

# Mississippi State University Extension Service

## 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 Mississippi (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$4.41 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$0.56 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$4.97:

### 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)	6,676,428	6,879,251	7,860,061
State	29,410,885	27,040,828	25,685,938
Local/County	3,747,543	3,769,482	3,769,482
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,834,856</b>	<b>\$37,689,561</b>	<b>\$37,315,480</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

- Maintain county offices in 82 of Mississippi's 82 counties.
- Employ the full-time equivalent of approximately 648 people.
- Extension employees made more than 3,809,960 million contacts in FY2009.
- Approximately 104,000 youth are active in 4-H in Mississippi.

### 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 \$980,810.00. We would use such an increase to:

- Retain critical employees. With expected budget cuts for FY11 to be at least 15 percent and additional cuts in FY12, resources are needed to retain critical employees.
- Support core operations including a leadership institute to prepare the next generation of leaders.
- Increase educational emphasis on sustainable farming and natural resources to mitigate climate change, safer food processing and preservation and strengthen disaster management programs.
- Expand 4-H programs to provide more technical support including nutrition and fitness programs that address childhood obesity prevention efforts. Strengthen teen-taught programming that focuses on helping youth make wise choices about healthy living and financial awareness.

### OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mississippi in Motion project has worked with schools, communities, and industry to make positive lifestyle changes. As an example, at Baxter Industries, 70 percent of the employees participated and lost an average of 6.4 pounds and made significant changes in other health risk indicators.
- Food Safety and Quality programs aimed at enhancing the safety and quality of our food supply come in the form of HACCP, Serv-Safe, Food Defense and Culinology programs. Major commodity processors in the state, and around the region, participate in these programs.
- The renewable energy program helps Mississippi citizens understand how to take advantage of renewable energy opportunities in the state. Biobased renewable energy is an emerging market.
- The Center for Government Technology certification programs for Municipal Clerks and Tax Collectors are nationally recognized and have taught over 14,000 community leaders from civic organizations, and county governments.
- Through the Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network, more than 41,000 child care providers have received professional development training since 2005.
- 4-H members enrolled in the Congressional Awards program provided 51,400 hours of voluntary public service, spent 31,800 hours in personal development and 29,000 hours in physical fitness.
- Soybean management demonstrations on over 300 farms have yielded an average of 12 bushels per acre above the state average. Increasing yields on two million acres by only half that amount equates to a 108 million dollar impact. Similar programs exist for corn, cotton and rice. Natural Resources Extension programs saved over 2400 tree farmers managing 2.8 million forest acres a value of 4.6 million dollars as reported by participants.

