



SEF Statement on Congress' Support of HBCUs During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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SEF's inextricable [historical](#) and present-day ties to our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) makes us especially concerned for the well-being and financial solvency of these institutions in these turbulent economic times. SEF strongly applauds Congress' passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which includes specific provisions HBCUs benefit from such as:

- [\\$1.046 billion in additional funding](#) for HBCUs and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to help recoup lost revenue, reimburse for extra pandemic-related expenses including for healthcare and childcare, and help defray costs related to a transition to distance learning.
- Support for student borrowers through emergency federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, continued Federal Work-Study payments, suspension of federal student loan payments (including interest) until October 1, and freezing the collections for borrowers who are in default.
- \$62 million for deferred principal and interest payments for the 44 [HBCUs](#) who have active loans, ranging from \$10 million - \$152 million, through the HBCU Capital Finance program.

SEF's full summary of the education provisions within the CARES Act can be found [here](#).

Unlike major public research institutions and well-funded private universities, many HBCUs [have](#) smaller endowments, operate within tight margins, and are required to rely more on tuition revenue and spend significantly more on student aid. Despite the structural financial challenges faced by HBCUs, the [environment HBCUs have fostered](#) for students has proven to be supportive, nurturing, academically rigorous, and community-focused.

It is our sincere hope that through this crisis, policymakers develop a keen understanding of the most adequate means of supporting HBCUs and develop the appropriate remedies to help them thrive. SEF stands with the HBCU community and believes that the multigenerational resilience exhibited by these fine institutions will carry them, stronger than before, to the other side of this crisis.

In community,

Raymond C. Pierce and the SEF Team