

Response from Karen A. Ramage at University of Kentucky Extension

Provided by Johnnie Luehrs

Are there legislative requirements in your state that require counties to help fund extension and/or extension programs? No. However there are legislative Statues that allow counties to establish Extension as a governmental entity within each county.

There is hereby authorized for each county an extension district whose boundaries shall be coexistent with the county boundaries. Such districts may be created by the fiscal court of the county. Each extension district shall constitute a governmental subdivision of the Commonwealth and a public body corporate.

History: Created 1962 Ky. Acts ch. 275, sec. 4.

2. Is there an assigned specific level of funding by each county or does it vary and depend on the county and its' needs from extension? Level of funding is very different from county to county. However, we at the State Office have developed a 5 tier county assessment level. This tiered level is based on county population, property tax assessments, and County Extension Budgets. Assessments for current year are:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
I	1-25	\$62,880
II	26-50	\$56,260
III	51-75	\$49,640
IV	76-100	\$43,020
V	101-120	\$36,400

These assessments pay salaries /partial salaries of agents within each county

1. Who makes that determination and how does the level of funding get determined? **The State Extension Office works to set these assessments. If counties want more than 3 agents (FCS, 4-H or Agriculture), they would have to pay entire salary plus benefit for that agent.**
2. What are the major obstacles that you experience in securing funds at the County level? **There are many poor counties in Kentucky but most value having their own agent within the county. The biggest obstacle is within the 8 counties whose fiscal courts have not allowed formation of District Boards and/or established local taxes.**
3. In your jurisdiction, at the County level, who/what are the key funding sources that you pursue? County/Municipality Government? School District ? Public Utilities? Public-Private Partnerships? Associations? Grant Writing? Private Donations? Etc.? **In counties which do not have local taxes, funding generally comes from County Government general funds.**
4. What accountability is required for ensuring that funds are appropriately used by the State Extension service. Do the counties hold you accountable for use of the funds? Do you provide feedback to the counties on use of the funds? **Accountability is thru MOA's, budget end of year settlements and accounts per county, Annual Report published, Information shared during State Extension Council meetings to our leadership.**
5. What happens to ensure that funding is requested/provided for the next budget cycle. **January of each year, we hold trainings with District Directors who in turn hold training with agents and District Board members to begin and review the budget cycle.**
6. Is there a review process at the state level to ensure that funds are being requested for appropriate activities that support extension? **District Directors review budgets, county audits , and financial reports and financial statements are published in the local newspapers. At the State Level, we were recently reviewed by UK internal audit.**

7. Annually, do you experience a shifting in funding sources based on changes in the economic, environmental and political climate? How do you stay tuned in to those shifting funding sources? **We are always concerned at the State level with this. The State Budget, which is set by legislature and comes thru UK, has suffered because of economics of the state. We try to keep local contacts with our legislatures throughout the year.**
8. Who is responsible and what resources do you use to initiate fundraising at the County level? Extension staff? Volunteers? Advisory Board members? Etc.? **The Extension District Board, Local leaders and Agents are all responsible for keeping local decision makers informed. Leaders and volunteers are much more effective than agents in securing funding for Extension.**
9. Do you conduct fundraising year round or are their specific time frames in which you pursue fund raising? **Fund raising is year round activity primarily for 4-H activities.**
10. What marketing tools/materials/techniques do you use in your fundraising initiatives? What works well for you in messaging your needs for funding support? **Use 4-H Foundation, Donor Companies. Best tool is individuals who have benefited tell their story.**