

Illinois Extension Makes an Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's land-grant mission thrives each day through Extension programs, resources, knowledge, and dedicated staff that are responsive to eight strategic priorities:

-  Community
-  Economy
-  Environment
-  Food and Agriculture
-  Health
-  Partnerships
-  Technology and Discovery
-  Workforce Excellence

2025 Engagement

Extension educators work with residents and volunteers to create meaningful, locally-relevant outcomes throughout the state.

738 Communities Served	831K+ Program Attendees	9.4M+ Webpage Views	9.8M+ Social Media Visibility	1.8M+ YouTube Impressions
249 Educational Sessions/Week (28K+ Annually)	83 Online Courses Accessed by 13K+ People	10,846 Local Government Education Webinar Reach	1,848 4-H Clubs 20,242 4-H Club Members	68,697 Fair Exhibits 295,379 4-H Experiences
Partnerships		Resource Generation		
5,129 Program Volunteers	277 Community Gardens	2,830 School and Community Partners	\$15,026,392 Value of Volunteer Contributions	\$499,188 Value of Donated Produce Grown or Facilitated
				\$960K+ External Funds Secured for SNAP-Ed Partners

The 2025 Budget Reconciliation Act (OBBBA) eliminated funding for SNAP-Ed nutrition education programs nationally. Here's the Illinois impact by the numbers:

Up to \$135M
Estimated Annual Loss in Future Economic Returns on Investment in Illinois

2 million+
Residents Lost Access to Food and Health Education

1,754
Partners Including Schools, Food Banks, Early Childhood Centers, Public Health Departments, and Local Agencies Impacted

200+
Staff Members Affected by Layoffs

30
Years of Infrastructure and Network Building for the SNAP-Ed Program Lost



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences
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Illinois Extension: Supporting Healthy Food, Farms, and Communities in Illinois

University of Illinois Extension has provided a vital link between our land grant university and every Illinois county for 112 years, supporting farmers, youth, families, and communities.

The State of Illinois' \$10M appropriation for Extension (Illinois Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Premium Fund) has been flat for over 20 years – eroding purchasing power by 50%.

Farmers, food banks, environmental stewards, and other partners of Illinois Extension support an additional \$10M in state appropriations to increase its statewide impact (SB 4053 - Sen. Paul Faraci). Anticipated outcomes include:

- Increased research-based agricultural, nutrition, and community programming throughout the state that directly benefit the people of Illinois. An additional 108 field educators and program coordinators statewide, strengthening staffing across Extension's 27 units to serve local needs.
- Making a healthier Illinois, increase on-farm, in-field education, including the implementation of conservation and nutrient loss reduction best practices, technical assistance, and profitable farm business operation.
- New community college partnerships to develop and deliver online and in-person workforce development programs.
- Greater statewide access to 4-H youth development programs by covering participation fees for all youth statewide.
- Support Extension's food systems and food security programs, including the governor's grocery store initiative, the Find Food IL map, and food bank and food pantry partnerships.

Extension's
return on
investment **10:1**

Therefore, Extension's \$70M FY25 budget
likely generated

\$700M

in economic and functional impact
in Illinois communities.

The assessment report is available at

go.illinois.edu/ExtensionImpact

As the agriculture industry, integrated food systems, and technology evolve, Extension educators continue to deliver trusted, innovative program design and development, driven by the translation of credible research and discoveries into applied educational programs and resources.

Support a Healthy, Growing Illinois.

Support University of Illinois Extension.