

# Smith-Lever

## **Greater funding needed for the Cooperative Extension System, to provide knowledge and information to citizens of the United States.**

One of the true strengths of the land-grant university system is that food, agriculture, and natural resources research is translated into practical knowledge that is publicly disseminated through the Cooperative Extension System (CES).

Established by Congress in the Smith Lever Act of 1914, the CES is a unique educational partnership comprised of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and America’s land-grant universities. With offices located in more than 3,000 counties across the United States, Cooperative Extension agents and professionals help producers, consumers, families, and communities find solutions to problems both large and small.

The primary source of funding for the CES is the annual appropriation provided by Congress to the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) line item within the budget for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). These funds are matched at least dollar-for-dollar (most states provide a higher matching amount) and are used to leverage county funds and other public/private monies.

***Unfortunately, the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation has not increased appreciably for many years. Congress must rectify this situation by providing \$300 million in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations bill.***

Additional funding for Smith-Lever is critically needed to:

- Create pathways to U.S. energy independence.
- Assure an abundant and safe food supply for all.
- Sustain profitable plant and animal production systems.
- Prepare youth, families, and individuals for success in the global workforce.
- Assist in effective decision-making regarding environmental stewardship.
- Help Americans become more physically and mentally fit.

NASULGC’S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009	
■ Smith-Lever 3(b) and 3(c) .....	\$300.000 M



### **Smith-Lever funding...**

- Helps America’s farmers be the most productive in the world.
- Provides information to consumers on selecting safe and nutritious food and products.
- Enables Extension to respond to emergency needs on farms and in communities.
- Sponsors programs helping farmers and consumers use energy more efficiently.
- Supports 6.5 million youth through 4-H programs in science, engineering, technology, citizenship, and healthy living.
- Saves millions of pounds of unneeded agricultural inputs and improves water quality in America’s streams and lakes.
- Guides millions of home gardeners to effective and safe gardening practices.
- Attacks America’s obesity epidemic through solid nutritional education.
- Helps communities find solutions to issues of employment, leadership, and development.

***Yet, limited federal funding has made it increasingly difficult to maintain basic Extension services in many states. This situation has reached a critical juncture. Smith-Lever funds are the financial backbone of the Cooperative Extension System. Funding must be increased.***

# Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)

<b>Appropriations Bill</b>	Agriculture
<b>Agency</b>	Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA)
<b>Account</b>	Extension Activities
<b>Project (Program) Name</b>	Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)

**Requested Amount**      **\$300,000,000**

<b>Authorization</b>	7 U.S.C. 341, (Sections 3(b)-(c) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended)
<b>Description</b>	This CSREES <u>program</u> provides funding for delivery for Cooperative Extension System's wide array of programs which benefit the people of the United States.
<b>Benefits / Impacts</b>	Smith-Lever funding:
<b>Justification / Explanation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Helps America's farmers be the most productive in the world.</li> <li>■ Provides information to consumers on selecting safe and nutritious food and products.</li> <li>■ Enables Extension to respond to emergency needs on farms and in communities.</li> <li>■ Sponsors programs helping farmers and consumers use energy more efficiently.</li> <li>■ Supports 6.5 million youth through 4-H programs in science, engineering, technology, citizenship, and healthy living.</li> <li>■ Saves millions of pounds of unneeded agricultural inputs and improves water quality in America's streams and lakes.</li> <li>■ Guides millions of home gardeners to effective and safe gardening practices.</li> <li>■ Attacks America's obesity epidemic through solid nutritional education.</li> <li>■ Helps communities find solutions to issues of employment, leadership, and development.</li> </ul>

## Funding History

<b>FY 2009 (President's Budget)</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>
\$273,181,000	\$274,660,000	\$285,565,000	\$272,973,000	\$275,520,000	\$277,742,000

## Misc. Information

<b>Matching Funds</b>	States are required to provide at least a one-to-one match; most states provide much more than the minimum.
<b>Final Recipients</b>	1862 Land-Grant universities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.
<b>Note for Senate Offices</b>	Funding is <u>not</u> being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.

**Additional Information** > [www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm](http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm)