

**FY 2016 & 2017 EXCEPTIONAL ITEM**

An estimated two-thirds of Texas citizens reside in urban or suburban population centers. While the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has a presence in these communities, the ratio of 4-H professionals to total youth does not allow for the type of engagement needed to reach urban youth. Studies from Tufts University reveal that youth involved in 4-H are more likely than their peers to engage in science; nearly four times more likely to contribute to their communities; and two times more likely to make healthier choices.\*



**BENEFITS TO TEXANS**

- Develop youth to be the future leaders of Texas, America and the world
- Improve knowledge and abilities of present and potential leaders needed to effectively support the development of their communities
- Develop and utilize volunteers to lead educational programming directly for youth in communities

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Funding will be utilized to deploy 28 County Extension Agents and three 4-H Specialists to provide educational programming at new, sustainable 4-H club models in Texas population centers.

Programs will target students from grades 9-12, and focus on:

- Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through experience with robotics, energy development, veterinary and agricultural sciences and gardening
- Health and nutrition through programs like 4-H Food Challenge
- Citizenship development through programs like Keys to the Courthouse
- Leadership and personal life skill development

\* Lerner, R., Lerner, J., & Colleagues (2009). Waves of the Future. Medford, MA: Tufts University



**REQUESTED AMOUNT  
(BIENNIAL):  
\$3 MILLION**

**OBJECTIVE**

To increase the number of youth served in population centers by adding professionals with expertise in working with youth in urban areas, including Dallas, Tarrant, Travis, Bexar, Harris, Hidalgo and Cameron counties.





4-H is best known for engaging youth in hands-on learning projects, leadership development and community service—all geared to equip youth for a positive, productive future. As the only youth-serving organization backed nationwide by land-grant universities, 4-H also provides a strong path for youth to explore college and career opportunities, particularly in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.



According to the previously referenced study from Tufts, 4-H youth are:

- Less likely to use drugs
- Scoring higher in contribution, civic identity and civic engagement and have higher grades than comparison youth
- More likely to pursue careers in science, engineering, or computer technology
- Less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors
- More engaged in schools and expect to go to college
- More likely to make contributions to their communities



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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

What is AgriLife? It's a simple word for a diverse organization. With teaching, research, extension education, laboratory, and forestry facilities throughout Texas, we serve people of all ages and backgrounds. Led by Acting Vice Chancellor Dr. Bill Dugas, Texas A&M AgriLife includes the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.