

The background image shows the Oregon State Capitol building in Salem, Oregon, featuring its iconic central dome topped with a golden statue. The building is surrounded by green lawns and several cherry blossom trees in full bloom, with pink and white blossoms visible in the foreground and midground. The sky is a pale, hazy blue with soft, wispy clouds, suggesting a clear day.

Advocate for OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Program during the 2025 legislative session

Prepared for OSU Extension Master Gardeners

by the OMGA Advocacy Task Force

March 2025

Extension Funding – Fiscal Year 2024



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

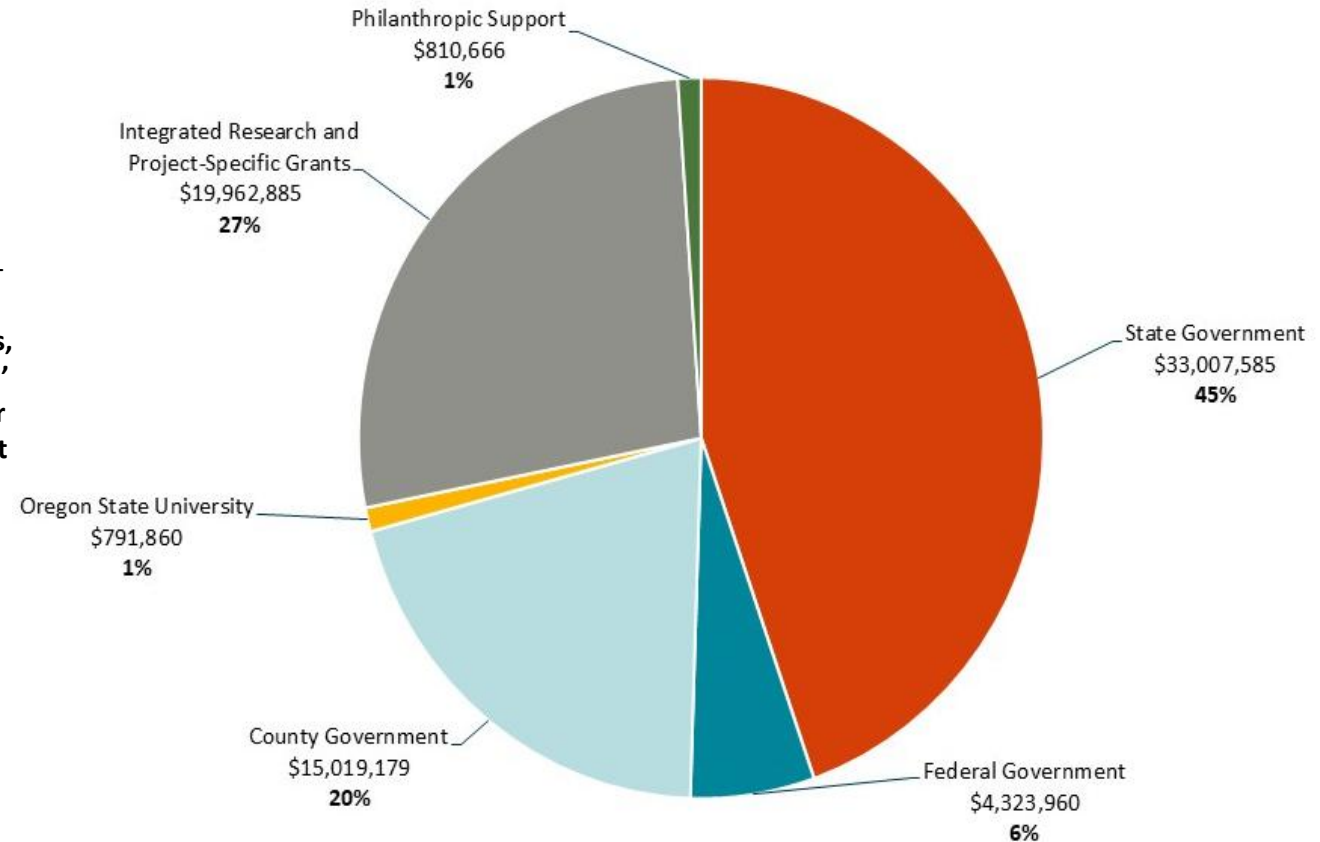


Local Funds (20%) – come through local tax district, levy, or general fund, 26/36 counties have tax district/levy for Extension, level held stable in recent years, **pay for local office, support and admin staff, travel**



