

## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS

OSU Extension Service | Agricultural Experiment Station | Forest Research Laboratory

### Resilient Communities

Total: \$12.2 million

The state's most pressing and interconnected issues — affordable housing, climate resilience, economic development, educational attainment, food production and access, health and well-being for people of all ages — exist in communities of all sizes all across Oregon. It is imperative that we collaborate to find solutions at the nexus of Oregon's diverse social, environmental and economic systems. This investment supports:

- ❖ **Rural economic development and healthy communities:** Expand proven Extension programs to support agricultural production at all scales across conventional, organic, integrated and emerging systems. Strengthen our network of field based educators who support individual, community and systems-level changes in nutrition, mental health and physical well-being.
- ❖ **Urban social and agricultural systems:** Support college and career access and expand positive youth development programming. Build more sustainable urban environments and community food systems through horticulture, small farms and related expertise and programs.
- ❖ **Community and behavioral health:** Expand existing, effective Extension community mental health promotion and substance use programming. Build capacity to provide applied research and evidence-based solutions through community collaborations to mitigate detrimental health effects of houselessness and improve other health outcomes for Oregonians.

### Resilient Food Systems

Total: \$17.9 million

The economic, environmental and community challenges facing society at large are reflected in our food system. In addressing those challenges with a strategic, multidisciplinary, connected initiative, the OSU Statewides will join with Oregon's vibrant food and agricultural industries to catalyze opportunities in everything from sustainable food production to farm succession and the future of ag in vertical farming and robotics to business development and entrepreneurship. This investment supports:

- ❖ **Sustainable food processing:** Produce sustainable food and beverages that use less land, water, energy and raw materials while creating less waste, less greenhouse gasses, and less dependency on plastic packaging.
- ❖ **Efficient agriculture production:** Increase efficiencies and address disease and pest pressures on Oregon's farms and ranches, 97% of which are family-owned. Expand Oregon's vibrant aquaculture industry with sustainable solutions.
- ❖ **Expand Oregon's global reach:** Establish the Oregon Food and Beverage Alliance – a request from Oregon commodity commissions to increase agriculture export coordination and support.

### Resilient Natural Resources

Total: \$4.2 million

OSU is a recognized leader in sustainable forestry, ecosystem and land management solutions. We have the comprehensive expertise necessary to address the complex challenges of sustainability in response to a changing climate, heightened wildfire risk and a growing demand for forest and water resources. This investment supports:

- ❖ **Water, fire and carbon:** Using best-available science, advance education and research to protect Oregon's communities and natural resources from the impacts of drought and a changing climate.
- ❖ **Forestry:** Improve the productivity, health, strength and sustainability of Oregon's forest sector from soil to forest canopy.
- ❖ **Economic opportunity:** Advance science, engineering and design of wood products to expand Oregon's mass timber industry, replace fossil fuel-based products with innovative wood-based and renewable materials and support Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

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## Building a More Resilient Oregon

The OSU Statewide Public Service Programs (OSU Statewides) are embedded in every county in the state. Together, we aim to serve all Oregonians by integrating research and community-based engagement to address our most pressing needs and realize the fullest potential of our most exciting opportunities. These programs are the foundation of OSU's land grant mission and the binding fabric of our service to this state.

### Funding Declines as Needs Grow

In the past two legislative sessions, the OSU Statewides have not received their base budget requests to cover cost increases, which are mainly modest salary, benefits and operational cost increases. At the same time, Oregonians have growing needs to maintain the health of our communities, food systems and critical natural resources. We need to build a resilient Oregon and to do so, stakeholders have recommended we pursue a substantial increase in our budget request, recognizing the value that investment in the OSU Statewides has in their communities and our state's economy.

### Investing in a Resilient Oregon

For the 23-25 biennium budget the OSU Statewides and our many stakeholders are requesting **\$206 million, which is a \$50 million increase**, to cover continuing service levels and new programming to support a more resilient Oregon.

This funding package is incorporated in SB 458.

Statewides Program	2021-23 Legislatively Approved Budget	Base Funding Increase	Resilient Oregon Programming	Total 2023-25 Increase
Agricultural Experiment Station	\$84.8 M	\$8.5 M	\$13.6 M	\$22.1 M
OSU Extension Service	\$59.3 M	\$6.0 M	\$18.7 M	\$24.7 M
Forest Research Laboratory	\$12.1 M	\$1.2 M	\$2 M	\$3.2 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$156.2 M</b>	<b>\$15.7 M</b>	<b>\$34.3 M</b>	<b>\$50 M</b>

The request focuses on building resilient communities, food systems and natural resources across Oregon, leveraging the expertise and trusted relationships of the OSU Statewides.

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### For More Information

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Testimonial for Full Ways and Means Committee 4-14-23

My name is Laura Strom and I am a Master Gardener here in Lincoln County. Let me be the first to say “Happy National Gardening Day”.

Of the \$50 million increase requested to CSL, \$24.7 million of that is for OSU Extension Service Programs, and Master Gardeners is one of the many Service Programs within the Extension Office. As you may or may not know, Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who help educate our communities about sustainable gardening for the Pacific Northwest and provide educational opportunities through workshops as well as give advice and recommendations for gardening challenges.

Today, Lincoln County Master Gardeners, in collaboration with the Newport Public Library, helped open the first Seed library in Lincoln County. This program offers free seeds to our coastal community to help combat food insecurities and improve food resiliency.

Without more investment in our Extension Programs and Extension Staff, our communities wouldn't have trained volunteers, such as myself, to bring worthwhile programs to county residents Statewide.

If OSU Statewide Program funding isn't increased, those counties currently with vacancies at staff positions which train apprentices for the Master Gardener Program, may remain vacant. And if that staff vacancy was in Lincoln County, my Apprenticeship Class of 2022 would not have happened. If I hadn't been able to go through Master Gardener training, I would not have had the opportunity to create a seed library as my approved community involvement project. Therefore, if you carry this domino effect further; the Newport Seed Library may just as well have sat on the shelf another 2 years before it became a reality, as there wouldn't have been Master Gardeners to provide the hundreds of volunteer hours that I, and other Lincoln County Certified Master Gardeners have given to this project to bring an idea of a community seed library to fruition within a short 12-month period.

Please take into consideration all that the Master Gardeners do in your respective counties that you represent. Master Gardeners may be few in some respects, but our reach and impact is mighty when taken as a whole.

Please support the OSU Statewide Service Program Funding request for \$50 million over current CSL to keep programs, which are the backbone to our communities, thriving and moving forward in Oregon.

Thank you for visiting our beautiful coastal community of Newport today.