

***COVID-19 Cooperative Extension System  
Request for Supplemental 4***

The Cooperative Extension System (CES) is part of the 112 land-grant institutions located throughout the nation. Land-grant colleges and universities, Cooperative Extension System educators, and agents build long-lasting and trusted partnerships with individuals, community organizations, and local businesses. Due to the increased need to reach people in their homes and the fact that nearly all educators and agents are themselves working from home, it is imperative that Cooperative Extension increase its capability to virtually provide essential programming and engagement services in ways that can effectively reach clientele who have a much different access to adequate broadband.

**We request \$80 million for the Cooperative Extension System to meet the direct needs of the public related to spread of and recovery from COVID-19.** The funding would be allocated via current Smith Lever and 1890s Institution Extension formulas, as well as through an ongoing contract for the NIFA New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE). The NTAE provides technical assistance to Extension agents and educators for effective delivery of virtual extension programs including educational and meeting platforms, training on new meeting formats, and customized support for scaling programs. NTAE will provide Tribal colleges with financial support and assistance.

*APLU requests that the funding be allocated as such:*

- *\$63 M to 1862s – Smith Lever*
- *\$11.5 M to 1890s – 1890s Extension*
- *\$5.5 M to NTAE – (\$1.5 M to 1994s Land-Grant Institutions through the NTAE line without any overhead)*

This supplemental funding will enable CES educators and agents to:

- Collaborate with emergency responders using digital resources to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on communities.
- Guide parents online to help families find innovative educational materials, access the Internet, and connect with mental health resources.
- Assist business owners to apply for loans and identify ways to offer services and products at a distance.
- Connect families to information on telemedicine, how to safely purchase and prepare food, how to determine how they could be affected economically by COVID-19, and educational materials to support children in finding ways to socialize, engage in informal learning, and exercise.
- Support farmers through remote services to work with them towards their short- and long-term profitability of their enterprise.
- Help businesses identify safety precautions for avoiding COVID-19 spread to employees or customers and virtual resources they can use to reach a larger audience to maintain the business.
- Provide seniors living alone with online programs to maintain their social connections and well-being.
- Assist individuals as they re-establish their personal and professional lives during the recovery phase.

With enhanced virtual learning capabilities, Cooperative Extension can strengthen its service as an educational and community backbone for individuals, families, farms, businesses, and communities in the coming months and year.

\*Please note that we request that the following provision be included to avoid state match issues associated with this request: Provided, notwithstanding any other provision of law the Secretary may waive matching requirements.