

September 26, 2025

Dear Board Presidents and Directors,

I am writing to share important news regarding the Evergreen Integrated Library System (ILS) cost-sharing model for 2025. After careful review, the OWWL Library System Board of Trustees has approved a change in how these costs are allocated among member libraries.

What's changing?

In the past, the Evergreen cost share was calculated using a complex formula that took into account holdings, circulation, base charges, additions, cataloging, and other relevant factors. Beginning in 2025, cost shares will instead be based on each library's **chartered to serve population**.

This shift reflects a more balanced and equitable approach, as a library's responsibility to its community is better measured by its service population rather than the number of items added to the catalog or fluctuations in circulation. It also aligns our funding model with the core mission of libraries: serving the public.

What does this mean for your library?

- For most libraries, this new formula and the cost savings throughout the year lead to a smaller share for 2025.
- No library will exceed the previously suggested estimated budget figure for 2025 that was posted on OWWL Docs.
- The OWWL Board also approved a **35% subsidy** of total Evergreen costs this year, ensuring that member shares remain as affordable as possible.

Looking ahead

The service population-based formula will remain in place moving forward, and the System will continue to subsidize Evergreen costs to the greatest extent possible. Our goal is to maintain this essential service as both sustainable and affordable for all libraries.

A reminder: Evergreen is one of only three cost-shared services supported by member libraries. The other two are the OverDrive Funding for the Fiction collection and PC Security Software (all three are highlighted in the Cooperative Costs and System Funded Resources to Member

Libraries¹). By pooling resources in these areas, we can provide strong, reliable, and cost-effective services across the OWWL System.

Evergreen Cost Share at a Glance (2025)

- **Total Evergreen Cost:** \$402,611
- **Member Share:** \$259,077
- **System Subsidy:** \$143,534 (35% of total cost)
- **Covers:** hosting and maintaining the ILS, salaries and benefits for 3.60 FTE, equipment hosting, Evergreen licensing, staff training, BookWhere cataloging tools, Aspen, MessageBee, RRLC out-of-system courier service, Idrive (cloud backup), and iOS yearly updates.
- **Invoices:** Invoices with cost breakdowns will be sent to Directors the week of Monday, September 29, 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. This update is another step toward promoting fairness, transparency, and long-term stability in how we allocate funding for our shared services. If you have any questions about your library's 2025 allocation, please feel free to reach out.

With appreciation,



Ronald Kirsop
Executive Director
OWWL Library System

¹ Cooperative Costs and System Funded Resources to Member Libraries for Fiscal Year 2025, <https://owwl.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2025-Cooperative-Costs-and-System-Funded-Resources-to-Member-Libraries.pdf>