

2025 Annual Report TO THE COMMUNITY

Guided by the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, the Pierce County Library System aligns its services and operations to support the evolving needs of individuals, families and communities.



Our Mission and Vision

How we see the future:

The community of Pierce County thrives on inclusion, curiosity and connection.

Why we exist:

To empower the people of Pierce County by advancing all forms of literacy, championing access to information, creating inclusive and inspired spaces, and enriching lives.

Our History:

- Established in 1946.
- Includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.
- Serves approximately 686,500.
- Is a municipal corporation as cited in RCW 27.12.060.



"The library is a great place to introduce books to children and a good place for resources. I like to tell families and even for myself, your library might have that resource."

– Kristen, Pierce County Library cardholder

Our Values

Cultural Humility

We listen to and learn from each other.

Empowerment

We defend intellectual freedom, access and autonomy.

Human Connection

We bring people together.

Transformative Hospitality

We value every person.

2025 In Review

In 2025, the Library strengthened its strategic foundation, modernized core systems, expanded equitable public access and built organizational capacity—positioning the Library to sustain progress and deliver community value into 2026 and beyond. It was a year of meaningful growth, learning and progress.



Strategic Alignment and Systemwide Progress

- Adopted and launched a new Strategic Plan, aligning priorities and execution across the system.
- Completed the project work needed to finalize a Comprehensive Capital Plan report in 2026 to guide long-term investment.
- Broke ground on the new Sumner Pierce County Library Oct. 2, 2025.



Financial Stewardship, Infrastructure and Risk Management

- Completed more than 100 technology projects, including cybersecurity enhancements, system modernization, Microsoft Windows 11 deployment and accessibility upgrades.
- Awarded two grants totaling \$650,000 to address cybersecurity needs.
- Demonstrated operational resilience during a cybersecurity incident, maintaining circulation through system adaptation and expansion of floating collections.
- Launched an interactive ClearGov 2026 Budget Book to enhance public fiscal transparency accessibility.



2025 In Review



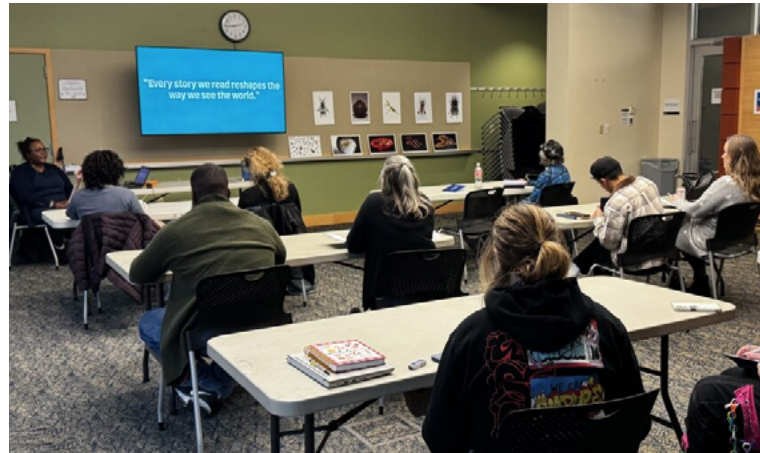
Public Access, Community Impact and Equity

- Expanded access to critical supports through increased co-located services and community partnerships to include mobile showers provided by the New Hope Resource Center, and assistance navigating state/federal benefits with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.
- Delivered high-impact programs and partnerships that expanded learning, arts and cultural experiences across the county with the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read in partnership with the Museum of Glass, Stories and Voices, and Poetry in the Park with the Tahoma Bird Alliance.
- Improved customer access through technology upgrades, ADA improvements and cleaner, more navigable library spaces.
- Strengthened equity in collections and services by expanding culturally inclusive offerings, to include a broader selection of holiday titles, and reduced digital hold wait times by more than 50%.

