4-H IMPLEMENTATION: THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP

Legislation that created the land-grant system and the Department of Agriculture, as well as the 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 worked effectively for more than 100 years.

4-H youth development is an important 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 certain programs. In addition, National 4-H Council, state and local 4-H foundations, and/or other private sources may provide private funding to support certain programs.

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<tr>
<th>FEDERAL PARTNER</th>
<th>STATE/LOCAL PARTNER</th>
<th>PRIVATE PARTNER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USDA/NIFA</td>
<td>LAND GRANT UNIVERSITIES (1862, 1890, 1994)</td>
<td>NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL</td>
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- **STRATEGIC DIRECTION** + **PROGRAM EXPERTISE**
  - Identify and examine issues; research current practices and trends; develop a plan to address issue; federal and other partners who may be of assistance

- **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT** + **CONTENT EXPERTISE**
  - Develop and pilot test materials, resources, training, processes, etc.; produce and make these materials, resources, training, processes, etc.; accessible to appropriate audiences

- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT** + **SOLUTION CHAMPIONS**
  - Roll out solution—including research behind issues; training (professional development), program, benefits to staff and overall program

- **QUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY** + **DELIVERY EXPERTISE**
  - Implement and evaluate high quality programs that meet all federal requirements for outreach and jointly determined best practices for positive youth development based on contemporary research

- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**
  - Identify and solicit private partnerships and funding to support LGU in addressing issues

- **MARKETING AND PROMOTION**
  - Develop media and collaboration-building tools based on LGU products and programs

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