



Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)

Investment in Extension National Leadership: National Assessments Overview

What assessments support ECOP's national leadership?

Effective in 2016, ECOP voted unanimously to combine two accounts called 1) **Office of the Executive Director** and 2) **Strategic Priorities and Operations** into a new account called **ECOP National Leadership**. The total amount billed is \$600,000, which is no change from the \$400,000 and \$200,000, respectively, for the two accounts in previous years. The ECOP National Leadership account covers salary and other expenses related to the ECOP National Office in Washington, DC, plus all expenses related to ECOP committees, task forces, and projects. Calculations for the assessment begin with approval of an ECOP budget, then costs are divided amongst the 76 Section members as a portion of each institution's total receipt of capacity funds and competitive grant funding for research and Extension, based on a three-year rolling average as reported by USDA-NIFA. Capacity funds account for 60% of the assessment base; competitive grant funding, 40%. Multi-institutional grants are distributed amongst participating institutions.

A second assessment, **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education**, is billed to institutions delivering SNAP-Ed. The total assessed amount of \$150,000 covers work of the SNAP-Ed National Program Development Team headquartered at South Dakota State University. The billed amount is based on the proportion of SNAP-Ed funding received in the previous year as reported by participating Extension Services. Based on a positive vote of Cooperative Extension Section members in September 2016, ECOP reauthorized this assessment to continue for another three years through 2019.

What is the process for assessment billing?

The ECOP National Office, together with APLU colleagues, calculates assessment amounts in early December for the 76 institutions (1862 and 1890) in the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) Cooperative Extension Section. Statements are generated by the APLU Chief Financial Officer and sent electronically in mid-January to the designated administrative head of each institution. (For an updated list of administrative heads, contact Eddie Gouge at egouge@aplu.org.) The Extension assessment(s) are part of the invoice which includes billing for the BAA; Experiment Station Section; Council on Agriculture Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET), and Academic Program Section.

What are the consequences of nonpayment of assessments?

In 2016, the Administrative Heads Section updated its **Rules of Operation** as below. This does not apply to the Cooperative Extension SNAP-Ed assessment.

Section 2. Any institution not paying all of its assessments for the Board on Agriculture Assembly, its various sections, and the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching

ECOP is the representative leadership and governing body of Cooperative Extension, the nationwide transformational education system operating through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state, and local governments.

(CARET) by August 1 in the billable year will be denied all rights and privileges within the BAA until all assessments are deemed paid in full by APLU.

- a. Individuals from a non-paying institution will be unable to participate in any election conducted by the BAA.*
- b. Individuals from a non-paying institution will be removed from the mailing lists of APLU and its advocacy organization.*
- c. Individuals from a non-paying institution will be denied the ability to hold elective or appointive office within any part of the BAA or its various sections, including CARET.*
- d. The Executive Committee of the Administrative Heads Section may vote to forgo the penalty phase for non-paying institutions in the event of a natural disaster or some other catastrophic event that might affect their ability to pay the yearly assessments.*

Why is the assessment an investment?

ECOP works on behalf of Cooperative Extension nationwide in order to benefit state and local programming. Through national leadership, which is contributed on a volunteer basis by Extension directors and administrators, ECOP builds partnerships and acquires resources, increases strategic marketing and communications, enhances leadership and professional development, and strengthens organizational functioning. For additional details, see www.extension.org/ecop and www.ecopmondayminute.blogspot.com.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

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