

Philanthropy and HBCUs

Foundation funding to historically
Black colleges and universities



ABFE

A Philanthropic Partnership
for Black Communities

Candid.

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About Candid

Every year, millions of nonprofits spend trillions of dollars around the world. Candid finds out where that money comes from, where it goes, and why it matters. Through research, collaboration, and training, Candid connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to do it. Candid's data tools on nonprofits, foundations, and grants are the most comprehensive in the world. In February 2019, Foundation Center and GuideStar joined forces to become Candid, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit candid.org or tweet us [@CandidDotOrg](https://twitter.com/CandidDotOrg).

About ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities

ABFE is a membership-based philanthropic organization that advocates for responsive and transformative investments in Black communities. Partnering with foundations, corporations, nonprofits, and individuals, ABFE provides its members with professional development and technical assistance resources that further the philanthropic sector's connection and responsiveness to issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Established in 1971 as the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the organization was credited with many of philanthropy's early gains in diversity. It has since evolved into an influential network. For more information, visit abfe.org.

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Foreword

By Susan Taylor Batten, ABFE

After my high school graduation, I recall sitting on a neighborhood “stoop” one hot summer evening with a group of childhood friends; all of us were on our way to various colleges. We were so excited! One friend turned to me and asked where I was headed; I proudly shared, “Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.” She responded, “Hmm, I am going to Boston University. When I graduate and start interviewing for jobs, I can say to white interviewers that I had the same education as their daughters! Susan, you won’t be able to say that.” I didn’t expect this; it hurt me that night ... had I made a big mistake?

It would take years for me to understand that her choice to go to a predominantly white institution (PWI), “just like the interviewer’s daughter,” really wouldn’t matter when it came to interviewing for jobs. Racism, employer bias, and work discrimination are well documented. After matriculating from Fisk to Howard University for graduate school many years later, I knew I had made the right decision! Not only did I have the good fortune to receive a world-class education, but my learning was steeped in the history and lived experience of Black people. It was the perfect combination to help this “average” high school student excel and graduate at the top of her class. My story isn’t unique.

As a proud alum of two historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), I know how important these institutions are to this nation. There was a time when HBCUs were the only option for Black students in higher education; I don’t have to go back too far in my lineage for that to be true. While this is no longer the case, these institutions continue to educate and prepare hundreds of thousands of students from all walks of life to contribute to America. But HBCUs are far more than just educational institutions. They are “anchor” institutions that also serve as economic engines for Black and low-income communities. For that reason, any foundation or donor focused on educational attainment, neighborhood and community development, and wealth building in these communities should leverage their work by partnering with an HBCU.

Despite the achievements of HBCUs, philanthropy funds these higher education institutions at significantly lower rates than comparable PWIs. This leaves HBCUs with less than adequate funding to support their operations, educational programs, infrastructure, and endowments.

This report serves as a clarion call to our sector to right the systemic philanthropic funding disparity facing HBCUs and to adequately invest in the future of these institutions.

Executive summary

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played a central—if underappreciated—role in the United States. The earliest HBCUs were founded before the legal enslavement of Black people ended. Since then, they have been critical in educating Black people, developing Black leaders, and addressing inequality.

Although researchers have studied the government’s role in financing HBCUs, there has been little research on private philanthropic support. This report seeks to fill that gap by examining U.S. foundation funding to HBCUs and exploring the relationship between foundations and HBCUs. Our qualitative research consisted of interviews with seven HBCU staff and seven funders, as well as a focus group with four HBCU students to understand their experiences and perspectives. Our quantitative analysis leveraged Candid’s comprehensive grants data to identify funding patterns and gaps to 103 HBCUs.

Key findings

- Large U.S. foundations steadily decreased their support of HBCUs between 2002 and 2019. They awarded \$65 million to HBCUs in 2002; by 2019, giving decreased 30% to \$45 million (not adjusting for inflation).
- Examining all available foundation grants data from 2015 to 2019, funding held relatively steady. Within these five years:
 - Independent foundations accounted for two-thirds of grant dollars (66%). Corporate and community foundations represented 21% and 12% of grant dollars, respectively.
 - Among the 1,607 foundations that supported HBCUs, the median aggregate dollar amount awarded was \$11,000. The median number of HBCUs supported was one.
 - The top donors to HBCUs were The Duke Endowment, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Coca-Cola Foundation.
 - The average Ivy League institution received 178 times more foundation funding than the average HBCU. Ivy League schools received a combined \$5.5 billion in philanthropic dollars compared to HBCUs’ \$303 million.

