



COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

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U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Policy Memorandum

Date: April 24, 2025

Subject: Advancing Federal Investment in HBCUs and Educational Opportunity for Black Youth

Overview

In light of President Donald J. Trump's April 23, 2025 [Executive Order \(EO\) 14283](#), "White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities,"¹ and building on the commitments outlined in his [2020 "Platinum Plan,"](#) the U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys offers the following policy recommendations. In line with President Trump's EO, these proposals aim to deepen federal investment in historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and improve educational outcomes for Black youth—particularly Black male students—through targeted funding, institutional capacity-building, and expanded pathways to academic and economic success.

Policy Recommendations

1. Expand HBCU Capital Financing Loan Authority

Raise the statutory cap on the Department of Education's [HBCU Capital Financing Program](#) from \$1.1 billion to \$2.2 billion to address urgent infrastructure needs and ensure modern learning environments.

2. Provide Continued Debt Relief to HBCUs

Institutionalize a permanent mechanism within the Department of Education to forgive eligible HBCU capital debt, expanding the \$1.6 billion in relief [provided in 2021](#).

3. Increase Title III, Part B Funding for Graduate Institutions

Enhance support for academic services and institutional development by increasing annual funding to \$150 million for the [Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program](#).

4. Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships

Establish a \$250 million federal matching fund to spur partnerships between HBCUs, private industry, and philanthropic organizations focused on research, innovation, and workforce development.

5. Support HBCU Annual Summits

Allocate \$5 million annually for national HBCU summits coordinated by the Department of

¹ White House Initiative To Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Exec. Order No. 14283, 90 Fed. Reg. 17543 (Apr. 23, 2025).



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Education to foster collaboration, share best practices, and shape ongoing federal engagement.

6. Fund Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurship Programs

Commit \$200 million annually through the Department of Commerce for financial literacy and entrepreneurship programs, with additional matching support from private-sector partners, consistent with the Platinum Plan.

7. Expand Dual Enrollment Access via HBCUs

Launch a \$100 million federal grant program to expand dual enrollment opportunities for Black youth through HBCU-administered early college initiatives.

8. Increase HBCU STEM Investment

Grow [current federal STEM funding to HBCUs](#) from \$719 million to at least \$800 million annually, administered through the Department of Education and National Science Foundation, to expand high-demand research and tech programs.

9. Expand HBCU Share of FUTURE Act Funding

Recommend increasing HBCUs' annual share of the [2019 FUTURE Act's](#)² mandatory funding for Minority Serving Institutions from \$85 million to \$150 million to enhance institutional competitiveness.

10. Advance Commerce-Led Entrepreneurship Support

Launch a dedicated Department of Commerce initiative—funded at \$200 million annually—for entrepreneurship and small business development training at HBCUs, with eligibility for matching private investment.

These recommendations represent a strategic federal commitment to advancing educational opportunity, institutional capacity, and economic empowerment for Black communities. The Commission urges Congress and executive agencies to consider these proposals as part of a renewed national agenda for HBCUs and the next generation of Black leaders.

² Future Act, Pub. L. No. 116-91, 133 Stat. 1189 (2019).