Options for Courier Coverage without IMLS/LSTA funding

Sage currently has $40,000 budgeted toward courier for fiscal year 2025-2026 paid for by member fees. The options below present alternatives for what is hopefully a temporary situation.

Option 1:

Split the cost difference for main Orbis Cascade hubs amongst those dropsites. It is unknown what Expak costs will be next fiscal year at this point but if we use 57,000 as an estimate then the cost difference would be 17,000 and split by the 9 dropsites. Local courier drivers would be funded by destination libraries or volunteer drivers recruited.

Option 2:

Reduce 5 days/week hubs to 2 days/week resulting in an approximate cost of 45,000. The additional 5,000 needed could be split by the dropsites involved or subsumed by Sage. With this reduction causing potential storage and transport volume issues I would recommend reducing the number of patron holds from 15 to 5. Local courier drivers would be funded by destination libraries or volunteer drivers recruited

Option 3:

The $40,000 would be used to fund a half year of courier costs, giving time gain more information about long-term IMLS funding and/or seek additional funding sources. The more cost savings we can employ with local couriers, the farther that money will stretch. If a partial year contract could be negotiated with Orbis Cascade Alliance/Expak at current levels of distribution the approximate cost for 6 months would be $28,500. That would leave $11,500 to spend on local courier distribution.