



Advocate for  
**OSU Extension Service  
Master Gardener™ Program**  
during the  
2023 legislative session

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Prepared for OSU Extension Master Gardeners  
by the OMGA Advocacy Task Force  
January 2023

# Advocacy & the OMGA

- OMGA Goal #6 for 2023

“The Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) commits to advocating for the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program. Through its Advocacy Task Force, the OMGA will seek to garner support from decision-makers (**OSU leadership, County and City Commissioners**, and the **Oregon Legislature**) in funding for the OSU Master Gardener Program.”

- This document focuses on advocacy actions to the **Oregon Legislature** in support of the OSU **Statewide Public Service Programs** (also referred to as **OSU Statewides**) during the 2023 legislative session.
- **OSU Statewides** is the umbrella that includes Master Gardener Program funding.

# MG Program Funding

MG program funding is part of the OSU Extension Budget

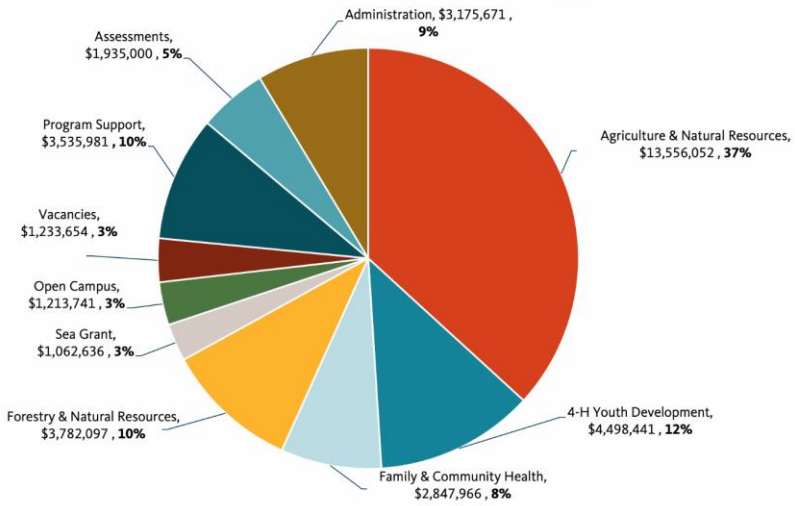
Main components of Extension budget include

Agriculture and Natural Resources (37%) - include MG Program funding

4-H Youth Development (12%)

Forestry & Natural Resources (10%)

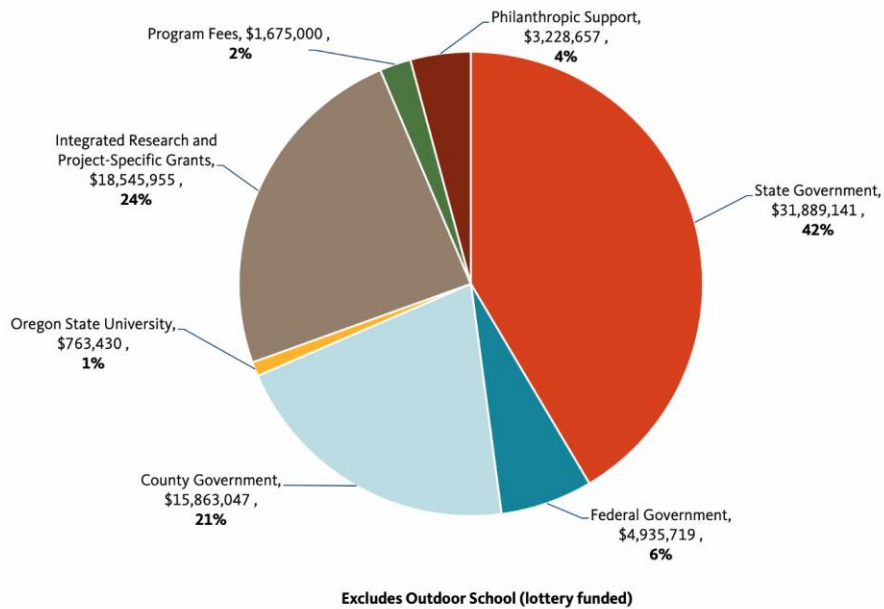
FY23 Extension Budget (allocated)



Not shown: Outdoor School (lottery funded) and KidSpirit (self-support)

