 N. Oneida Street
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www.owlsweb.org

June 29, 2019

The Honorable Thomas M. Nelson
Outagamie County Executive
410 South Walnut Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

Dear Mr. Nelson:

In accordance with the *Outagamie County Library Service Plan: 2020-2024*, the OWLS Board of Trustees respectfully requests 2021 library aid in the amount of \$1,842,105 as payment to municipal public libraries for providing countywide library service. This represents an increase of 4.3% from 2020. Because payments to libraries are exempt from county levy limits, Outagamie County is in a position to provide the funding to equitably reimburse municipal libraries for service provided in 2021.

It has long been a goal for Outagamie County to reimburse municipal libraries for 100% of their costs for providing countywide service. We are very pleased that Outagamie County has achieved 100% funding in years 2014 to 2020. Circulation can fluctuate from year to year causing decreases and increases in reimbursement. Occasionally, significant changes in library expenditures also create volatility, which is illustrated this year by a significant correction in the Hortonville Public Library's reimbursement. Fully funding that correction and the phase-in of the new county formula would result in a budget increase of 7.08% or \$125,056. In recognition that such an increase is greater than was anticipated when we adopted the new formula and that county revenues are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the OWLS Board of Trustees has reduced the 2021 request to 97.4% of the cost of service.

The experience of public libraries following the 2008 recession informs our expectation that demand for public library services will increase in response to economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries have adapted quickly in 2020 to increase access to online resources, implement contact-free curbside services, livestream library programming, and expand internet access outside of their buildings. As limited in-person services resume in accordance with public health guidelines, libraries are prioritizing services that support the economic health of our communities, such as providing computer use by appointment for patrons needing to apply for unemployment or to train for and seek new jobs.

On behalf of the OWLS Board and the public libraries in the county, I encourage you to continue Outagamie County's long-standing tradition of supporting quality public library service by recommending a 2021 Library Aids budget that follows the principles outlined in the *Outagamie County Library Service Plan*. I look forward to meeting with you in August to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Bradley Shipps
Director

Outagamie County Library Funding Request for 2021 by 2020-2024 County Plan Formula

Year 1 of 5-Year Phase In of New Formula - 20% of change

Library	2021 Request Using Old Formula	2021 Request Using New Formula	Difference	2021 Request at Year 1 - Phase in 20% of Change	97.4%	2020 Reimbursement	Change
Appleton	\$ 978,849	\$ 1,030,364	\$ 51,515	\$ 989,152	\$ 963,434	\$ 943,158	2.15%
Black Creek	\$ 117,961	\$ 116,253	\$ (1,708)	\$ 117,619	\$ 114,561	\$ 106,321	7.75%
Clintonville	\$ 19,066	\$ 19,078	\$ 12	\$ 19,068	\$ 18,573	\$ 20,596	-9.82%
Hortonville	\$ 136,433	\$ 135,518	\$ (915)	\$ 136,250	\$ 132,708	\$ 99,693	33.12%
Kaukauna	\$ 167,798	\$ 173,796	\$ 5,998	\$ 168,998	\$ 164,604	\$ 160,883	2.31%
Kim-Lit	\$ 221,853	\$ 224,063	\$ 2,210	\$ 222,295	\$ 216,515	\$ 208,663	3.76%
New London	\$ 71,411	\$ 75,795	\$ 4,384	\$ 72,288	\$ 70,408	\$ 70,552	-0.20%
Seymour	\$ 104,381	\$ 104,851	\$ 470	\$ 104,475	\$ 101,759	\$ 99,827	1.94%
Shiocton	\$ 29,635	\$ 31,487	\$ 1,852	\$ 30,005	\$ 29,225	\$ 29,634	-1.38%
Oneida	\$ 31,704	\$ 28,822	\$ (2,882)	\$ 31,128	\$ 30,318	\$ 26,895	12.73%
Totals	\$ 1,879,091	\$ 1,940,027		\$ 1,891,278	\$ 1,842,105	\$ 1,766,222	4.30%