

WPLC Formula Workgroup

Recommendation for a new formula for 2018

Background

The WPLC Formula Workgroup was charged with reviewing the formula used to divide the WPLC Buying Pool and possibly making recommendations to change the formula.

The workgroup consists of representatives from the WPLC Board that represent larger and smaller systems, both in population and usage. Members of the workgroup are:

- Bruce Gay, MCFLS
- Krista Ross, SWLS
- Lin Swartz-Truesdell, KCLS
- Martha Van Pelt, SCLS

The group first met in September 2016 to consider a new formula, and, at the October WPLC Board meeting, presented the idea for a formula with a portion of the buying pool divided by number of holds, and with that same portion being allocated to Advantage accounts for each WPLC Partner. The Board was supportive of this direction, so the workgroup continued to pursue it.

New formula

OverDrive provided 2016 hold information in early 2017, and, using this information and updated circulation and population numbers, the project managers created two options for the Formula Workgroup to review:

- **Status quo:** This option left the formula as it was for allocation of the 2017 buying pool.
- **Over \$1,000,000 by holds:** This option divided \$1,000,000 of the buying pool by the pre-established formula, and divided the additional \$150,000 by percentage of total holds placed in 2016 for each system, and recommended that the amounts contributed by each system toward the \$150,000 would be placed into Advantage accounts to purchase additional copies to help with system holds.

See the included workbook for both models and a comparison of costs.

The Formula Workgroup, at their February 10, 2017 meeting, chose to recommend this second formula to the Board.

Considerations

This new formula and its resulting Advantage contributions raise some questions and need for additional work on coordinating the selection and purchasing among the Advantage accounts and the consortium. The Formula Workgroup agreed that the Digital Collections Workgroup could consider these questions and provide the Board and Steering Committee with recommendations for best practices and policies to facilitate this coordination. Questions that the Digital Collections Workgroup will consider will include:

- *Purchasing schedules:* Determining when Advantage and Consortia should purchase to maximize resources.
- *Selection and purchase for Advantage accounts:* Developing procedures and policies to assist Advantage selectors with appropriate selection and creating best practices for purchase to streamline the work of the consortium and Advantage selectors as much as possible.
- *Assessing the effectiveness of dividing the buying pool:* Determining what measures will be needed and a schedule for assessment.