

ISSUE

Many people feel that Historically Black colleges and universities ([HBCUs](#)) are no longer necessary because segregation is no longer prevalent; therefore, it is important to highlight the need for HBCUs before explaining why they should receive more funding. When looking at the affordability of colleges and universities we must consider the funding gap between [PWIs](#) (predominantly white institutions) and HBCUs. Why is it so big, and how does it affect the tuition of each school? The lack of funding often leads to higher tuition costs, which results in students not being able to afford to attend universities while also focusing on the amount of funding the universities receive. Data from the Current Population Survey of the Census Bureau show that between [2019 and 2020](#), postsecondary education in the United States decreased by [2.9 million](#). Tiny private universities that rely heavily on tuition are most impacted by this decline. Public colleges are also not exempt. Currently, “Black students at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University are suing the state over alleged racial discrimination, claiming that local political leaders have deliberately denied the historically black college equal funding with the University of Florida, a predominantly White school” (CNN).

POLICY SOLUTION

The financial disparity gap between private and public HBCUs has become a strong issue that affects the institutions. This policy solution, it'll be the catalyst to close this gap with the use of an adjusted law that has already been passed and is in effect.

- While doing our research looking for a law or a policy that helps HBCUs we found the [Future ACT](#), which increased funding for HBCUs and minority-serving institutions. Rep Alma Adams, a Democrat from North Carolina, introduced the bill in the Senate called the Future ACT and, in the bill, she said that “This bill permanently authorizes funding for minority-serving institutions of higher education and increases the authorization of appropriations for Pell Grants.” ([Congress.gov](#)) For our policy reform, we intend to use what the FUTURE ACT has already implemented but the allocation factor of the funds would be edited.
- Individual HBCUs would do a census-type survey to determine the financial situation of the students on their campus. [Howard University](#) (HU) has a tuition of [\\$31,050](#) a year. They would then see where their students stand financially and be able to report this to the federal government. With this information, HU can prepare a proper package for the students and the university. This would also apply to smaller institutions that have a lower tuition cost, but the student's financial situation is struggling. This would both solve the issue of certain institutions being overfunded while others are underfunded and the issue of the financial gap between HBCUs both private and public.