Adjacent County Billing under Act 420

Background

In April 2006, the legislature passed Senate Bill 272, which was signed into law as 2005 Act 420 by Governor Jim Doyle on May 19, 2006. Because of this law, libraries in adjacent counties - both within and across regional public library system borders (but excluding Milwaukee County) - may be paid for library use by residents of each of those counties who do not maintain a public library. Due to the passage of 2013 Act 157 (AB 288) in 2014, consolidated county public libraries gained the option to bill adjacent counties for library service to county residents without a municipal library (and the option to be billed).

Text of the county library funding law can be found in [Wisconsin Statutes s. 43.12](#).

DPI has an FAQ about county funding here: https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries/funding-budgets/county-funding

Adjacent county funding at APL

Several years prior to the passage of Act 420, OWLS established adjacent county funding for service provided by Outagamie County libraries to Calumet County residents under an agreement with the Manitowoc Calumet Library System (MCLS). We continue to use the formula defined in that agreement in years when it exceeds the statutory minimum payment. OWLS also retains a portion of Calumet County funding under an agreement with APL.

Following the passage of Act 157 in 2014, OWLS began billing Brown County for service provided by Outagamie County libraries to Brown County residents using the statutory formula.

In 2024, OWLS and the Winnefox Library System have initiated adjacent county billing between Outagamie and Winnebago Counties under Act 420 using the statutory formula, illustrated below.

Act 420 - Formula for adjacent county billing
Enter data from annual report in yellow highlighted fields.

Appleton Public Library bill to Winnebago County for service provided in 2023 to be paid in 2025							
Total Expenditures VI. 6.	Less Federal Expenditures VI. 7.	Equals Statutory Expenditures	Divided by Total Circ III. 1.	Equals Cost per Circ	Times Adjacent County Nonresident Circ XI. 2.b.	Equals Cost of Service	Statutory Minimum Reimbursement of 70% Cost of Service
$ 4,697,904	$ -	$ 4,697,904	584,221	$ 8.04	19,098	$ 153,548	$ 107,484