

Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development (CNRED) Program Area Summary

The *nEXT Generation* project management team performed a current assessment of Cooperative Extension staff, programs, and activities in the fall of 2016. This document is a summary of the findings for the staff and programs from all funding sources within the Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Program Area.

Overview of Staffing

The CNRED Program Area is made up of roughly 156 positions currently, with 19 vacancies (at the time data was collected). These faculty and staff work across 50 counties, on five campuses, and in a variety of Centers and units, such as:

- The Applied Population Laboratory;
- The Broadband & E-Commerce Education Center;
- The Center for Community & Economic Development;
- The Center for Land Use Education;
- The Center for Watershed Science and Education;
- The Environmental Resource Center;
- The Extension Lakes Program;
- The Local Government Center;
- The Northern Center for Community and Economic Development; and
- The Wisconsin Center for Wildlife.

These faculty and staff can be divided into four main groups, identified in the table below. The number of active positions and vacancies are also listed based on data collected in the fall of 2016 (some changes may have occurred since the data was collected). In the table, HC stands for headcount, meaning the number of people, and FTE stands for Full-Time Equivalent.

Group	Description	Active Staff	Vacancies
County-Based Educators	The Community Resource Development Educators are based in counties and are responsible for developing and delivering community programming related to topics such as leadership, organizational and economic development.	53 HC 44.2 FTE	12 HC 11.5 FTE
Natural Resource Educators	The Natural Resource Educators are grant-funded positions providing programming in natural resources across the state of Wisconsin.	8 HC 8.0 FTE	0 HC 0.0 FTE
State Specialists	The specialists based on UW campuses and in Cooperative Extension responsible for developing and delivering programs across the state.	56 HC 44.9 FTE	1 HC 1.0 FTE
Administration	The leadership and support functions across the Program Area.	39 HC 30.1 FTE	6 HC 4.4 FTE

County-Based Educators

The 53 active Community Resource Development Educators currently work in 50 of the 72 counties across Wisconsin, although 60 counties would be covered if vacancies were filled. Roughly 83% of the Community Resource Development Educators are faculty (44), while 17% are academic staff (9). All of these Educators are based in counties and are co-funded between counties and Cooperative Extension.

Grant-funded Natural Resource Educators

The 8 active Natural Resource Educators currently work [across Wisconsin](#). Since these positions are grant-funded, which can be less predictable than base-funding, all of the Natural Resource Educators are academic staff.

State Specialists

Of the 56 active State Specialists, 18 are based on the UW-Madison campus in the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences and the College of Letters & Science, 13 are based on the UW-Stevens Point campus in the College of Natural Resources, and 1 is based on each of the following campuses: UW-Superior campus in the School of Business & Economics, UW-River Falls in the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences, and Iowa State University. The other 22 Specialists are based in Cooperative Extension. Several of these positions are extramurally funded (for example, most of the UW-Stevens Point Lake Management Specialist positions). These specialists focus on different topics across the Program Area, as the titles below illustrate (the parenthetical identifies the number of staff serving in each role):

UW-Madison, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences Specialists

- Community Development Specialist (3)
- Demographic Specialist (3)
- Forestry Specialist (2)
- Wildlife Specialist (2)
- Environmental Communications Specialist (1)
- Environmental Resources Specialist (1)
- Water Resource Specialist (1)
- Urban & Regional Planning Specialist (1)
- Land Use and GIS Specialist (1)

UW-Madison, College of Letters & Science Specialists

- Local Government Specialist (1)
- Natural Resources Specialist (1)
- Zoning and Land Use Specialist (1)

UW-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources Specialists

- Lake Management Specialist (5)
- Land Use Specialist (3)
- Energy Specialist (1)
- Groundwater Specialist (1)
- Land Use and Community Development Specialist (1)
- Surface Water Specialist (1)
- Wildlife Specialist (1)

UW-River Falls, College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences Specialist

- Community Development Specialist (1)

UW-Superior, College of Business & Economics Specialist

- Community Development Specialist (1)

Iowa State University Specialist

- Leadership Specialist (1)

Cooperative Extension Specialists

- Community Development Specialist (8)
- Environmental Resources Specialist (3)
- Local Government Specialist (3)
- Natural Resources Specialist (2)
- Water Quality Specialist (2)
- E-Commerce Specialist (1)
- Invasive Species Specialist (1)
- Organizational Development Specialist (1)
- Sourcing Reduction and Recycling Specialist (1)

Administration

The 45 staff in the CNRED administration are responsible for leading, coordinating and supporting the programs delivered by the county-based faculty and staff and state specialists. A substantial number of these positions are fully or partially grant or partner-funded, especially within the Program Manager and support positions. This includes the following groups of staff (the parenthetical identifies the number of staff serving in each group):

- **Program Area Leadership:** including the Program Director, Associate Program Director, Liaisons, Center Directors, and Program Managers. (13)
- **Program Support:** staff who are responsible for supporting Educators and Specialists by offering specialized services, trainings, program evaluation etc. (12)
- **Administrative Support:** staff who are responsible for supporting the program through communications, financial processing, etc. (14)

Programs

During the current assessment, the project management team surveyed all of the faculty and staff in the CNRED Program Area to determine how much of their time they devote to delivering programs, and how they break down that time between different programs. Nearly 90% of the CNRED faculty and staff responded to this survey, with roughly 55% of the responses coming from County-Based Educators, and the remainder coming from State Specialists and Natural Resource Educators.

This survey found of the time CNRED faculty and staff spend delivering programs, they divide their collective time across the following following programs:

- Natural Resources (25%)
- Community Development (19%)
- Organizational Development (15%)
- Economic Development (15%)

- Government Operations (10%)
- Leadership Development (6%)
- Agriculture (4%)
- Youth Development (3%)
- Sustainability (3%)

The figure below illustrates the breakdown of the survey results.

Figure 1: CNRED Programs

