



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at HBCUs

Executive Order #14283

Date Issued: April 23, 2025

Topic: Education

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order establishes the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The initiative will be housed in the executive branch and led by an Executive Director designated by the President.
- The initiative aims to increase the private-sector role, including the role of private foundations, in supporting HBCUs in institutional planning and development, financial management, and upgrading and maintaining institutional infrastructure and access to technology.
- Additionally, the order articulates an aim to provide professional development opportunities for HBCU students in the areas of technology, healthcare, manufacturing, finance, and other “high-growth” industries.
- The order also articulates a commitment to supporting the implementation of the HBCU Partners Act, which codifies the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs. Historically, this board of advisors offers an avenue for Institutions to promote policy concerns and priorities with the federal government.



WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- The order also articulates a commitment to the following:
 - Facilitating public-private and philanthropic partnerships to promote research and programs at HBCSUs and build pipelines for K-12 students who may be interested in attending HBCUs;
 - Enhancing the quality and accessibility of information regarding HBCUs in the public policy space;
 - Addressing college affordability, degree attainment and campus modernization;
 - Encouraging States to provide the required State matching funds for 1890 Land-Grant institutions.
- Lastly, the order revokes the Biden administration's White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity.





HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The White House-appointed executive director will collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and State governments to establish a framework for improving access to Federal funding for HBCUs.
- The executive director will also convene an annual White House Summit on HBCUs to address issues related to the initiative's mission.
- Agency and Department heads will assist and provide information to the initiative when necessary for carrying out the initiative's mission using their own departmental funds.
- The Department of Education will provide funding and administrative support to the Presidential Board of Advisors.
- The executive director will submit annual reports to the President highlighting the Federal Governments impact on HBCUs and offering recommendations to improve.
- The Administrator of the Environmental Protective Agency will terminate the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions Advisory Council within 14 days of the date of the order.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- While the executive order presents itself as a renewed commitment to HBCUs, the [revocation of prior DEI-focused initiatives](#) raises questions about the administration's approach to educational equity.
- Relatedly, [the recent order to shutter the Department of Education](#) highlights the administration's inconsistent and often contradictory stance on how best to serve Black students, undermining the Department's longstanding role in addressing racial disparities, enforcing civil rights protections, and supporting historically underserved communities.
- The initiative aims to bolster HBCUs' capabilities, potentially leading to improved educational outcomes and increased opportunities for Black students.
- The emphasis on private-sector involvement and workforce development aligns with broader economic goals but may overlook the importance of addressing systemic barriers faced by Black students.
- Housing the initiative within the Executive Office may reduce the autonomy of educational institutions and agencies traditionally involved in supporting HBCUs.
- Despite the issuance of the executive order, President Trump recently [proposed a \\$65 million funding cut](#) to Howard University, the only federally chartered HBCU. The reduction rolls funding back to 2021 levels, potentially undermining the very innovation and sustainability the order purports to support.
- The order's impact on Black Americans will depend on its implementation and the extent to which it genuinely addresses the needs and challenges of HBCUs and their students.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to advancing equity in education and supporting HBCUs. Recently, CBC members convened a roundtable discussion on the state of HBCUs in collaboration with HBCU leadership, students and advocacy organizations. Select member statements on the state of HBCUs are featured below.

- **Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37), CBC Whip:** “Our HBCUs continue to face systemic challenges that impact student success, campus quality-of-life, and institutional growth. Shamefully, the Trump Administration’s attacks on DEI initiatives and higher education funding have only made these challenges worse” [Full Statement](#)
- **Rep. Alma S. Adam, PhD (NC-12), Founder and Co-Chair of HBCU Caucus:** “I welcome all and every initiative to support our nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities because supporting HBCUs is not a partisan issue,” said Congresswoman Adams. “HBCUs are centers of achievement, excellence, and success, and have always punched above their weight, even in the face of historic underfunding.” [Full Statement](#)