

Washington 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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VALUE OF SMITH-LEVER FUNDS

In Washington State, each dollar received under Smith-Lever 3(b)(c) appropriation is matched by \$20 in state, county, extramural and self-generated funds.

Source of Funding	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Federal Smith-Lever 3 (b)(c) Funds	\$4,021,977	\$4,196,151	\$5,077,343 ^c
State Appropriated Funds	\$15,037,604 ^a	\$12,477,885 ^a	\$11,604,433 ^{ac}
County Funds	\$9,929,567 ^b	\$8,117,371 ^{bc}	\$8,177,371 ^{bc}
Grants and Contracts	\$49,806,909 ^b	\$54,787,600 ^{bc}	\$63,005,740 ^{bc}
Other	\$4,855,523 ^b	\$4,952,634 ^{bc}	\$5,051,687 ^b
Total	\$83,651,580	\$84,531,641	\$92,856,574

NOTES: a = State fiscal year (July 1–June 30); b = calendar year; c = projected

Additional Program Data

- WSU Extension maintains offices in 54 locations including offices in all 39 counties funded through agreements with each county government.
- WSU Extension employs 504 persons statewide along with 75 persons employed by county government to support local extension programs.
- Extension programs resulted in 11.6 million face-to-face and electronic contacts in 2009.
- The 4-H program enrolls over 70,000 youth annually supported by over 8,000 volunteers.
- 14,281 volunteers supported WSU Extension programs contributing effort valued at over \$34 million annually.

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 increased by 21.3% to \$5,077,343.

- Additional federal funds would support programs that result in increased energy efficiency and security, agricultural profitability, natural resource stewardship, health and wellness, and positive youth, family, and community development across the state.

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- WSU Extension programs have received national and regional recognition including 3 Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Awards of Excellence, 5 Western Extension Directors' Awards of Excellence, and one national NIFA Partnership Award in the past 3 years alone.
- Our integrated agricultural extension and research programs have led to reduced erosion, effective pest and disease control with reduced application of pesticides and fungicides, reduced energy inputs, and reduced farm accidents while enhancing farm profitability.
- Our small farms programs have led to increased direct sales to consumers, increased farm ownership by Latinos and Asian emigrants, and increased local food supplies.
- Our energy programs have increased electrical generation from agricultural waste creating new clean electricity for over 11,000 households; increased energy efficiency of tens of thousands of homes annually through energy audits, incentives, and by informing creation of energy efficiency building codes at the state and federal level; and increased application of solar and wind energy statewide and regionally.
- Youth in 4-H exhibit fewer risk behaviors and succeed at a much higher rate than their peers including scoring higher on college admissions tests and receiving higher grades. Our programs help communities address poverty, support effective local government, and enhance access to broadband and technology.
- Our health and wellness programs help WA residents prepare and consume healthy foods, manage diabetes and other chronic disease, and enhance rural health delivery.
- Our programs strengthen families leading to reduced alcohol and substance abuse by teens, reduced family conflict, and improved school and community responsiveness to children experiencing physical and psychological trauma.