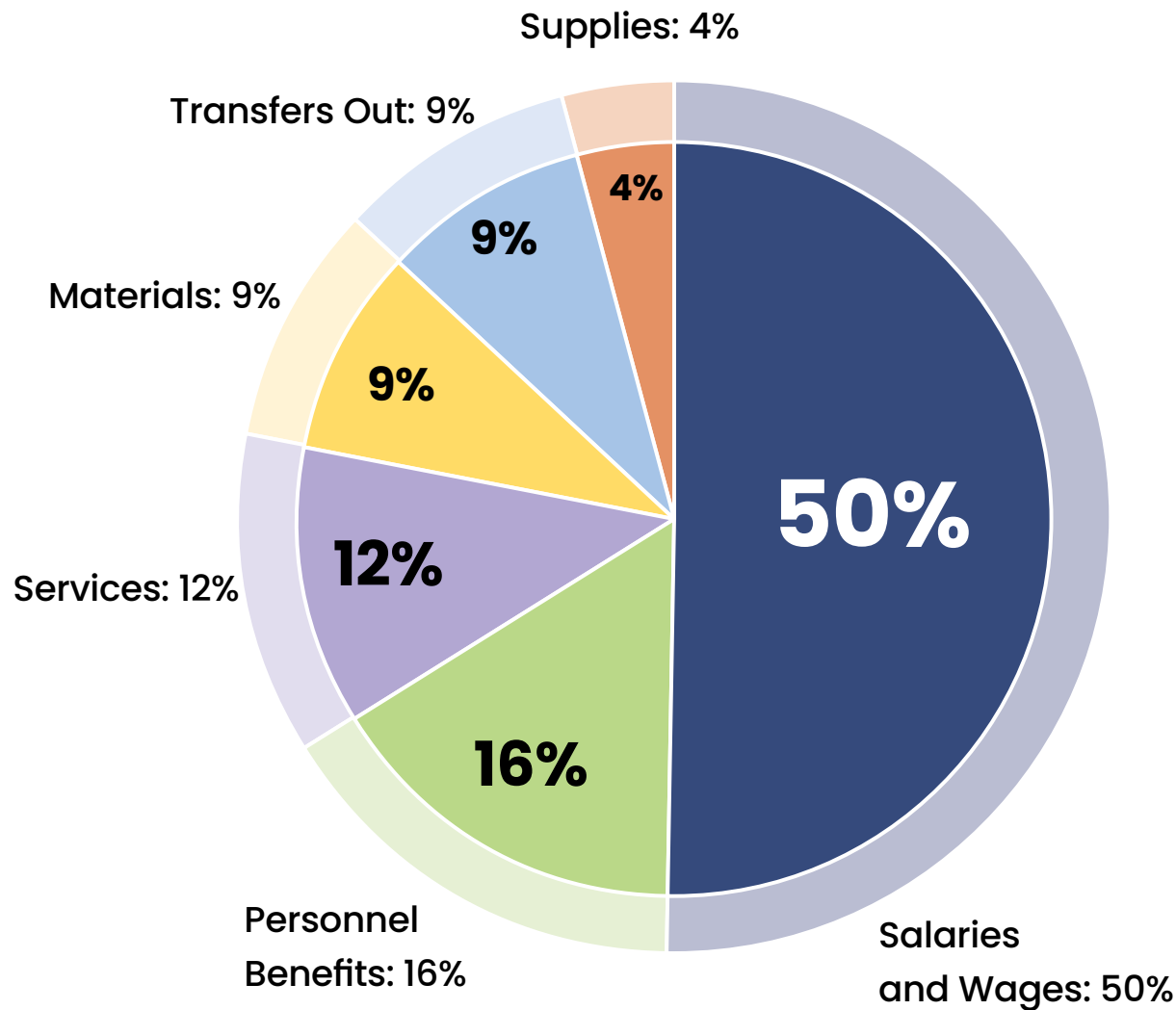


Workforce Capacity and Organizational Growth

- Advanced Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) initiatives across recruitment, onboarding, training and employee resource groups.
- Launched a staff Training and Development program, including implementation of a new learning management system.



*Library delivery drivers
drove more than 36,000
miles to deliver more than
9,100 crates of materials
across the county*



Your investment

in the Pierce County Library

- Total 2025 General Fund revenues and transfers in: \$49,461,383
- Total 2025 General Fund expenditures: \$46,125,435
- 96.3% of funding (excluding transfers in) for library services in the General Fund comes from property taxes. By state law, library systems may collect up to 50 cents per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.
- \$0.33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value was the 2025 tax rate.

2025 Contributions

Pierce County Library Foundation

In 2025, Pierce County Library Foundation donors gave \$625,000 and made lasting commitments to strengthen library services countywide, including capital campaign commitments for a new Sumner Library. Highlights include \$60,000 raised at the record-breaking 7th annual Trivia BEE and expanded legacy commitments to \$9.8 million to support endowment growth.

These gifts supported key priorities such as e-books (\$100,000 to expand access to digital reading), Summer Reading book giveaways (\$81,000 to inspire young readers across the county), and On the Road (\$23,000 to help bring library services into the community).

View the Foundation's Annual Report, including 2025 donors, at supportpclf.org/annualreport.





2025 Contributions

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Library groups are member-supported, independent nonprofit organizations who support library services in their community.

- Advocate for and increase public awareness of library services and strategic plans.
- Raise funds through book sales and other activities.

In 2025, 14 Friends of the Library groups donated \$60,016 in earned income to the Library.



About Your

Pierce County Library System

System Statistics

Organizational Overview

Employees: 313

Population of service area: 686,500

Size: 1,800 square miles

Books and Materials

Books and other in-library titles: 614,416

Online/downloadable titles: 1,472,098

Total books and materials: 2,086,514

Visits

To 19 libraries: 1,502,612

To website: 1,024,534

Total visits: 2,527,146

Checkouts

Cardholders: 347,873

Checkouts from bookshelves: 2,286,473

Checkouts online: 3,061,255

Checkouts per day: 14,651

Total checkouts: 5,347,728

Usage of Services

Uses of online databases/e-sources: 494,890

Public computer sessions: 209,950

Wi-Fi sessions: 831,310

Event and class attendance: 74,727

Adult care facilities, child care centers
and homebound people served: 31,175



"I love the library for all the social playgroups and access to all the books, which would be so expensive to buy. I homeschool and the library has a ton of resources like color pages, activity sheets and projects." – Mikayla, Pierce County Library cardholder

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