

Financing and Staffing Extension Programs



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Overview of this Module

- What you will learn:
- Financing
 - Importance of funding for Extension
 - Sources of funding for Extension
 - Distribution of funding for Extension
 - Obtaining funding for Extension work
- Staffing
 - Staffing for Extension
 - Programs, challenges, opportunities
 - Future Extension staffing options
 - References



Importance of Funding for Extension

- Extension's funding needs are critical to meeting its mission
 - Federal funding provides important resources for agricultural as well as community needs
 - The Extension programs that are funded definitely impact individuals and families, the environment, and businesses
 - These community needs have increased over time due to population growth, changing technologies, and global economics that influence and provide ever-changing challenges
 - Extension is often the pivotal entity for other agencies to partner with and get their information out to the public



Importance of Funding for Extension

- Extension programs require funding to operate
- Funding provides for:
 - Personnel (Salaries & fringe benefits)
 - Materials & Supplies
 - Travel (mileage, airfare, hotel, car rental, parking, etc.)
 - Support personal (APT, student assistant, independent contractor)
 - Workshop venues (hotel, community center, school, etc.)
 - Others
- No funding = no programs



Sources of Funding for Extension

- Federal Funds:
 - Smith Lever Act of 1914 – provides for Extension work
 - Appropriations are called formula funds, whereby the distribution is based on a formula involving the size of the rural and farm populations
 - Smith-Lever 3(b) & 3(c) funds (states are required to match the funding 1:1)
 - Smith-Lever 3(d) funds for priority programs (no matching required)
 - Funds comes from the National Institute for Food & Agriculture (NIFA)
 - Provides overall funding for competitive and non-competitive research grants & extension programs



Sources of Funding for Extension

- National Institute of Food and Agriculture:
 - Formula Funds:
 - Smith-Lever 3(b) & 3(c)
 - 1890 Institutions
 - Smith-Lever 3(d) Priority Programs:
 - EFNEP – Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
 - Pest Management
 - CYFAR – Children, Youth, & Families at Risk
 - New Technologies for Agriculture Extension
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Farm Safety & Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification
 - Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program
 - Other Extension Programs:
 - Extension Services at 1994 Institutions
 - 1890 Facilities (section 1447)
 - Renewal Resources Extension Act
 - Others



Sources of Funding for Extension

- State Funds:
 - States vary in the amounts given
 - State of Hawaii provides for salaries in G funds
 - State of Hawaii also provides for other types of funding via Legislative bills for targeted and specific issues
- County Funds:
 - Some Counties in the U.S. provide for a large portion to Extension
 - In Hawaii, counties provide grants for program support



Sources of Funding for Extension

- Private
 - Foundations (Hawaii Community Foundation, Castle Foundation, etc.)
 - Business opportunities (Ulupono, Pulama Lanai, etc.)
 - Local agricultural supply companies (Chemical supply companies, stores, etc)
 - Non-profit & trade organizations (Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Association, etc.)



Distribution of Funding for Extension

- Distribution of Funding Sources
 - Varies between extramural funds, State G or general funds, and university tuition dollars, the greater share coming from extramural and G funds
 - Variation year-to-year depends on federal budget decisions, Hawaii State legislature, and UH student enrollment
 - Each entity has to deal with its priorities for funding because the needs always greatly out pace the amount of available funds, so hard decisions have to be made on the allocation
 - Universities typically experience a surge in enrollment when the economy is poor and jobs are more scarce, and that drops when the economy is doing well, which affects the tuition funds that each college receives within the university



Obtaining Funding for Extension Work

- Apply for Grants – helps CTAHR's RTRF funds
- County Funding – ex. Maui County
- Revenue Generation from CTAHR Strategic Plan
 - Fee for service
 - Entrepreneurial – Team 7: Plant Tissue Culture
- Donations to Foundation Accounts
 - Extension discretionary
 - 4-H Foundation



Staffing for Extension

- CTAHR's Programs with Extension Personnel
 - Edible crops: Fruits, Nuts, Vegetables (commercial, sustainable, and organic agriculture, soil fertility, farm food safety,)
 - Ornamental, Landscape, Turf, Floriculture & Nursery crops
 - Livestock Production
 - Food Safety (Food Safety Modernization Act, FSMA)
 - Master Gardener
 - Go Farm
 - 4-H Youth Development
 - Adult Leadership Program (Family and Community Education, FCE)
 - Intergenerational Program
 - Aquaponics & Aquaculture
 - Expanded Food & Nutrition Education (SNAP-ED)
 - Nutrition Education & Wellness
 - Hawaiian Home Lands
 - And more...



Staffing for Extension

Hawaii Association of County Agricultural Agents hosting the Western Region Professional Improvement Conference, Kona, Hawaii.



Staffing for Extension

- Challenge: CTAHR's Extension personnel numbers have decreased over the last 20 years
 - Fewer agriculture agents (50% fewer), yet 60% more farmers today with more issues to contend with regarding regulations, foreign competition, increasing costs, labor shortages, increasing invasive species & pest problems, etc.
- An ever-growing population means more people in need of basic services to improve their health, wellness, environment and agricultural competitiveness
 - Hunger, homelessness, economically depressed regions, literacy, etc.
 - Population dynamics and more diverse needs today than ever before
 - Climate change impacting weather patterns which could threaten our food and water supplies, and also our native habitats
- Opportunity: Extension needs to be adaptable to these changes and place resources in areas of greatest needs and greatest impact potential
 - Use of new technologies to help get information across to a larger population
 - Re-invent, re-focus, and vision



Extension Visioning Sessions



Future Extension Staffing Options

- Based on needs, develop high priority initiatives that are multi-disciplinary, multi-department, and multi-county to leverage personnel in similar fields to provide critical mass to resolve issues and have larger impacts
- Develop Extension in-service training and mentoring programs to increase an individual's skills and capacities
- Hire program assistants or staff to support statewide programs and efforts
- Develop and expand the use of volunteers – very important! (4-H, MG, FCE, etc.)



References

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https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA_FY2017_President%27s_Budget.pdf

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MAHALO!

