

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.

Although congress has provided modest increases in the last two fiscal years, we are unable to keep up with educational program demand and growth.

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 Michigan, each dollar we receive under the Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) appropriation is leveraged by almost \$3 in state funding. This in turn leverages \$3 in local funds. Combined state and local leveraging adds to a total of \$7

Funds Leveraged by Our Pro Rata Share of Smith-Lever 3(b)-(c) Appropriation

	FY 2009¹	FY 2010²	FY 2011³
Federal (Smith-Lever)	\$8,512,523	\$8,855,613	\$10,514,724
State	\$29,615,500	\$28,697,420	\$28,697,420
Local/County	\$21,367,066	\$20,298,713	\$19,283,777
Total	\$59,495,089	\$57,851,745	\$58,495,921

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

- MSU Extension is implementing a reorganization that will streamline administrative functions but maintain staff located across the state to serve all 83 Michigan counties.
- MSU Extension educators across the state work with the MSU Product Center to support new entrepreneurs with access to MSU resources.
- MSU Extension staff members are collaborating on the National Children’s Study, the first and largest research project of its kind to look at health issues affecting children.

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 \$1.7 million. We would use the increase to:

- Build programming around improving the health of Michigan residents.
- Strengthen career development programming for Michigan’s youth.
- Enhance research and education to support Michigan’s \$71 billion agriculture, agribusiness, food and fiber industries.
- Michigan’s communities preserve natural, human and economic resources.

OTHER PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- Nearly 37 percent of Michigan’s 18-to-24-year olds were enrolled in college in 2007. By comparison, 66 percent of Michigan 18-to-24-year olds who were alumni of a Michigan 4-H pre-college program were enrolled in college and nearly 53 percent of 18-24-year olds who were involved in 4-H during their senior year of high school were enrolled in college.
- MSU Extension educator Steve Poindexter’s work with the growers was so well received that they lobbied to generate funds that support a portion of his position and continue his work to maintain a strong and vibrant sugar beet industry. Michigan is the third-largest producer of sugar beets, generating more than \$140 million in cash receipts in 2008.
- MSU Extension specialists and educators are supporting Michigan’s burgeoning bioeconomy. In one grant-funded effort they are conducting inventories of unused land that could support crops for use in biofuels. In other activities they are educating landowners about the possibilities for producing woody biomass for bioenergy and supporting entrepreneurs who are exploring options for producing renewable products.

