

University of Maryland 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.

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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Maryland (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$6.40 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.22 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$7.62:

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)	3,170,379	3,292,015	3,880,222
State	20,289,473	19,213,615	19,213,615
Local/County	3,875,295	3,728,316	3,728,316
Total	27,335,147	26,112,310	26,822,153

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

- Maintain offices in all 23 Maryland counties, plus Baltimore City.
- Employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 350 people.
- University of Maryland Extension (UME) touches the lives of over 1 Million Marylanders.
- UME made over 320,000 direct teaching contacts to clientele.
- More than 55,000 youth are actively involved in 4-H in Maryland.

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 ≈ \$588,207. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees for continuing to help Marylanders address the most pressing issues in the areas of Local Food and Agricultural Systems, Environment and Natural Resources, Healthy Living and Resilient Communities.
- Expand programming with youth and adults to improve nutrition and end child obesity.
- Expand 4-H youth programming in rural and urban areas; particularly in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as well as entrepreneurship.
- Increase outreach to agricultural producers regarding local food production, niche marketing and mitigating climate change.
- Expand programming to individuals and communities that will lead to behavioral changes that will positively affect Maryland's natural resources and the Chesapeake Bay.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Through UME's newly developed Maryland Rural Economic Development Center (MREDC), the Center supports farm, food and forestry enterprises through professional assistance in marketing and business development plans and programs: www.mredc.umd.edu.
- UME's Master Gardeners contributed a total of 76,558 volunteer hours valued at \$1,623,030 helping residents grow resilient and productive gardens and landscapes through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Urban Nutrient Management and Baywise gardening techniques.
- In the past year, 240,005 Maryland residents participated in financial literacy and management programs.
- Through 4-H STEM programming, UME partners with NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) to conduct intensive Adventures in Science (AIS) programming for youth resulting in youth pursuing higher education and careers in these critical areas.