- Compared to higher education institutions with highly similar attributes (geographic region, locale, size, institution type, and specialization), HBCUs were underfunded. HBCUs received, on average, about two-thirds of what foundations paid out to composites of similarly situated institutions. Whereas HBCUs averaged \$620,073 in annual grant dollars per institution, their composite comparison schools received on average \$968,988.
 - Foundations tended to award proportionately fewer grant dollars as general operating support to HBCUs compared to Ivy League and similarly situated institutions. (This trend was reversed in 2018 and 2019 due to grants by The Duke Endowment.)
 - HBCUs also received proportionately fewer dollars earmarked for research when compared to Ivy League and similarly situated institutions.
 - Among HBCUs, there were clear “haves” and “have nots” when it came to philanthropic support. The top 10 funded HBCUs received more than half (52%) of all foundation funding to the HBCU community.
 - Private HBCUs received more than double the foundation grant dollars of public HBCUs.
- A preliminary examination of 2020 grants data indicates a sizable increase in HBCU funding in 2020, currently totaling \$249 million. (Data collection, however, is still ongoing, and this figure includes data sourced from news stories.)
 - Based on our qualitative research, all HBCU staff interviewed for this study reported increased philanthropic support starting in 2020. The murder of George Floyd and the subsequent heightened racial justice movement caused the world, including the philanthropic sector, to pay attention to systemic racial inequities that disproportionately impact Black communities. Thus, funders began acknowledging and/or prioritizing racial equity and diversity in their grantmaking.
 - Despite the recent increases in philanthropic attention and funding, more work is needed. Interview participants highlighted that HBCUs need diverse types of support to mitigate generations of underinvestment. This includes funding to address infrastructure, personnel, and scholarships, as well as unrestricted funding. HBCUs provide a unique, welcoming, and inclusive environment that students value. But students are impacted by the institutions’ financial, resource, and capacity challenges. HBCU funders affirm HBCU excellence and recognize the barriers HBCUs face due to systemic racism.

Foundations have the potential to drastically expand funding directed to HBCUs. Though the data shows persistent historical underinvestment, it also provides insight into the shifts philanthropy can make to contribute to the future of HBCUs. HBCUs have thus far been successful with limited resources, underscoring their value, power, and potential. By committing to funding HBCUs, developing long-lasting relationships with them, and increasing HBCU capacity, foundations will strengthen HBCUs to continue—and build upon—the remarkable impact they have had on Black communities and the nation.

Introduction

Overview of historically Black colleges and universities

Before the Civil War, only 28 Black people in the United States were college educated (Lee & Keys, 2013). Most of the historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the United States were founded in the decades surrounding the Civil War, before and after the end of the legal enslavement of Black people. White abolitionists from the Northern states were often founders and faculty of these early institutions, viewing the education of formerly enslaved Americans as necessary for self-sufficiency. Black-led organizations, such as the Freedman's Bureau and Black religious institutions, also founded HBCUs, not only as a vehicle for self-sufficiency but as a signifier of freedom (Bettez & Suggs, 2012). Most of the newly founded institutions were private, but the Land Grant Act led to the establishment of 17 public HBCUs (Lee & Keys, 2013).

An HBCU is federally defined as a college or university established before 1964 with a clear mission to educate Black people. The last HBCU to be established was the University of the Virgin Islands, founded in 1962. Interestingly, the Northern states of Pennsylvania and Ohio were the locations of the first established HBCUs. The earliest HBCU on record is Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, established in 1837 thanks to initial funding of \$10,000 from the estate of the Quaker philanthropist Richard Humphrey. There are several other HBCU “firsts” worth mentioning:

- Lincoln University (1854), also in Pennsylvania, was the first degree-granting HBCU.
- Wilberforce University (1856) became the first Black-led HBCU when Black Methodists took control of the university a few years after its founding by white Methodists (Freeman, 2010).
- Shaw University (1865) in North Carolina was the first college for Black people in the South.

