

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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 New Jersey (FY 2009), each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by \$8,671,929 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$6,233,903 in local funds and \$8,715,832 in external funds. Combined state, local and external funding leveraging adds to a total \$23,621,664:

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) | 2,541,911 | 2,629,600 | 3,053,646 |
| State | 8,671,929 | 8,238,333 | 7,826,416 |
| Local/County | 6,233,903 | 6,545,598 | 6,872,878 |
| Total | \$17,447,743 | \$17,413,531 | \$17,752,940 |

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

- Volunteers recruited, trained and managed by Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) faculty and staff continue to be the engine for extending our educational outreach. The value of volunteer service in support of the 4-H youth development and master gardener programs is valued at \$15 million.
- Rutgers urban entomology program is engaged in current research on insect behavior, monitoring, insecticide resistance, novel control techniques, and integrated pest management to find the most effective and least toxic strategies for public use. An extension specialist has developed an inexpensive bed bug monitoring tool to help limited resource communities and others to handle the alarming increase in bed bug infections.
- RCE is committed to serving the diverse needs of the residents of New Jersey. RCE has an organizational commitment to diversity and has engaged underserved communities in our urban centers where language differences, limited resources and access to RCE educational programs have been barriers in the past. The New Brunswick 4-H program in collaboration with Latino community leaders have enrolled youth in a 4-H program which focuses on culture, dance and arts, gardening, sports, leadership and English as a second language. Strategic partnerships have been formed with local business and organizations to provide resources and support for the program.

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 equal to \$424,046. We would use such an increase to:

- enhance and expand research and outreach to address critical water resource and environmental issues which impact the viability, health, sustainability and quality of life for New Jerseyans;
- improve the science literacy and aptitude of New Jersey youth through the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology Program engaging youth in hands-on learning experiences which will lead to high proficiency in science, educational success and strengthen global competitiveness in the future;
- expand continuing efforts to address the epidemic of childhood obesity through educational programs directed at both youth and adults resulting in changed behavior, improved health and quality of life.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey has enlisted students, faculty, staff, alumni and the concerned public, in efforts to help feed New Jersey's hungry and also address the complex and pressing issues of food security through research, education, outreach and volunteerism. Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) has stocked food banks; provided consumer education on nutrition, food shopping and preparation; opened a farmers market to provide residents with affordable, nutritious foods while supporting local farmers and small businesses, and conducted research toward improving food production, packaging and distribution.
- New Jersey is the third largest cranberry producer in the United States. Rutgers has initiated commercial plantings of three cranberry varieties, Crimson Queen, Mullica Queen and Demoranville, and superior crop yields have been realized. One of the first beds of Crimson Queen, planted in Wisconsin in 2005, yielded nearly three times the state average of 200 barrels per acre. Licensees have planted these varieties in virtually all major North American cranberry growing areas.
- New Jersey's Operation Military Kids (OMK) builds partnerships to increase capacity for youth, families and communities to support youth of military families and help them to cope with the deployment of a loved one. OMK represents a unique collaborative effort between the US Army and communities across the U.S. New Jersey has created or expanded programs that include Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK) – Teen Speakers' Bureau; Hero Packs – care packages for military children; Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) Trainings – community awareness briefings; Mobile Technology Lab – connecting with technology; OMK Leadership Camps and Project Young Hero – an 18 minute video exploring deployment through the eyes of youth. Well over 2,000 youth have been engaged in these activities.

