

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

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 Extension launches another 100 years, 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.
- **Engages the public to acquire the knowledge, skills and motivation to take action.** As a result, Extension improves economic conditions and quality of life for farmers, businesses, youth, families and communities.
- **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](http://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.
- **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](http://www.extension.org))



A·P·L·U PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2016	
Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c).....	\$304M+

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 capacity 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 capacity funding at a level of \$304,000,000 + in FY 2016.



To find out more, visit us online ([www.landgrantimpacts.org](http://www.landgrantimpacts.org)), on Facebook ([facebook.com/Extension100years](https://facebook.com/Extension100years)), and on Twitter ([twitter.com/#ext100years](https://twitter.com/#ext100years)).

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

\$304,000,000

## 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 FY2016 Budget Request

\$304,000,000

## Five-Year Funding History

FY 2015 \$300,000,000

FY 2014 \$300,000,000

FY 2013 \$271,068,000

FY 2012 \$294,000,000

FY 2011 \$293,911,000

A·P·L·U requests that \$304,000,000 be appropriated for the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) program at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. We oppose the FY 2016 budget proposal to change the law and make a portion of these funds competitive.

## 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

- Sustaining agriculture and the nation's food supply: Better pasture management practices in Missouri led to more than \$100 million in new investments in dairy operations in the state, which, in turn, generated \$40 million in annual milk sales and supported 1,110 new jobs.
- Helping youth build the future: 4-H programs implemented by Extension across the nation involve nearly 6 million youth who are three times more likely to contribute to their communities and two times more likely to go to college.
- Building economic viability in communities: The Stronger Economies Together program, operating in 28 states, leveraged nearly \$112 million in resources to help communities across rural America work together on economic development blueprints that strategically build on current and emerging economic strengths of their regions.
- Fostering better nutrition and health: Kansas State Research and Extension works with local partners to offer Walk Kansas. Annually, more than 16,000 people report improved overall health and motivation to exercise as a result of the eight-week program encouraging them to walk more than 400 miles.