As of the writing of this report, there are 99 HBCUs in the United States,¹ located in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There is great variation among HBCUs, which cannot be ignored. Fifty HBCUs are public institutions; 49 are private, nonprofit institutions. Some are large, and others are very small. A few HBCUs, like Spelman College and Morehouse College, are well known. Most are not. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is known for its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Eleven HBCUs are “high research

activity” Research 2 universities. Among them, some are on the cusp of becoming “very high research activity” Research 1 institutions. Despite their differences, HBCUs have similar missions and have played transformative roles in Black communities.

Why are HBCUs so important?

HBCUs are some of the most central institutions in Black civil society. Black people have routinely experienced challenges accessing formal education in the United States through white institutions or white people. During the legalized enslavement of Black people, laws and societal prohibitions forbade their education. Since the end of the Civil War, systemic barriers have hindered Black people’s access to formal education. Jim Crow laws legalized racial segregation and prohibited Black people’s matriculation into higher education institutions. In fact, until the 1960s, HBCUs were practically the only higher education institutions fully accessible to Black people (Fryer & Greenstone, 2010). Current-day practices of anti-Black racism include lack of access to quality primary and secondary education as well as lack of access to funds that support the pursuit of education (Strayhorn, 2009). HBCUs not only offer Black people a route to circumvent these systemic barriers to formal education but are also one of few spaces in the United States where who they are, as Black people, is supported and nurtured.

Outcomes for students

HBCUs account for approximately 3% of all colleges and universities in the United States. They enroll students of all races and ethnicities, but a majority (75% in 2021) are Black. In 2021, 9% of all postsecondary Black students were enrolled in HBCUs, and HBCUs conferred 13% of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Black students. HBCU students are more likely to be first-generation college students than students at predominantly white institutions (PWI) (Espinosa, et al., 2018).

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HBCUs educate and support the largest number of Black professionals who are in critical fields, such as medicine, law, and engineering. Students who earn a bachelor’s degree from an HBCU are more likely to enroll in graduate programs than non-HBCU graduates (Mattern & Radunzel, 2015). HBCUs confer a disproportionate number of Black STEM degrees each year, with 27% of all Black people with bachelor’s degrees in STEM and 12% of all Black people with doctorates in STEM having received their education at an HBCU (Howell, et al., 2022). Each year, Xavier University in Louisiana produces more Black students who place into medical school than any other school in the United States (Hawkins, 2021). HBCUs are also one of the top educators of Black teachers in the elementary and high school public education systems.

“HBCUs account for 80% of Black judges, 50% of Black doctors, and 50% of Black lawyers,” according to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) (Hammond, et al., 2021).

Much of the success of Black students attending HBCUs is not only the result of the high quality of academic instruction but also the institutions’ focus on supporting students and providing safe spaces and opportunities for college and community engagement. Black

students who attend HBCUs experience more satisfaction with their college experiences than those attending non-HBCU institutions (Bloom & Baker, 2022). One study found that the explicit race-conscious approach of HBCU leadership is central to ensuring the success of their students (McGee, et al., 2021).

Students entering HBCUs are likelier to come from low-wealth families and to have scored lower on standardized admission exams than those entering comparable PWIs. Two-thirds of HBCU students are eligible for federal Pell grants (Nathenson, et al., 2019). Yet, the after-college attendance economic mobility rate for Black students is higher than for Black students attending a non-HBCU institution. HBCU graduates can expect to earn \$927,000 in additional income compared to Black people without a college degree and compared to Black PWI college graduates (Hammond, et al., 2021). In 2014, the total lifetime earnings for HBCU graduates were \$130 billion (Humphreys, 2017).

HBCU graduates outperform graduates from any other type of higher education institution, including Ivy League universities, on measures of social mobility (Hammond, et al., 2021). Two-thirds of HBCU students from low-wealth families reach at least middle-class financial status, and 70% of students of all income levels attain middle-class financial status (Nathenson, et al., 2019).

