

# Budgeting for the MHLS Member Assessment

**Annually each member library will need to budget for their share of the MHLS Member Assessment, based on the most current MHLS Member Assessment Table.**

The MHLS System Services Advisory Committee of the MHLS Directors Association is charged with creating the Assessment Table annually. It is discussed and endorsed by the Directors Association in the spring (for the following calendar year) and posted at <http://da.midhudson.org/>

The Assessment Table outlines the amount each member library will be invoiced by MHLS (quarterly) as their proportional share towards System services. The Member Assessment is determined by combining a General Fee with a formula of assessments based on system holds activity and Sierra usage, which have been approved by the MHLS Directors Association, to distribute the charges.

Here is a description of how to read the chart and the formula variables to take into account for future budgeting. The letters match the headers at the top of the columns:

- A. **'Chartered population'**: Until a new Census count or a chartered area revision for your library takes place and is recognized by the NYS Division of Library Development, this will not change.
- B. **'Circulation (3-year average)'**: This is the total annual circulation (as per Sierra) of your library, averaged over 3 years. Since it is the average of 3 years, the effect of an increase or decrease in one year of circulation will be spread out. Any activities that increase the number of people using the library and its materials (such as a new or improved facility, expanded programs, improved collections...) are factors that could contribute to an increase in circulation.
- C. **'Holds (3 year average)'**: This is the number of Holds Received (as per Sierra) by your library (the materials your library received from other libraries to fill your patrons holds), averaged over 3 years. Since it is the average of 3 years, the effect of an increase or decrease in one year of holds received will be spread out. Having a collection that does not meet the needs of your community, as well as any activities that increase the number of people using the library and library materials (such as a new or improved facility, expanded programs, improved collections) are factors that could contribute to an increase in holds.
- D. **Circulation/Population Assessment**: This column is weighted by either your library's circulation or population, whichever is lower and combined with a per library amount, related to the contract with Innovative Interfaces Inc. The III amount increases by 2% annually as does the cost of this contract.

E. **‘General Fixed’**: This is graduated based on Population (column A) and runs in six (6) quantiles starting at \$600. As follow:

Population Range	2026 Fee
up to 2,800	\$600
2,801 - 4,750	\$1,000
4,750 - 10,000	\$1,250
10,001 - 15,000	\$1,500
15,001 - 30,000	\$2,000
30,000 +	\$3,500

F. **‘Holds delivery fee’**: This is the Holds (column C) multiplied by the Holds Delivery Fee rate. The fee rate is percentage of holding for each member.

G. **‘Sierra Fee: Capital’**: As per the Members Capital Fund Policy, approved by the MHLS Directors Association (DA), this is \$600 per library annually (\$39,600 total). These funds are deposited into the DA approved Members Capital Account for future ILS-related expenses.