

ANR Cooperative Extension Risk Assessment Risk Categories

Funding - Sources, Donors, Funders

General Description: Risk derived from the potential for donor expectations affecting the quality of programming, the uncertainty and insecurity of relying on “soft money,” and the nature of the competition for this money. The resulting risks range from loss of quality of CE research and extension activities to loss of future funding and the reputation of UC.

Specific Examples:

- A. Donor Requirements
 - 1. Upon transfer of advisor, he/she continues his/her funded research at new location, but with only 1/2 of donor funds available, risking that the donor will take legal action.
 - 2. Funders do not articulate all expectations at the beginning. Burden staff in the middle of a project.
 - 3. Risk of receiving various donor funds being perceived as working for the donor.

- B. Unusual Types of Funding Sources (see also Risk: Agreements, Contracts & Grants and Risk: Advisor Activities)
 - 1. Unauthorized agreements, contracts with sponsors, funders by PIs.
 - 2. New funding arrangements e.g., “fixed fees”.
 - 3. Lack of fair support between County, State and Federal governments in Extension funding. (Old model 1/3, etc.)

- C. Competition
 - 1. Competition from “better funded” agencies and cooperators.
 - 2. Extension doing the work - other NPO/agencies getting the money.
 - 3. ANR programs’ success at risk due to lack of funding and ability to recruit (see also Risk:Staff – Staffing Levels).

- D. Consequences of Current Funding Situation
 - 1. Heavy reliance on grants for funding may decrease program research delivery of specialized needs.

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2. Unstable funding may create an image of Cooperative Extension "doing things differently from the past" or "operating outside the box," which could put traditional programs at risk.
3. Reliance of external funding means that unfunded mandates are not given proper attention.
4. Legislators and supervisors take the side of complaining clientele and threaten our funding.
5. Poor job of research or not completing funded project results in loss of program support and funds and loss of UC reputation.