Outcomes for communities

HBCUs function not only as a resource for formal education but as nuclei of social activism, cultural centers, and builders of Black entrepreneurship, economic power, and cohesive Black communities (Freeman & Cohen, 2001). There is a multiplicity of examples in this area. Black Lives Matter, the 1970s/1980s anti-apartheid movement, and the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee had strong HBCU student leadership. HBCUs have daycare centers, out-of-school programming for children of the surrounding community, GED programs, and community business development hubs. HBCUs are more likely than PWIs to have a service-learning component to educational plans (Albritton, 2012). Service-learning engagement in undergraduate education increases the likelihood of civic engagement post-graduation (Gasman, et al., 2015). HBCUs' role as economic engines and catalysts for Black cultural expression is of particular importance.

Economics. Most HBCUs (81%) are in U.S. counties where the median wage is below the national average (Gasman, et al., 2015). HBCUs generate 134,090 jobs in their local and regional communities, nearly half of which are on the colleges' campuses (Humphreys, 2017). In 2014, total spending for 100 HBCUs was \$10.3 billion, with a total economic impact of \$14.3 billion (Humphreys, 2017).

Culture. HBCUs are unmatched as catalysts for Black cultural expression. Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and Spike Lee are notable HBCU graduates in the arts and literature, among many more (Patton, et al., 2022). Many HBCUs host community lecture series, concerts, and other performing arts events. Of note, the National Endowment for the Arts recognized the Fisk Jubilee Singers, founded in 1871 at Fisk University in Tennessee, for their role in preserving African American spirituals.

HBCU students affirm there is something special about HBCUs

As part of our qualitative research, we conducted a focus group with four current HBCU students (see methodology in Appendix B). A clear theme was that HBCUs offer a unique value to the student community. Students affirmed the role of HBCUs as centers of excellence that cultivate a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for their predominantly Black student population. All student participants reported feeling a strong sense of belonging at their respective HBCUs. Students, staff, and faculty alike contribute to a family-oriented space that uplifts African American culture and attracts new students. Some HBCU professors teach at the very institutions they themselves attended and can draw from their experiences to assist students. Professors are generally understanding and supportive, demonstrating awareness of students' needs and desires as well as the challenges they face. HBCU students also agreed that opportunities for educational and professional development add to the unique value of an HBCU education. HBCU affiliation is a benefit to students looking for jobs, as employers seek to cultivate greater diversity within their organizations.

My parents are HBCU alums. As someone who is looking to go into the field of government and politics, [this HBCU] was the only option and it was a perfect fit for me. All the opportunities that I have been able to experience since attending [this HBCU] and being in [this] city have exceeded my expectations. I am grateful to God that I chose this school. -HBCU student

HBCUs give you a sense of belonging. Not that we feel like we don't belong outside of HBCUs, right? Being at an HBCU, being by your people and with your people in these spaces gives you a sense of knowing your worth. So, when I exit this place for whatever spaces or endeavors after, I belong, and I know that my value is worth being looked at. I feel like HBCUs are the cornerstone of the community. It enlightens you to a whole different path that you didn't know existed. Now my kids have to go to HBCUs, and their kids have to go. It has to be a tradition. An HBCU taps you back into your roots. -HBCU student

The culture at HBCUs is very unique. ... HBCUs create an environment and experience for young, African American college students ... and do it in a way that [strategically] targets us. Many of the professors are African Americans and/or have attended an HBCU and come back to work at their alma mater, so they know what it takes and know what to do to help [HBCU students] move forward in their prospective careers. -HBCU student

[Employers] recruit not only from a minority aspect, but also know that HBCUs instill something different compared to predominantly white institutions. They know that at HBCUs there is an extra blanket of love, an extra grit that students possess ... but they might not know how strong and how powerful our knowledge and our skillset [are]. Being able to alter their expectations is an honor. It is a privilege. -HBCU student

Financing of HBCUs

Despite HBCUs' significance and contributions, these higher education institutions have been historically underfunded. They have been highly successful with limited resources, underscoring their value, power, and potential.

