



UNCF
Public Policy and
Government Affairs

SUPPORT THE HBCU HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



RECOMMENDATION

Support **\$10 million** for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Historic Preservation Program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) with no matching requirement.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

HBCUs represent a significant place in American history. This network of 106 historic institutions established as early as 1837 for former slaves and freedmen contain repositories of important books, papers and memorabilia of Black history. In addition, HBCUs served as meeting places during the civil rights struggles of the 1900s.

Against substantial odds, HBCUs have played a unique role in transforming the landscape of higher education in the United States, and continue to prepare the African American professional and civic leaders needed by communities, employers and the nation.

In 2013, HBCUs comprised 3 percent of all four- and two-year colleges and universities, but enrolled 10 percent of African American undergraduates, produced 18 percent of the nation's African American college graduates, and generated 25 percent of African Americans with bachelor degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

BACKGROUND

Created in 1988, the HBCU Historic Preservation Program helps to preserve our nation's diverse history and contributions of HBCUs for future generations.

In 1998, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated HBCUs nationwide as one of the nation's eleven most endangered historic sites. The list includes: Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, Mississippi) — founded in 1869, is formerly a plantation; Claflin University (Orangeburg, South Carolina) — founded in 1869, contains several buildings constructed by students before the turn of the century; and Philander Smith College (Little Rock, Arkansas) — founded in 1877, is home to the James Monroe Cox Administration Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Philander Smith Historic District.

According to a 1998 study by the Government Accountability Office, the historic preservation needs at HBCUs at that time were estimated to be \$755 million, with 712 historic properties in need of repairs or structural renovations. That amount would be over \$1 billion in today's dollars.

Since 1996, 59 HBCUs in 20 states have received only \$60 million in federal funding through the HBCU Historic Preservation Program. Thus, the federal government's investment to date represents a small share of the documented need. Because HBCUs are under resourced, the NPS has requested no matching requirement.

HBCU Historic Preservation Program Funding Request*	
HBCU Coalition FY 2017 Request	\$10 million

*The last appropriation for this program was \$15 million in FY 2009 in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5).