

Iowa State University Extension

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

Jack M. Payne
Vice President for Extension & Outreach
515-294-4603
jpayne@iastate.edu

Mary Holz-Clause
Associate Vice President for Extension & Outreach
515-294-1482
mclause@iastate.edu

VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Iowa (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$2.83 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.89 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$4.72:

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

	FY 2009 ¹	FY 2010 ²	FY 2011 ³
Federal (Smith-Lever)	8,974,327	9,327,790	11,037,064
State	26,876,227	21,674,306	21,000,000
Local/County	17,904,588	18,083,634	18,000,000
Total	\$53,775,142	\$49,085,730	\$50,037,064

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 for FY09

- 1,168,988 clients had contact with ISU Extension programs.
- Enrollment in noncredit educational programming totaled 492,350.
- More than 17,000 volunteers worked with ISU Extension programs.

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 \$11,037,000. We would use such an increase to:

- Support producers of local foods, helping these farmers develop new markets, expand Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) local food systems, and keep more dollars in the local economy.
- Strengthen business development skills in Latino entrepreneurs who are starting new or expanding existing businesses. ISU Extension helps the entrepreneurs understand their clientele, identify business locations, and set up business and marketing plans.
- Improve environmental sustainability, helping more Iowans protect the soil and water. Extension is a partner in the Iowa Learning Farm network of farmers, conservationists, and like-minded organizations demonstrating local conservation practices. Iowans are observing firsthand the application of farming methods and learning from extension specialists and educational products.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ISU Extension's Rural Development Resource Center provided business development assistance to 247 clients, facilitated business loans totaling \$471,682, and assisted with two small business start-ups, two expansions, and 17.5 job opportunities.
- 7,900 Iowa high school students enrolled in the High School Financial Planning Program, building skills they'll use now as students and later as workers.
- 156,861 Iowans participated in Extension's noncredit workshops, conferences, field meetings, and home study programs to increase their understanding and skills related to agricultural enterprise management, natural resource protection, and economic development.
- 5,000 attorneys, certified public accountants, tax preparers, agricultural producers, and policy makers participated in educational programs offered through the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation.
- 2,560 landlords and tenants participated in farmland leasing meetings to better understand their options and make informed decisions.