HBCU endowments lag behind those of non-HBCU institutions by at least **70%**

HBCUs receive and rely on funding from different sources, including tuition, government funding, and private donations. Previous studies have shown notable declines in federal funding to HBCUs over the last two decades. One study found that private HBCUs faced steeper cuts than any other higher education institution (Williams & Davis, 2019). Another analysis found that funding for HBCU research decreased 15% in 2019 compared to 2001, although total research funding to all U.S. universities during this time increased by 65% (Mervis, 2022). Acknowledging these disparities, the White House in 2021 announced that the American Rescue Plan and COVID-19 pandemic relief included funding to HBCUs.

Previous research also suggests that HBCU endowments lag behind those of non-HBCU institutions by at least 70%. This means that HBCUs are more dependent on external funding sources than many other higher education institutions and may be less likely to withstand a funding drought (Williams & Davis, 2019).

Table 1. HBCU revenue by source, 2019–2020

	Amount (\$ in thousands)	%
Student tuition and fees	\$1,929,746	21%
Federal government	2,336,542	26%
State governments	2,214,561	25%
Local governments	131,312	1%
Private gifts and grants	573,278	6%
Investment return	137,712	2%
Auxiliary (self-supporting) enterprises	886,332	10%
Hospitals and other sources	787,927	9%
Total revenue	\$8,997,410	100%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment Survey" (IPEDS-EF:90); Table 313.30 from the *Digest of Education Statistics*; IPEDS Spring 2021, Finance component

Philanthropic funding. Previous research on federal financing of HBCUs has been instrumental, but it is only part of the picture of HBCU revenue. In addition to public funding, HBCUs also receive private support in the form of gifts, grants, and contracts (Table 1). Collectively, private gifts make up 6% of total HBCU revenue, though for private HBCUs, this proportion is higher (14%). This may seem like a relatively small revenue stream, and it is. Private funding makes up a smaller percentage of HBCUs' overall revenue compared to non-HBCU institutions, increasing their reliance on public funding

and tuition revenue (Williams & Davis, 2019). This also suggests that philanthropic funding might be an under-tapped source of funding for HBCUs—especially given that HBCUs are limited in how high they can raise tuition rates without compromising their missions. Indeed, HBCUs have successfully kept their tuition rates below the national average. Alumni giving is also an important source of revenue but requires substantial institutional capacity to grow and maintain.

Based on our interviews with HBCU staff, we found that there can be great variability in HBCU funding streams. Fisk University reported a relatively even distribution among private gifts and grants (30%), net tuition and room and board (35% to 40%), and federal funding (25%). Norfolk State University receives about 60% of its funding from corporations and foundations; the remainder comes from alumni and friends. Stillman College's funding tends to come from corporations (40%), alumni (30%), and research and government grants (30%).

To date, philanthropic giving to HBCUs has largely been opaque, with little examination of who is providing this support or why, whether this funding is sufficient, or how such funding has shifted over time. Gasman et al. (2022) offers a landscape analysis of philanthropy to HBCUs, but the manually extracted data presents inconsistencies. Moreover, there has been relatively little research exploring how the philanthropic sector supports (or fails to support) HBCUs. The lack of transparency makes it difficult to understand HBCUs' true current and future circumstances.

This report examines philanthropy's role in supporting (or not supporting) HBCUs over the last 20 years and includes perspectives and recommendations from experts on how philanthropy can contribute to the future of HBCUs.

Current study

The current study aims to address the gap in research about philanthropic giving to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Specifically, we seek to answer the following research questions:

- How has institutional philanthropy—especially large foundations—supported HBCUs historically?
- What are more recent trends in philanthropic support of HBCUs?
- How does philanthropic funding to HBCUs compare with other higher education institutions? How do these comparisons shift when examining different types of giving (such as general operating support)?
- How does philanthropic support differ among HBCUs?
- How did the racial justice movement of 2020 impact HBCUs? How do these recent grants compare with historical funding data?
- What are HBCUs' experiences with institutional philanthropy and institutional philanthropy's experiences with HBCUs?

