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# Memo

**To: Network Advisory Council**

**From:** Cara Orban

**Date:** April 6, 2022

**Re: Explanations for budget request from Statewide Projects**

In addition to the normal operating and personal expenditures we have requested in the past, we are requesting the following:

- A \$15,000 increase to the courier budget

## **Description of the project with desired outcomes for courier services**

The Montana Courier Alliance currently serves 47 communities through library drop sites primarily along Interstate 90, Highway 93, and Interstate 15 between Dillon and Great Falls. Over 300,000 items are transported between libraries annually at a greatly reduced cost in comparison to the time and resources spent on traditional interlibrary loan services via mail.

With additional funding, MSL seeks to add at least three drop sites to the courier network in Central Montana as well as additional stops at existing drop sites. This would help reduce wait times and increase access to affordable interlibrary loan for more Montana citizens. An increase of \$15,000 would subsidize a reduced stop fee for 108 new monthly stops at three new locations (for three times a week service) as well as 38

additional subsidized stops for existing courier network libraries. Additionally, the subsidy for participating libraries would increase to \$3.50 per stop to make the service more affordable for libraries to add stops and to keep up with rising costs due to the current fuel surcharge.

The proposed budget increase is an estimate for the NAC to consider; however, any increase to the courier budget would aid in the expansion of this program.