



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

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4-h-national-headquarters



NIFA

FACT SHEET

4-H IMPLEMENTATION: THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP

LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHED THE LAND-GRANT SYSTEM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AS WELL as subsequent legislation that established the State Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Cooperative Extension Service, has proven to be some of the most significant legislation passed in improving the quality of life in the United States. The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created the Cooperative Extension Service as a partnership between USDA, the land-grant university (LGU) system, and local governments. This unique federal-state-local partnership has functioned effectively for more than 100 years. • 4-H youth development is an integral and essential part of the total Cooperative Extension System’s educational program. From the very beginning it was intended that the Cooperative Extension Service would provide for the teaching of youth. Funding for Cooperative Extension programs conducted by LGUs is provided at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and at the state and local government levels. Other federal agencies may provide additional funding to support specific programs. In addition, National 4-H Council, state and local 4-H foundations, and/or other private sources may provide private funding to support specific programs.