We took a mixed methods approach to answer these research questions, leveraging 18 years of quantitative data on foundation grantmaking coupled with interviews with HBCU staff and funders, as well as a focus group with HBCU students (see Appendix B for full methods). Our quantitative findings are paired with insights and perspectives from the interviews. We conclude with recommendations on how philanthropy can contribute to the future of HBCUs.

Historical funding from “big philanthropy” to HBCUs

Our first research question was: *How has institutional philanthropy traditionally supported historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)?* To address this, we examined grant dollars awarded by large foundations—“big philanthropy”—to HBCUs over a span of 18 years, from 2002 to 2019.² This analysis is based on a research set of 1,000 of the largest U.S. private and community foundations each year and their grants of \$10,000 or more. We used this approach for two reasons: 1) this subgroup is responsible for the majority of annual foundation giving, and 2) this subgroup has, historically, been tracked most consistently by Candid, allowing for the most accurate assessment of long-term trends. (See Appendix A for more about this data set.)

Big philanthropy steadily decreased their support of HBCUs between 2002 and 2019

Over an 18-year period, large U.S. foundations steadily decreased their support of HBCUs—in terms of both percentage of total giving and dollars awarded (Figures 1 and 2). In 2002, HBCUs received less than half of 1 percent (0.4%) of overall grant dollars awarded by big philanthropy. Since then, that proportion has declined, with large foundations dedicating closer to one-tenth of 1 percent (0.1%) of their total giving to HBCUs in recent years. In other words, for every 100 dollars donated by big philanthropy to any issue or cause, about a dime went to HBCUs. (See detailed figures in Appendix D, Table 7.)

Figure 1. Historical funding from big philanthropy to HBCUs: Percentage of overall grant dollars

