



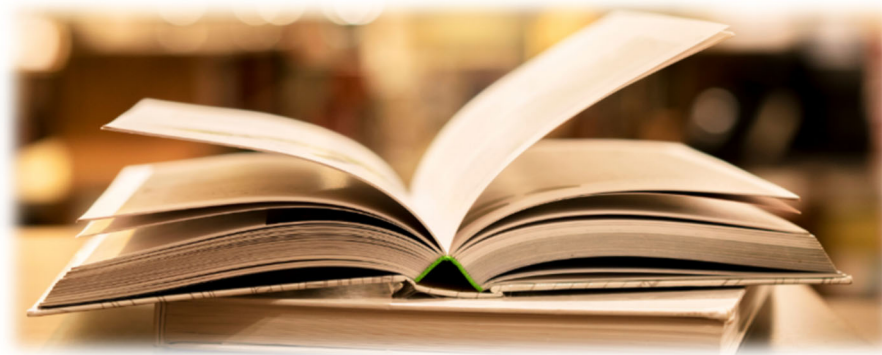
# Essex County Library

## Service Delivery Promise

The Essex County Library (ECL) is the community's connection to information resources and services for residents living in the 7 local municipalities within the County of Essex.

ECL is governed by the Essex County Library Board and its Mission is to create a space of discovery for all at the heart of our communities.

It is the vision of the Essex County Library to be a trusted community partner, enriching the lives of residents by providing responsive services and creating connections to information, entertainment, and knowledge. As a cornerstone of our County, the Library fosters engagement and lifelong learning through spaces and services that evolve to meet the needs of the community.



## Level of Service Statement

ECL is connecting residents to resources through our community branch locations and through 24/7 online service at [www.essexcountylibrary.ca](http://www.essexcountylibrary.ca)

Town of Amherstburg	Amherstburg Branch
Town of Essex	Essex Branch Harrow Branch McGregor Branch
Town of Kingsville	Cottam Branch Highline Branch (Kingsville) Ruthven Branch
Municipality of Lakeshore	Comber Branch Stoney Point Branch Toldo Branch (Emeryville) Libro Centre Branch (Woodslee)
Town of LaSalle	William Varga Branch (LaSalle)
Municipality of Leamington	Leamington Branch
Town of Tecumseh	Cada Branch (Tecumseh)

Through its 14 branches, the Essex County Library provides direct access to and staffing support for its collections, programs, and services. The 24/7 online service strengthens the library's collections and resources by providing access to its expanding digital content of eBooks, eMagazines and Databases.

## Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for 2025

With the new 2025–2030 Strategic Plan setting the course for the next five years, there are several challenges ahead for the Library. These include increasing community engagement with library services; improving accessibility and inclusivity in programming, spaces and collections; and continuing to foster a County-wide culture of lifelong learning.

After a surge in program attendance, the launch of several new products and services, and the successful relaunch of the renovated Cada Branch in Tecumseh, Essex County Library has elevated its public profile in 2024 and paved the way for success in 2025. These 'good news stories' combined with the added clarity and direction provided by a new Strategic Plan presents an opportunity for the Library to expand its reach and relevance in the community.

In 2025, cyber security will become a greater concern than ever before. With cyber attacks on several large, metropolitan libraries across Canada (i.e. Toronto Public Library, Hamilton Public Library, Calgary Public Library, etc.), there is considerable risk to operations through phishing, ransomware and DOS (denial of service) attacks. This requires enhanced training for both the public and library staff to mitigate those risks.

## Proposed 2025 Budget Plan

The proposed 2025 Budget includes consideration for the following:

### Information Services and Collection

Costs associated with maintaining library collections are impacted by several factors, including inflation in manufacturing costs of physical resources, pricing for content licensing for eResources, and fluctuation of the US exchange rate.

To backstop the library against these inflationary increases, and to ensure collections remain current and viable, the proposed budget includes an increase in material spending of \$46,400.

## Staffing Costs

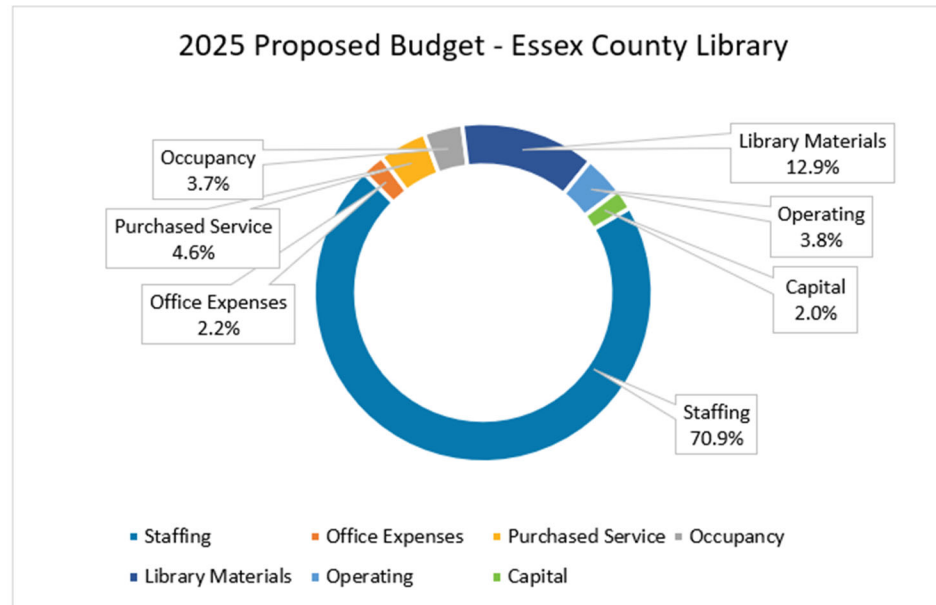
While the proposed 2025 Budget does not include a request to increase the staff complement, negotiated increases for staffing costs and an increase in minimum wage are accounted for. This includes a \$122,800 increase for salary and wages and an increase of \$73,800 in benefits.

## Branches

As a component of the Essex County Library Strategic Plan, in 2025 the library will be working towards reinforcing its position as an important space for the community. This will include evaluating the design and furnishing of library spaces to create flexible, welcoming branches that are accessible and modern. Further, with the increased prevalence of air- and surface-borne illnesses (i.e. Covid 19), ensuring that furnishings are bacteria-resistant and made of easy-to-clean textiles has become increasingly important.

In order to replace outdated, damaged and worn furniture with new, easy-to-clean furnishings, an increase of \$30,000 is included in the proposed 2025 Budget.

The graph below illustrates the key areas of proposed 2025 Budget spending at the Essex County Library:



Overall, the proposed 2025 Budget for Essex County Library net of recoveries, totals \$7,006,640 (an increase of \$250,810 (3.71%) over the 2024 Budget of \$6,755,650).

## Alignment with Strategic Plan Initiatives

### Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results

Included in the ECL Strategic Plan is an increased emphasis on developing partnerships with community and municipal organizations to increase visibility and name recognition.

### A Government Working for the People

ECL strives to ensure that all library services, programs and facilities are fully accessible and available to every member of the community, including those with disabilities, language barriers and limited digital access. The Library understands that it needs to be mindful of everyone’s differences and remove barriers wherever possible.

### Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County

Access to information is a fundamental component of creating prosperous communities. By ensuring that collections are current, programming is relevant to the needs of the public and that library staff are providing exemplary service, ECL can become an important part of creating an informed and empowered public.