State Funds (45%) – vary by biennium, **pay faculty positions, also used as “Match” for grants and other funding sources that require a match**

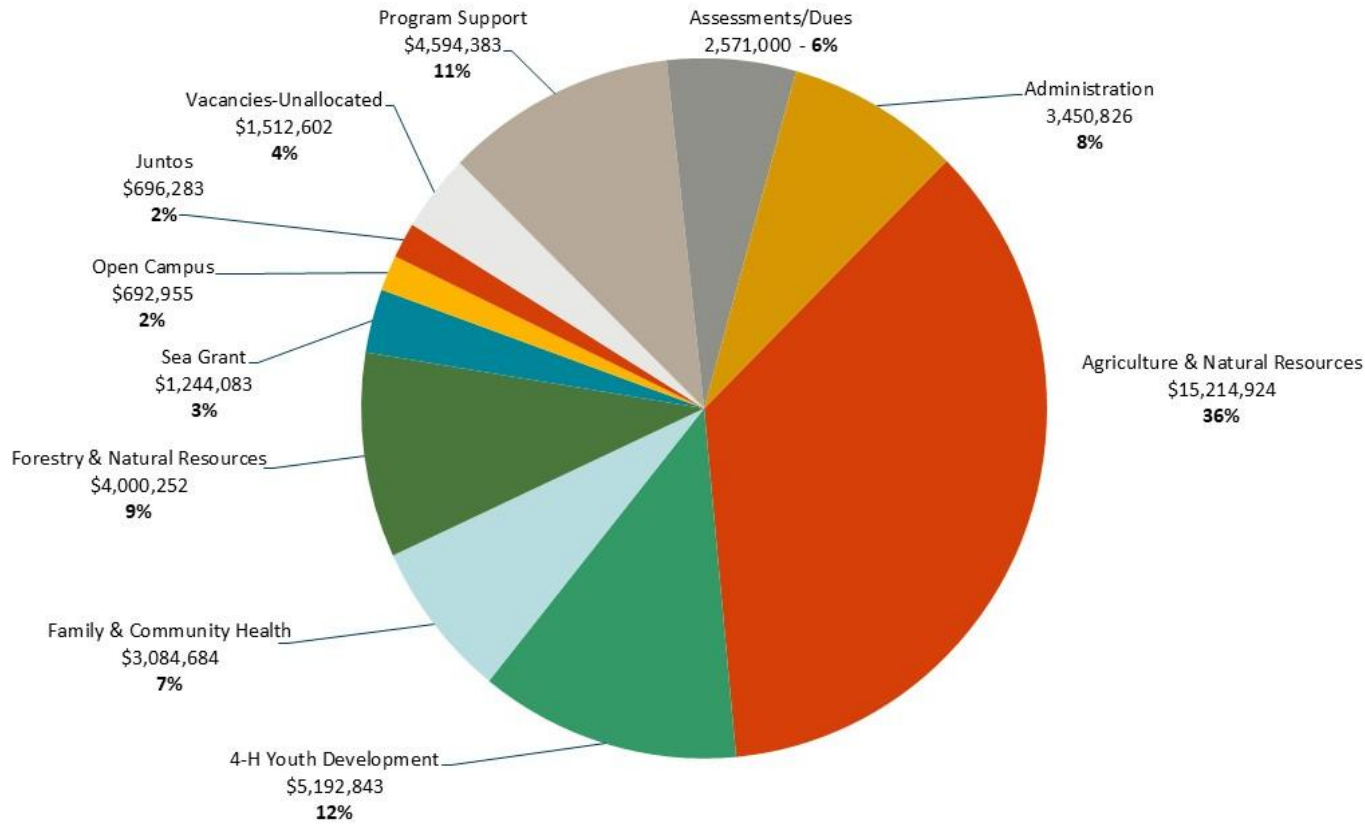
FY24 Extension Funding (actual)



Excludes Outdoor School (Lottery Funded)

MG Program Funding is a Part of the OSU Extension Budget

FY25 Extension Budget (allocated)



Main Components of Extension Budget include

Agriculture and Natural Resources (36%) – include MG Program Funding

Program Support (11%)

4-H Youth Development (12%)

Forestry & Natural Resources (9%)

2025 Letter Writing Campaign Timeline

Call/Email legislators and introduce yourself.