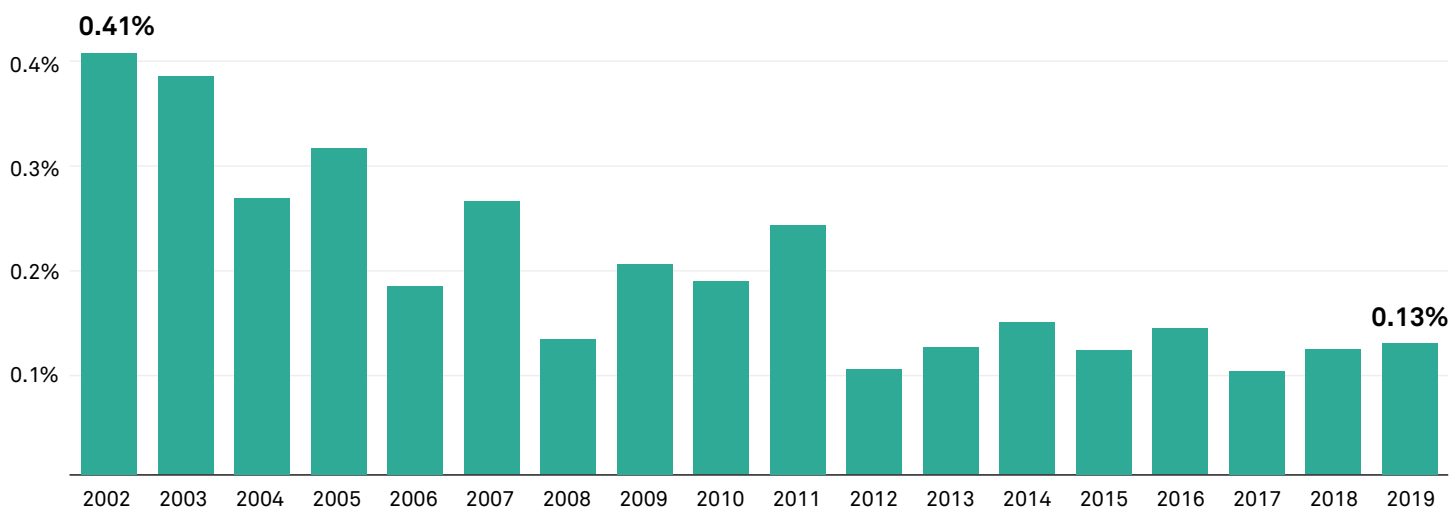
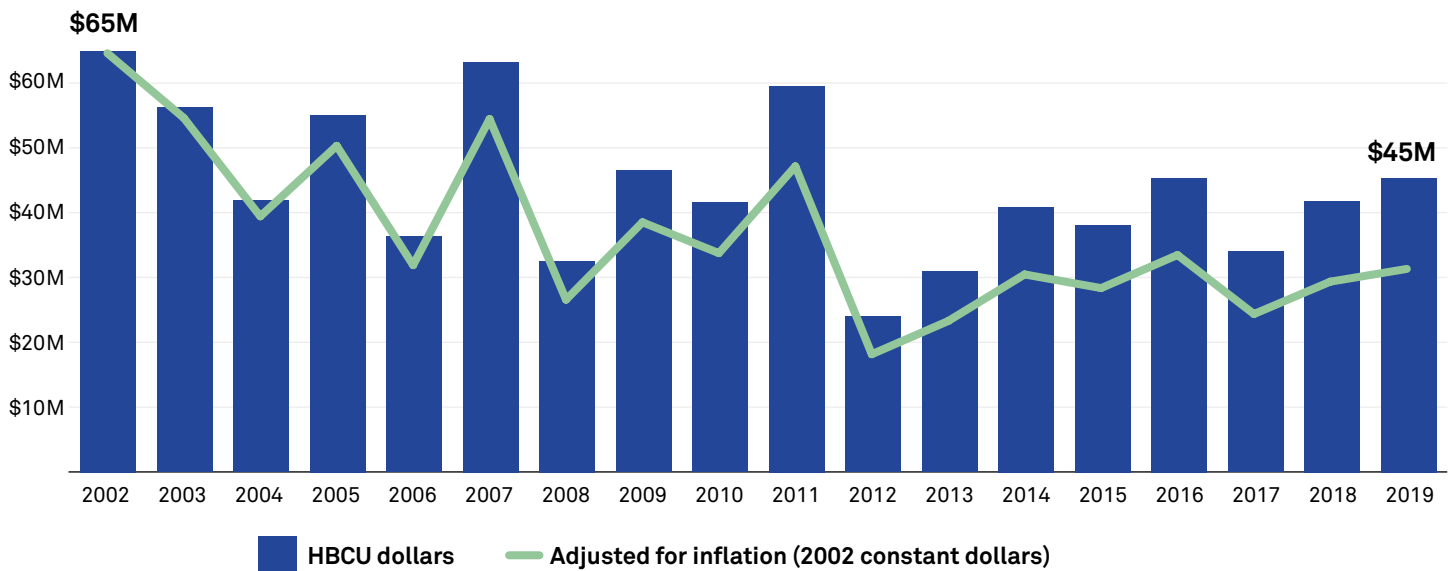


Figure 2. Historical funding from big philanthropy to HBCUs: Grant dollars awarded



Philanthropic dollars address a wide range of local and global issues—health, poverty, and human rights, to name a few—and higher education is just one of many priorities. Although we recognized that funding to HBCUs would likely not capture a large proportion of overall foundation grant dollars, we were nonetheless surprised to learn how much HBCU support declined over the years.

The number of large foundations awarding grants to HBCUs declined from 158 to **100**

This general pattern held when we examined total grant dollars awarded to HBCUs (Figure 2). In 2002, HBCUs collectively received \$65 million in philanthropic support. By 2019, that number decreased 30% to \$45 million. When we consider inflation,³ this decrease was even more drastic, with HBCUs receiving less than half of the philanthropic support in 2019 as they had in 2002.

It is important to note that during this period, foundations increased their overall giving. Total funding across all issues and causes grew 124% from 2002 to 2019 in unadjusted dollars, or 58% adjusted for inflation. (Figures are listed in Appendix D, Table 7.)

The decline in HBCU funding was matched by a steady decrease in the number of foundations that supported HBCUs. In 2002, 158 large foundations awarded grants to HBCUs; by 2018 and 2019, only 100 foundations did so.

