

Montana 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.

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Mission:

Extend the presence of the State Land Grant University to all corners of Montana through applied research, educational outreach and public engagement.



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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Montana (FY 2009), each dollar received under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$2.26 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$2.19 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total \$4.45:

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)	\$2,621,094	\$2,725,925	\$3,306,547
State	\$5,932,434	\$5,723,178	\$5,478,901
Local/County	\$5,746,926	\$5,953,500	*\$6,042,803
Total	\$14,300,454	\$14,402,603	\$14,828,251

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), *Fiscal year 2011 projection based on the average change from previous fiscal years.

Additional Program Data

- MSU Extension reaches every area in the state through cooperative agreements with 55 counties and 5 Indian Reservations.
- Extension faculty and staff reside within 4 colleges and 8 departments at Montana State University, as well as the 4-H Center for Youth Development located in Taylor Hall and forestry faculty located at the University of Montana.
- The Montana 4-H program is the largest, out-of-school youth serving organization reaching over 19,000 youth ages 5-18 annually.

BENEFITS OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

As shown above, if Congress increases the FY 2011 Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation to \$350 million, The MSU Extension pro rata share would be \$641,283. This additional funding would be utilized to:

- Expand Extension Energy Education outreach to assist landowners, producers, educators, business people, homeowners and all Montanans with resources about saving, producing and efficiently using energy.
- Expand work with rural communities in addressing issues of leadership development, capacity building and poverty reduction.
- Develop educational and outreach efforts in agri/bio security, food safety and positive youth development.
- Fill critical campus-based specialist positions to meet the needs of Montana in the areas of sustainable agriculture and natural resources, youth and community development, and nutrition.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Extension's Housing and Environmental Health Program has received \$873,963 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a national Tribal Healthy Homes Assessment and Training Center at MSU.
- Two new web-based tools developed by Extension specialists allow Montana wheat producers to optimize fertilizer rates--and their profits, by utilizing computer models to adjust variables and predict potential results.
- Extension nutrition education team members targets audiences of low-income families with children, food stamp recipients and low-income seniors with information on healthy eating habits and nutritious food choices. Programs are in 17 counties and 5 reservations.
- "Small Steps to Health and Wealth" is a national Extension program that assists individuals in improving their health and financial well-being through education and behavior changes.