

TOP PRIORITIES FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

HBCUs do a better-than-expected job of graduating students who come to college with the most financial and academic issues to overcome. They achieve these results despite their historical lack of resources. The country should invest more heavily in these institutions. Only with investments in institutions that serve disproportionately low-income students will America be able to meet its education, workforce, economic, and societal needs for the 21st century.

- **A Strong Executive Order on HBCUs.** A strong White House Initiative on HBCUs should implement an aspirational goal that HBCUs receive 5 percent of total federal grants, internships and cooperative agreements and 10 percent of total federal contracts awarded to all colleges and universities – which would nearly double federal support to HBCUs.
 - The White House should require all federal agencies to identify specific HBCU initiatives and resources in their FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets.
- **Fully Fund Title III HBCU Programs.** An annual federal investment in HBCU operating support (\$375M) and graduate programs (\$125M), as authorized under Title III of the Higher Education Act, as well as increased support for endowment challenge grants (\$220M), and capital financing loans (\$400M) – and sustaining \$85M in annual mandatory funding – would enable HBCUs to prepare more minority students for the workforce and economy. This investment also would help HBCUs to grow woefully small endowments for long-term sustainability.
 - Annual discretionary funding for the **Strengthening HBCUs Program**, should increase from the current level of \$245 million to \$375 million, the authorized level. These funds support critical investments in HBCU academic programs, student services and technology.
 - Annual mandatory funding of \$85 million for the **Strengthening HBCUs Program**, is set to expire after 2019 and must be extended for another ten years to continue STEM initiatives that are producing the next generation of minority scientists and engineers.
 - **Endowment Challenge Grants** would help HBCUs increase their self-sufficiency and build endowments that, today, are half the typical size of non-HBCU endowments. A \$220 million investment would satisfy the 21-year unfunded authorization and establish a federally initiated campaign to encourage private investment in HBCUs.
- **Invest in and Modernize Pell Grants.** **Pell Grants** provide essential financial support for 70 percent of HBCU students, nearly 210,000 students. UNCF supports significantly increasing the maximum Pell Grant, including permanently indexing Pell to offset inflation (which expires in FY 2018). Adjusting for inflation would increase the maximum Pell Grant from \$5,920 to \$6,072 in FY 2018. UNCF opposes proposals to rescind \$3.9 billion in Pell Grant funds, which would place key program improvements, such as extending the 12-semester limit on eligibility and enacting “second chance” Pell Grants, out of reach when a college degree has never been more important or less affordable.

- **Protect Campus-Based Student Aid Programs.** Campus-based student financial aid, which provides vital supplemental assistance to HBCU students, should be protected and the funds better targeted to colleges serving high proportions of low-income students.
 - The proposed elimination of **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs)** would eliminate financial assistance to more than 55,000 HBCU students who rely on this vital aid to pay for college. UNCF requests \$757 million for SEOGs, a \$24 million increase.
 - The proposed 50 percent cut to **Work-Study** grants could impact more than 26,000 HBCU students who receive work-study jobs that not only help pay for college expenses, but also enhance their job skills and employment prospects. UNCF requests \$1.1 billion for Work-Study, a \$110 million increase.
 - The proposed elimination of **Perkins Loans** would eliminate assistance to more than 10,000 HBCU students. UNCF supports a two-year extension for the Perkins Loan program, which otherwise expires on September 30, 2017.
- **Invest in HBCU Facilities and Infrastructure.** A \$1 trillion national infrastructure program should include grants, no- or low- interest loans, and tax incentives through a national infrastructure bank and/or the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Interior, and Treasury programs to renovate and construct HBCU facilities.
 - A top priority includes \$50 million in annual funding for the **HBCU Historic Preservation Program** administered by the U.S. National Park Service to help protect over 700 HBCU buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - A top priority includes \$75 million in annual funding for the **HBCU Grant Program** in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program has not been funded since FY 2010; however, it offers an excellent model for an HBCU: federal partnership for urban and rural revitalization and economic development, focused on housing, public service activities, public facilities, and economic development including skills training.
- **Fund New HBCU Centers of Innovation for National Needs.** With new federal venture capital under an **HBCU Innovation Fund**, HBCUs could experiment, pilot, evaluate and scale up best practices and drive new innovations on their campuses – especially in areas of national need such as STEM, national security, college success, and teacher diversity.
 - UNCF supports \$50 million in FY 2018 for **HBCU college success initiatives**.
 - UNCF supports \$50 million in FY 2018 for **teacher diversity centers of innovation**.
- **Repeal and Reform Burdensome Higher Education Regulations.** Many higher education regulations impose unnecessary confusion, costs, and constraints on HBCUs and their students. Implement the bipartisan task force report, [*Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities*](#) to reduce HBCU regulatory burden, and eliminate new onerous financial responsibility requirements in the borrower defense regulation.