

University of Minnesota 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 Minnesota (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation leverages \$2 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$1.72 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$31,121,527:

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)	8,405,773	8,404,773	10,063,973
State	16,684,172	16,763,847	16,302,841
Local/County	14,437,355	13,718,651	13,718,651
Total	\$39,527,300	\$38,887,271	\$40,085,465

NOTES: (1) FY 2009 funds are actual amounts; (2) FY 2010 is estimated; (3) FY 2011 assumes a \$235 million appropriation (as requested by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities).

Additional Program Data

- 16 Regional Offices as well as local offices across the state.
- Over 125,000 youth in 4-H Youth Development programs.
- Over 35,000 served through nutrition education 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 \$1,659,200. We would use such an increase to:

- Help farmers develop strategies to increase production without harming the environment to aid in the fight against global hunger.
- Inform citizens on the impacts of global warming.
- Through nutrition education and family development programs develop holistic strategies to tackle the problem of childhood obesity.
- Increase the scope of food safety programs to reach local and public food service operations such as churches, community food handlers and care givers.
- Educate famers and communities on biofuels and other sustainable energy opportunities.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Extension helps rural communities develop their capacity to succeed in tough economic times.
- Extension programs provide crop and livestock information to support local food systems producing healthy food for their communities.
- Extension education maintains and protects Minnesota's abundant natural resources, through its water quality, forest management, and agricultural waste management programs.



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