# Extension Funding

**FY23 Extension Funding (budgeted)**



**Federal, State, Local, Grants, and Private funds** are needed to support Extension services

**Allocated federal funds (6%)** - come through USDA-NIFA via a formula set by the Farm Bill, level remained flat in recent years

**Local funds (21%)** - come through local tax district, levy, or general fund, 26/36 counties have tax district/levy for Extension, level held stable in recent years, **pay for local office, support and admin staff, travel**

**State funds (42%)** - vary by biennium, **pay faculty positions, also used as "Match" for grants and other funding sources that require a match**

# 2023 Funding Request

Fund **OSU Statewides** (Extension+Ag+Forestry)

at **\$206 M including \$50 M increase.**

**Increase includes \$15.3 M for Continuing Service Level & \$34.7 for Building Resiliency.**



CSL is critical to **sustain what we currently do**

**CSL** = flat funding **PLUS** inflation **PLUS** salary/benefits adjustments

**Flat funding = Real Cuts in Positions & Programs**



2017-2019 & 2021-2023 state funding had CSL **shortfall - a cause for prolonged, unfilled vacancies of MG Program positions**

# 2023 Funding Request

Fund **OSU Statewides** (Extension+Ag+Forestry) to **bolster capacity & expand programming \$34.3 M**

Meet needs across Oregon in  
**Resilient Food Systems**  
**Resilient & Thriving Communities**  
**Resilient Natural Resources**

**Choose 1-2 ideas from discussion guide as examples**  
**Click the link below for discussion guide**  
**[SWPS\\_23-25\\_discussiondraft\\_111822.pdf](#) | Powered by Box**



# Timeline

**Call/Email legislators** and introduce yourself

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/> is a website to locate your legislator

Jan.-Feb.

**Participate in OSU organized activities** (lobby day, etc.)

**Write letters, call, give testimonies** at public meetings as needed

Mar.-Apr.

**Continue to advocate** as needed

May-June

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# Process

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1

Follow guidance from OSU Extension Administration and Government Relations. If you have questions, contact your OMGA ambassador.

2

Use tools from the OMGA Advocacy Task Force.

3

Contact your legislator, use this website for contact information [Legislator Lookup](#) ([oregonlegislature.gov](http://oregonlegislature.gov))

4

Report the interaction. <https://beav.es/log-engagement>  
Please take time for this critical step so we can adjust our plans based on data.



# Resources

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**Sample Letters** - Fill in your name and a few facts then use



**Sample Talking Points** - Use as they are or adapt as you wish



**Stories** about how Master Gardener services benefit our communities



**Background Information** about Extension funding, OSU funding request, etc.

# Questions?

## Ask your OMGA ambassadors

**Benton** – Judith Kenner, Brenda Bye; **Central Gorge** – Beth Flake; **Clackamas** – Barb Epidendio, Laura Eyer, Sherry Sheng (Chair); **Clatsop** – Len Sherp; **Coos** – Tina Powers; **Crook** – Shirley Jaynes; **Curry** – Linnie O’Flanagan-Gorre; **Deschutes** – Pat Kolling, Chris Miao; **Douglas** – Toni Rudolph; **Jackson** – Sherill Morgan; **Josephine** – Georgia Moulton; **Klamath** – Pat Kolbet, Sarah Malaby; **Lane** – Sharon Roberts, Leigh Rieder; **Lincoln** – Stormi Dykes, Laura Strom; **Linn** – Karin Magnuson; **Marion** – Dale Marande; **Multnomah** – Rich Becker, Jack Lazareck; **Polk** – Becky Jay; **Tillamook** – Neal Lemery; **Umatilla** – Carey Wasem-Varela; **Wasco** – Marilyn Richardson; **Washington** – Leslie Ray, Karen Graham; **Yamhill** – Marlana Bertram

# Please Join Us!

- Successful advocacy is built on many voices.
  - **Please join us** - send your legislator a message via email or phone call.
  - Your OMGA ambassador will be in touch with specific requests and tools.
  - Thank you for taking time to review this.
- We thank Kris Elliott, Associate Director, OSU Extension, Joseph Erickson, Associate Director, OSU Government Relations, Jennifer Alexander, Communications Director, Extension & Engagement for providing the content for this document.
- Slide deck of their presentation is at <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/tjg8yxm4gnsweyiq84s3i3sr46k6z4j>