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

NOW.

Participate in OSU organized activities (Legislative Day & Roadshows, etc.,)

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

March – April

Continue to advocate as needed.

Invite Legislators to Plant Sales, workshops, Demonstration Gardens to show the impact and importance of MG Program on your communities.

May – June

Resources on OMGA website

<https://omga.org/advocacy/>



Sample Letters – Fill in the name & email address of your Legislator. Add relative facts and testimony (if and where indicated). Finish with your name and city or county then email



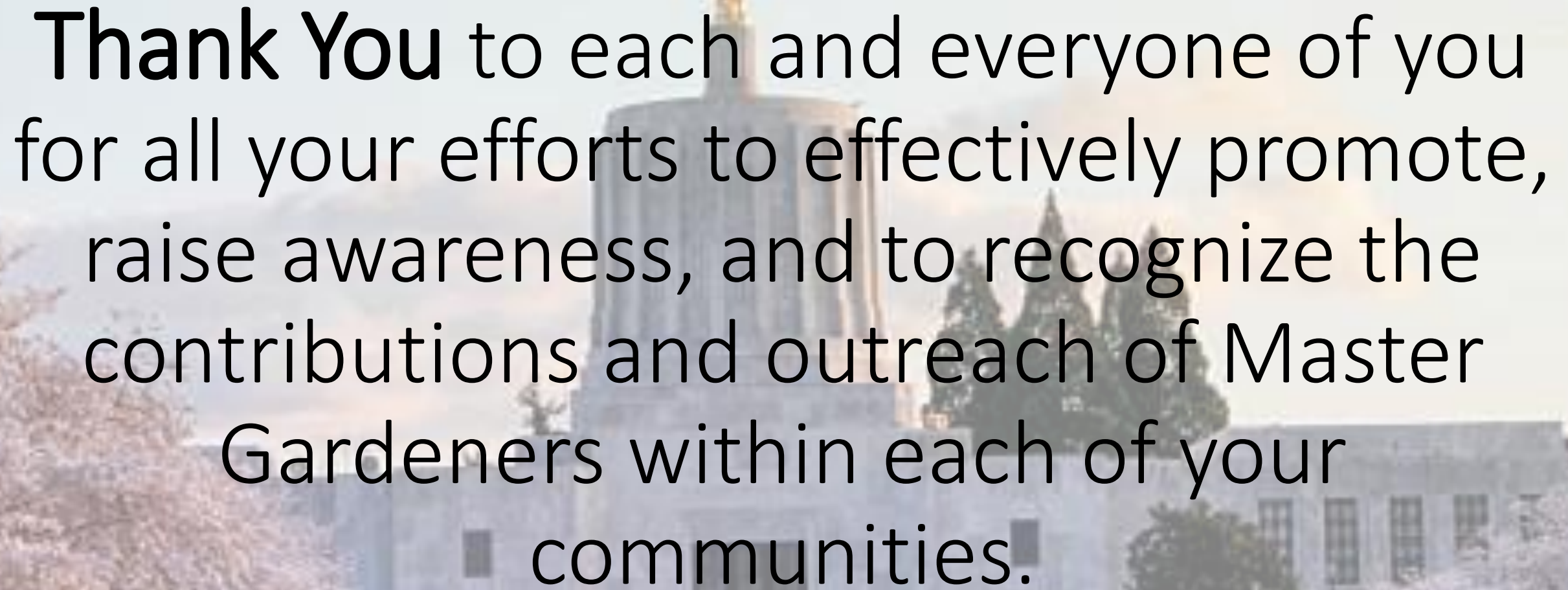
Sample Talking Points – Use as they are or adapt as you wish when speaking to a Legislator or Legislative Staff. Use this to show importance of fully-funding OSU Statewide Public Service Programs



Stories about how Master Gardener services benefit our communities to use as examples of Master Gardener impact county and statewide



Additional and Important Information about Extension funding, OSU funding request, etc. for greater understanding of importance for advocacy for OSU Extension and other Statewide Public Service Programs



Thank You to each and everyone of you for all your efforts to effectively promote, raise awareness, and to recognize the contributions and outreach of Master Gardeners within each of your communities.