1. During past five years, what trends have been observed in the funding for Extension?

* Overall: funding from multiple sources and more diversified.
* We are charging fees and more states are developing and setting consistent fees/processes for cost recovery
* Declining state (exc. ND) and federal capacity funds (now less than half in some states)
* Increase in foundation and private (business) funding
* Become more entrepreneurial
* Increase in contracts and grants
* Working on more indepth relationships with communities that is holistic and across breadth of programs (Community to Community in Iowa) on larger contract over several years
* Importance of local funding whether mil or contract/fees
* More increases locally from mil increases than from local appropriated funding (most going to other programs though than CRED programs)
* Integrated funding for grant funding: research and extension with limited success
* **AFRI: small farm and community dropped integrated and no funding at all this year.**
* Opportunity for funding for work with returning Vets.
* Key foundations that have funded CRED are in flux; however not funding.

2. What are key funding challenges?

* Helping educators/faculty and stakeholders (govt. decision makers) understand why we are charging (staff and stakeholder acceptance)
* County officials unhappy with results in general especially that they are not receiving economic and community development at local level. (NACo meeting with Extension re: promising opportunities for national collaboration).
* ACTION: have Jane Schuhardt and Robin Shepard join us on future conference call
* **No national program leader as a single point of contact really championing for CRED to foster the Extension collaboration.**
* Economic downturn coupled with declining state and federal funding.

3. Where have the most notable funding declines or increases occurred?

* Declines in state appropriated funding (exc. ND)
* Increases in grants/contracts
* Increases in foundation and private funding
* Increases in mil funding
* Elimination of earmarks
* **Decline by two-thirds in Section 406 funding (affects CRED and ANR)**
* Partnership with USDA-RD for SET; however USDA-RD facing significant cuts.

4. What are the three-five key initiatives that are signatures of Extension work?

* Helping deal with community change and engaging in variety of challenges; engaging in the complexity of issues and wicked problems
* Work in the civic economy: everything that supports the market economy (civic engagement, quality and connected places, developing the community narrative) building community capacity and success based on assets.
* Transformational education in civic engagement that builds capacity for people to address and develop and implement solutions to issues in the community.
* These do not exclude the focus on community leadership development, participatory planning, organizational development, community economic development. These are still our foundation.
* The emerging program areas we had identified are built on these foundations:
  + Urban programming
  + Sustainability has been reframed often as resiliency. Concepts both valid and important.
  + Newcomers (Hispanics, etc.)

5. What are the three-five key challenges for Extension

6. What are the three-five key opportunities/trends?

* Maybe approach Kellogg Foundation what we can do as a region with new immigrants for racial equality and civic engagement

**ACTION:**

* + **Greg talk with his dean Bobby Moser as he is on Kellogg Foundation board**
  + **Scott L. also visit with Kellogg to initiate dialogue.**
* Strength we have is taking our programming to level of “**transformational education**” (Tom Blewett is key resource): about people taking ownership of issue, process and developing capacity in community for them to help themselves in the long term. Therefore this approach to civic engagement can be a strength for any issue—not just for Kellogg.
* Collaborating with United Way
* Look at developing relationships with Sloan Foundation (economic performance and quality of life) and Ford Foundation.
* Trend and opportunity: Tapping CRED by technical experts and researchers (agriculture, natural resources & environment, food, etc.) for how to work with communities and engage all sectors to produce good solutions, i.e. civic engagement. Acknowledgement of engagement of CRED makes the grant more likely to succeed.
* Resilience, especially in light of the realities communities are experiencing in regard to flood and drought and climate change and easy wide swings in climate that occur more frequently.
  + Need ability to be responsive and ready as regularly ready. Example: Wisconsin has built Extension library for each that can be pulled up in terms of blogs, technical resources, guides, etc.
  + Organizing community response and collaborations

7. What does this mean for cross program work in North Central Region

* Emergency preparedness/mitigation/recovery for resilience
* Local/regional food systems
* Renewable energy/environment
* Achievement gap/educational attainment
* Health
* Workforce/community business and economic development
* New Americans (especially Latinos) and underserved audiences: civic engagement, business development, helping them succeed
* Pathways out of poverty (opportunity to use the Horizon’s model)
* Civic engagement for addressing any of these and other issues

**We do not however want to be taken for granted in CRED or tagged on at the end or as after thought.**