



April 23, 2021

Dear Library Board of Trustees,

This is to inform you of news regarding the 2022 Operational and Facility Reimbursements to Dane County Libraries. COVID-19 affected libraries in ways we could not comprehend. We knew that circulation would be affected; we did not know our facilities would be closed due to the Stay-At-Home mandate. We spent a good deal of time figuring out what services we could provide safely. In summary, 2020 was a huge learning and adapting curve for libraries.

In light of that curve, the Dane County Library Board has approved making reimbursements for 2022 the same as those in 2021, thereby discarding the 2020 data. There are several reasons for this decision, the biggest one being that 2020 skews the 3-year average in a variety of ways, including:

- roughly 50% drop in circulation;
- artificially high costs per circulation;
- all libraries were closed for at least two months;
- services changed as libraries adapted to public health recommendations;
- reduced/uneven services across libraries;
- providing financial stability for libraries.

Looking forward to 2023 reimbursements, we will use a 3-year average of 2018/2019/2021. 2021 will still be an odd year, but nothing so altering as 2020. It is my hope and that of the DCL Board to provide financial stability for libraries as they approach their 2022 budgets.

I am happy to answer any questions or visit one of your meetings to explain this matter further.

Sincerely,

Tracy Herold, Director