



SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING HISTORICALLY BLACK GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM



RECOMMENDATION

UNCF urges Congress to fund the Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program at **\$125 million** in FY 2018.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

By 2020, two-thirds percent of all jobs will require some form of post-secondary education and training in order to fill a projected 5 million new jobs. Yet, according to a 2012 CareerBuilder survey, more than 1 in 4 employers are hiring employees with master’s degrees for positions that had been primarily held by those with four-year degrees in the past. For college graduates, an advanced degree is no longer a luxury, but a necessary credential.

This presents an opportunity for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) which are among the top 10 institutions where African American science and engineering PhDs earn bachelor’s degrees. HBCUs have played—and are poised to continue to play—an outsized role in helping greater numbers of minority youth obtain a college education. Today, HBCUs comprise just 3 percent of all colleges and universities, yet 56 percent of HBCUs offer graduate degrees, including doctoral programs.

BACKGROUND

The Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions program is among the core Title III HBCU programs. This initiative provides five-year formula grants to 24 historically black universities that offer medical, law, veterinary, and other postgraduate degrees. Grants are used to provide scholarships and fellowships for needy graduate and professional students. Funds also support renovations and improvements of instructional facilities while enabling the institutions to strengthen development offices, purchase technical journals, and support academic success.

This \$125 million investment would help to boost capacity at HBCUs to address the underrepresentation of African Americans in the physical and natural sciences, engineering, medical and other scientific fields.

Historically Black Graduate Institutions Funding History	
FY 2012	\$59 million
FY 2013	\$56 million*
FY 2014	\$58 million
FY 2015	\$59 million
FY 2016	\$63 million
FY 2017	\$63 million
HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request	\$125 million

*Reflects across-the-board sequestration cut, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.