

NC State Extension Future Needs (16032)

NC State Extension has released a new strategic plan <https://go.ncsu.edu/extensionstrategicplan> The plan identifies needs and priorities to allow us to be impactful in our mission to increase prosperity in North Carolina for the next several years. To do this, we need the ability to implement the following changes, programs, and improvements <https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Agriculture:

New technology, changing economics, and environmental sustainability are issues and opportunities that every farmer must deal with. To provide the expertise necessary for our farmers, there is a need for new Area Specialized Agents in these important areas to train and mentor existing agents and work directly with larger producers. Our key needs are in the following topic areas: data sciences, precision agriculture, swine waste management, forest management, farm business management, and farm diversification (\$1.45M)

For new farmers we plan to offer training through our Farm School, veterans programs, and by increasing the number crop budgets so that new producers can make better-informed decisions (\$100K)

Family and Consumer Science:

Nutrition education with a focus on improving human health and reducing mental stress is an important area for Extension. Area specialized agents will provide expertise to our Family and Consumer Science agents in these areas that will go beyond traditional nutrition education (\$500K)

Employee Recruitment and Retention: (\$1.45M)

Expand recruitment efforts, increase starting salaries to be competitive, improve employee retention, and improve onboarding and professional development for employees.

Operation: Travel and supply needs for program implementation (\$1M)

Programming: (\$175K)

Improving our technology delivery systems to enhance in-person, remote, on-demand, written, visual, and digital education.

Total Recurring Expenses:

\$4,675,000

Additional Efforts: Direction from our strategic plan will also require us to redirect current resources. These are in the areas of 4-H and communication.

For our youth programs, we look to expand our reach to new and growing communities, Hispanic communities through our Juntos (<https://juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu/>) program, and to new residents in NC. We will also increase volunteer recruitment and training as well as improve youth education on substance abuse and addiction.

We also plan to improve our education to urban communities as well as new residents in NC regarding agriculture and forestry technology as well as its importance to the economy of NC. Our Homegrown portal is a key form of this communication that we look to expand.

<https://homegrown.extension.ncsu.edu/>