

# University of Alaska - Fairbanks

## BACKGROUND

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 establishes the Cooperative Extension Service and provides federal funds for cooperative extension activities. The act requires that states provide a 100% match from non-federal resources (many states provide a greater match).

Funding under Smith-Lever sections 3(b) and 3(c) are distributed to cooperative extension units at eligible land-grant institutions under a statutory formula.

Congress has provided modest increases in the last two fiscal years, but this has barely slowed the steady erosion of this vital program in recent decades.

**The land-grant system strongly supports funding for Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) at \$350 million in FY 2011.**

## CONTACT

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## VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Alaska (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$3.74 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$.06 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$3.80:

### Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) Appropriation

	FY 2009 <sup>1</sup>	FY 2010 <sup>2</sup>	FY 2011 <sup>3</sup>
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$1,074,347	\$1,128,187	\$1,388,344
State	4,021,822	4,202,804	4,328,888
Local/County	64,750	65,676	67,646
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,160,919</b>	<b>\$5,396,667</b>	<b>\$5,784,878</b>

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$350 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

### Additional Program Data

- University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service maintains faculty and staff in four core programs (Agriculture and Horticulture, Health, Home and Family Development, Natural Resources and Community Development, and 4-H and Youth Development) stationed throughout the State of Alaska in twelve district offices.
- To support and fulfill its statewide mission, Extension employs 60 full-time equivalent faculty and staff.

### BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation to \$350 million, our pro rata share would be  $\approx$  \$260,157. We would use such an increase to:

- Hire two new community based Extension agents. The first to be based in the Kenai to work in community sustainability and the second to be based out of Kodiak to work in food security/horticulture and 4-H youth development
- Provide more educational and technical support to agricultural producers, rural communities and 4-H youth programs in the areas of sustainable communities, food security and safety, climate change adaptation.
- Hire AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers and program aides to assist in the delivery and support of local community based Extension programs.

### OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Improving home energy efficiency - Extension's energy and housing specialist promotes energy conservation by helping homeowners and builders improve the quality and durability of Alaska homes. In 2009, 943 residents from 11 communities attended 31 retrofit, solar design and cold climate homebuilding workshops.
- Providing greater food security - An increasing interest in eating local has led to a great number of Extension gardening classes, in Alaska communities and villages. During 2009, more than 250 Master Gardeners were trained and donated thousands of volunteer hours to their communities.
- Promoting positive youth development - The 4-H motto is "learn-by-doing" and activities emphasize leadership and citizenship. Six full-time agents reached more than 14,000 Alaska youth in 2009.
- Encouraging healthy living - Alaska's senior population is growing faster than any other state and StrongWomen classes increase participants' strength, muscle mass and bone density. Since 2005, 121 community instructors have been trained in the StrongWomen program.