

Smith-Lever

America’s nationwide land-grant university system—with its integrated mission of research, higher education, and Extension (public outreach and engagement)—is literally the envy of the world. One of the core elements that makes this system unique is Cooperative Extension (“Extension”), which was first authorized by and continues to be funded under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914.

Extension is a network of professionals that links locally based educators and land-grant university faculty—along with federal, state, and local partners—to people in more than 3,000 counties/parishes in all 50 states, D.C., and the U.S. territories. Extension has one unifying core: *It works!*

As Cooperative Extension marks its centennial, it is appropriate to pause for a moment and take stock of the myriad ways that Extension benefits the nation. Extension:

- **Translates science for practical application.** Land-grant scientists and Extension educators identify emerging research questions, form teams to find answers, and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions.
- **Engages the public to take action.** Extension helps youth and adults acquire the knowledge, skills, and motivation to take action related to food, families, agricultural businesses, communities, and more.
- **Prepares people for healthy, productive lives.** Extension programs help break the cycle of poverty for families, encourage healthful eating/lifestyles and prepare youth for responsible adulthood.
- **Provides rapid disaster and emergency response.** The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) provides real-time alerts/resources to Extension educators so they can respond after hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fires, droughts, and outbreaks of pests or infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock, or crops. (www.eden.lsu.edu)
- **Develops partnerships to address major issues.** Extension works with the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture and other federal departments and agencies, nonprofit organizations, foundations, state agricultural experiment stations, and the private sector.



A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2015	
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c).....	\$300M+

- **Connects people online to science-based information and assistance.** A national Extension initiative provides the public with information and assistance 24/7/365. The online resources of eXtension include communities of interest, informative articles, frequently asked questions, and ways to “ask an expert.” (www.extension.org)

Extension helps people achieve their goals through practical, community-based and online education. And, through nationwide partnerships, Extension strengthens the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protects natural resources, helps individuals make healthy choices, ensures a safe and abundant food supply, encourages community vitality, supports energy independence, and grows the next generation of leaders.

For these and other reasons, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities continues to seek sustained/enhanced funding for the Smith-Lever program. Although Congress has provided relatively steady funding for this critical land-grant capacity program in recent years, as shown in the chart on page two, the appropriation has, nonetheless, failed to keep pace with inflation. To continue to provide America and its citizens with Extension’s myriad benefits, we support Smith-Lever funding at a level of not less than \$300,000,000 in FY 2015.

For additional information, see page two or email Hunt Shipman (hshipman@cgagroup.com) or Jim Richards (jrichards@cgagroup.com). Phone: 202.448.9500

Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)

Appropriations Bill

Agriculture

Agency

National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Account

Extension Activities

Program

Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c)

Requested Amount

Not Less Than \$300,000,000

Program Description

This program provides funding for delivery for Cooperative Extensions wide array of programs which benefit the nation.

Authorization

7 U.S.C. 341, (Sections 3(b)-(c) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, as amended).

Eligible / Final Recipients

1862 land-grant universities in all 50 states, DC, and the U.S. territories.

Matching Funds

States are required to provide at least a one-to-one match; most states provide much more than the minimum.

President's FY2015 Budget Request

Unknown

Five-Year Funding History

FY 2014	\$300,000,000
FY2013	\$271,068,000
FY2012	\$294,000,000
FY2011	\$293,911,000
FY2010	\$297,500,000



A·P·L·U requests that not less than \$300,000,000 be appropriated for the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) program at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Benefits / Impacts

Smith-Lever funding:

- Helps U.S. farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners be the most productive in the world.
- Provides information to consumers on selecting safe and nutritious food and helps them fight obesity and diabetes through nutrition, diet, and exercise.
- Provides online access to Cooperative Extension resources 24/7/365.
- Provides Extension capacity for rapid response to urgent needs, such as the devastation to families and communities as a result of natural disasters.
- Helps farmers and consumers use energy more efficiently.
- Improves water quality in America's streams and lakes by helping producers understand and employ best management practices.
- Helps communities find solutions to issues of economic development and leadership.

A Cross-Section of Smith-Lever Successes

- Agro-economic studies have shown that each public dollar invested in agricultural research and Extension generates \$20 or more in public benefits.
- The Master Gardener program annually provides more than 4.5 million volunteer hours, public value of \$96.5 million, and more than 800,000 pounds of produce for local food banks.
- The 6.2 million 4-H youth and 487,750 volunteers create positive change in every community. And, compared to their peers, 4-H youth are twice as likely to go to college and three times more likely to contribute to their communities.

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

Has Not Kept Pace with Inflation

