



PROTECT STRENGTHENING HBCUS (MANDATORY)



RECOMMENDATION

Protect mandatory funding for Strengthening HBCUs, Title III, Part F, Section 371 at **\$85 million** in FY 2018.

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Title III, Part F, Section 371 mandatory formula grants are intended to help Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) build institutional capacity to address national challenges associated with global competitiveness, skills development and changing demographics. These funds *supplement* and work in conjunction with the Title III, Part B discretionary formula program to enhance educational delivery at HBCUs.

BACKGROUND

The Student Assistance and Financial Responsibility Act (SAFRA) provided \$85 million in mandatory funds per year through 2019 for the Title III Strengthening HBCUs program. However, mandatory funds for this program are subject to sequestration cuts, as steep as 7.3 percent, that took effect in FY 2013, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011 and continue through FY 2023, as amended by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

We urge Congress to overturn the sequestration cuts to the Title III Strengthening HBCUs program and to sustain the mandatory funding enacted under SAFRA (P.L. 111-152).

Title III mandatory funds provide critical support to HBCUs, with a priority on the acquisition of scientific and laboratory equipment; improvement of instructional facilities; academic programs in fields in which African Americans are underrepresented; and instructional programs in high-demand fields, including STEM, computer sciences and nursing.

For example, support from Prairie View A&M University's (Prairie View, Texas) Title III grant enabled its College of Nursing to adopt pediatric Human Patient Simulators as teaching-learning tools for baccalaureate and graduate nursing students. Students get an opportunity to observe human responses to illness conditions and receive feedback relative to the application of nursing decisions, intervention and evaluation of nursing care.

Clafin University (Orangeburg, South Carolina) used its Title III, mandatory funding to implement a comprehensive retention program by integrating student services with co-curricular activities. The institution's retention rate increased eight percentage points in just one year.

Title III, Part F, Section 371, Mandatory Funding History	
FY 2012	\$85 million*
FY 2013	\$81 million*
FY 2014	\$79 million*
FY 2015	\$79 million*
FY 2016	\$79 million*
FY 2017	\$79 million*
HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request	\$85 million

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