

Iowa State University/Extension Council Partnership Agreements

Iowa State University and County Extension Councils agree to form partnerships that share the cost of providing county offices with access to ISU professional staff for the delivery of ISU research-based education. This three-year funding agreement (FY09, FY10, and FY11) will bring ISU Extension to every county. The agreement gives a decision-making voice to Iowa's 900 elected council members as they join with their ISU partners in promoting and strengthening local and statewide Extension programs. It is the councils' responsibility to estimate the amount of money they need from county taxation, which is an annual levy amount of the assessed valuation of the county's taxable property within the limits set by state law. This agreement also gives counties the options to offset changes in federal and state funding of Extension.

The objective of the agreement is to maintain, in each county, high quality staff and availability of high quality Extension programs to address the unique needs of each county. Through the partnership agreement, county councils will provide citizens with access to ISU resources—research, professional staff, and educational programs and curricula—through the most modern delivery methods available.

Currently, the county funds paid into the Partnership Agreement provide access to the following ISU resources:

- 92 County Extension Education Director (CEED) positions, 102 Field Specialists, and 125 State Specialists
- Staff support for a county when it has an open CEED position
- Broadband support of county offices (\$600,000 per year)
- County accounting system
- Postage allocation to counties (\$290,000 per year)
- 4-H publication allocation (\$30,000 per year)
- Extension administration and area director support
- ISU systems including web employee reimbursement
- Human resources
- Employee benefits
- Educational materials development (\$250,000 per year)
- Educational materials provided at reduced or no cost to the counties
- Statewide program delivery
- Video production, web casts, satellite downlinks, and program news releases

Partnership Components

The Partnership Agreement will be implemented with the following guidelines:

- Population and county valuations will continue to be used to determine the amount paid by counties.
- Councils will continue to receive credits for housing field specialists, at the rate of \$500 for the first field specialist, \$2,000 for the second field specialist, and \$2,750 for the third specialist. The date used to determine the credits will be November 1. Adjustments for field specialists that move between counties can be negotiated by AEEDs.

- Counties will continue to receive the revenue generation credit at 10 percent of the formula.
- Extension Councils will pay the agreement quarterly on September 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 (with exceptions as needed).
- No Extension Council will pay more than \$90,000 per year in FY09, \$105,000 per year in FY10, and \$120,000 per year in FY11.
- The ISU Extension and Extension Council amounts will increase proportionally each year by the average increase in ISU Extension staff salary/benefits and market adjustment for new staff hired.
- As new Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) are agreed to or revised in counties that share a CEED, the counties will receive a credit worth 75 percent of the salary and benefit savings and ISU will receive 25 percent. Average CEED salary and benefit rates over the term of the MOU will be used. All shared CEED agreements will be governed using the terms and conditions of the FY09-FY11 agreement.

Before the next partnership agreement begins in FY12, the following items need to be addressed:

- Study the cost of housing field specialists
- Study the impact of revenue generation and the effect of the 10 percent credit.
- Consider the implications of a ½ time CEED option.

The flexibility of this agreement allows council members to be influential in determining the county funding, rather than having a funding structure dictated to them. They can create a funding environment that reflects local council goals by implementing options such as sharing CEEDs, generating additional revenue, and establishing innovative community partnerships.

Partnership Agreement Committee

In 2007, Vice President Jack Payne and the Iowa Association of County Extension Councils (IACEC) appointed a statewide committee to review the Partnership Agreement.

- **Extension Council Members:** Sue Boettcher, Dickinson County; Russell Collingwood, Iowa County; Kathy Deibert, Marshall County; Tori Grantz, Clinton County; Pat Griffin, Greene County; Jayne Lupkes, Worth County; Kathy Meyer, Butler County; Gary Smith, Mills County; Tom Ullrich, Woodbury County; and Alan Umbenhowe, Lucas County
- **Staff:** Rhonda Christensen, Buena Vista CEED; Alan Ladd, Southwest AEED; Dale Miller, Marion CEED; Al Ricks, Black Hawk CEED; and Janet Smith, Henry CEED
- **Facilitators:** Mary Holz-Clause, Interim Associate Vice President for Extension and Outreach, and Laurie Gustafson, Director, Budget and Finance