

Agreement between the Regents of the University of Minnesota through its Extension and Ramsey County, Minnesota

Exhibit C: University Recommendations

The County will determine the level of availability and type of local support as established in the annual budget. Per the Memorandum of Agreement, paragraph 4, the University offers the following recommendations for the time and responsibilities of county-hired administrative support specialists; and, technology support for Extension employees located in county Extension offices.

1. Technology recommendations for Extension employees located in county Extension offices

- Hardware: Laptop computer; keyboard and mouse; monitor; docking station; camera with microphone; and, printer or access to a shared printer for each employee.
 - A laptop computer is recommended over a desktop computer for ease of use offsite (e.g. county fair; programs)
- Software: Allow for installation, use, and updates to University-provided software on county hardware and networks: Google Workspace; Microsoft Office; Web Conferencing (e.g. Zoom); 4HOnline
 - Google Workspace is used by the University for email, shared calendars, online document editing and storage, and quick connections by chat or video.
 - Microsoft Office is used to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations.
 - Web Conferencing tools, like Zoom, are used by the University for regularly scheduled internal and external meetings and training (e.g. updates on 4honline and fair entry software).
 - 4-HOnline is an online member enrollment and event management software used by Minnesota 4-H.
- Website Access:
 - University and Extension web pages are used for internal communication, accessing resources for program participants, and updating county websites.
- Social Media Access
 - Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) are used for promoting programming to the public, including 4-H members and volunteers.
- Access to electronic county forms/documents required for the position.
- Support from County IT.

2. Recommendations for time and responsibilities of county-hired administrative support specialists

- A minimum of 20 hours/week/year round (1040 hours) of support is recommended with additional hours needed as the size and scope of Programs increase.

- University-hired Administrative Support Specialist position description, copied below, is an example of tasks to be completed by a county-hired administrative support specialist.

Example Position Description
Extension Administrative Support Specialist

An Extension Administrative Support Specialist provides day-to-day operations including customer service and administrative support for all county Extension programs and activities. This position provides support for 4-H, Master Gardeners, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and SNAP Ed.

County Program Support

- Assists Extension staff in planning and developing resources and events.
- Assists in communicating Extension programs through website updates, social media, listservs, newsletters, and print and radio media.
- Helps to ensure Extension is adhering to applicable county and University policies.
- Provides direct and back-up support for the county 4-H program.
- Provides backup and backfill assistance for similar programs.

Office and General Administration

- Operates and maintains general office equipment; consults with IT as appropriate.
- Orders, maintains, and manages office supplies and publications for the department.
- Processes office mail.
- Maintains schedule for office meeting rooms.
- Participates in training, professional staff development, and conferences.
- Point of contact for the county Extension office; receives, greets, and responds to requests; provides resources and referrals to questions and distributes requests/messages to correct parties.
- Provides clerical and technical office support for all Extension programs and staff.
- Assists with creating and modifying electronic documents, brochures, program fliers, posters, reports, and correspondence. Prints, scans, and files materials.
- Provides support to the county Extension committee.
- Administers Extension Office accounting activities including deposits, accounts payable, and processing invoices and vouchers for payment reviews financial statements monthly.