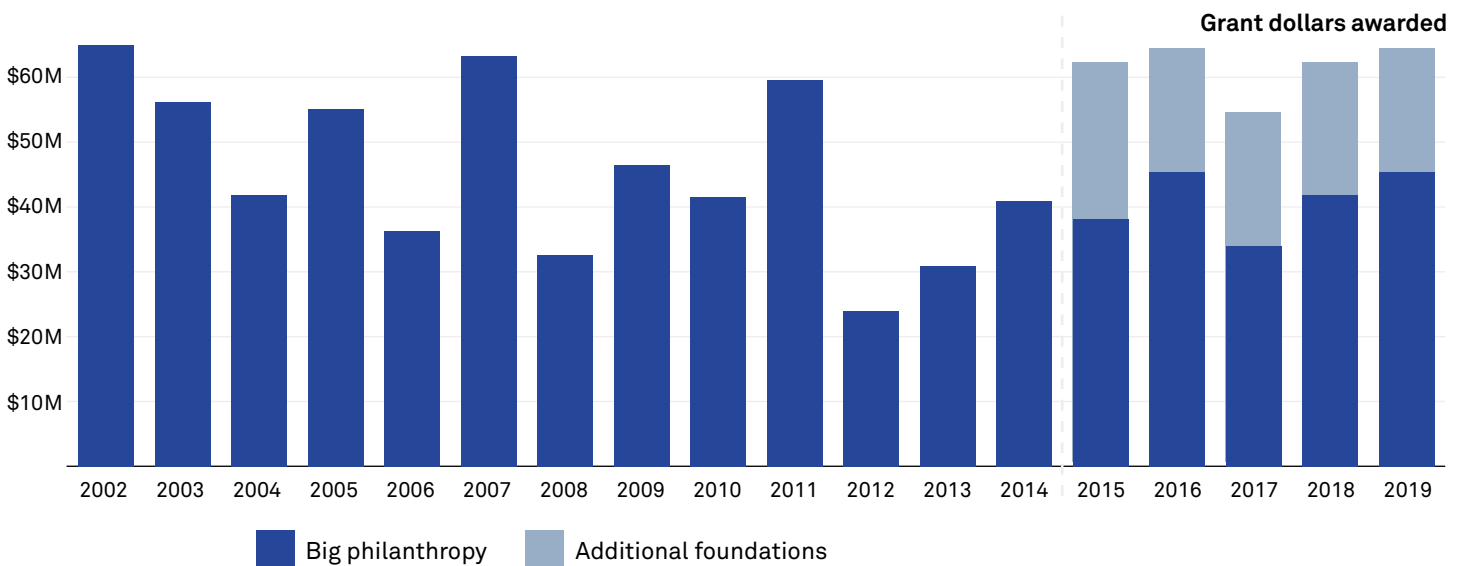
All foundation funding to HBCUs, 2015–2019

With this historical context in mind, for the remainder of the quantitative analysis, we focus on more recent trends in giving to HBCUs—specifically, funding awarded between 2015 and 2019. Candid’s historical data reflects the grantmaking of large U.S. foundations and their larger grants (i.e., “big philanthropy”). But philanthropic funding to HBCUs extends beyond these organizations. Since 2015, Candid has expanded its data collection to include smaller awards and grants from a broader range of funders. With more data, we can analyze a larger universe of U.S. foundation funding, including the impact of smaller gifts and additional private and community foundations (Figure 3).

Between 2015 and 2019, U.S. foundations awarded an average of \$61 million to HBCUs each year. Smaller grants and awards from additional private and community foundations accounted for roughly \$20 million per year, about half of what was awarded each year by big philanthropy.

Examining total grant dollars by funder type, summed across five years of giving (from 2015 through 2019), we see that independent foundations accounted for two-thirds of aggregated dollars to HBCUs (Figure 4).⁴ Corporate and community foundations represented 21% and 12% of grant dollars, respectively.

Figure 3. Recent funding to HBCUs with additional foundations in 2015–2019



The top foundations supporting HBCUs during the five-year period were primarily independent foundations, alongside two corporate foundations and two community foundations (Table 2). The biggest HBCU foundation grantmaker, by far, was The Duke Endowment. (Learn more about its support of the Johnson C. Smith University in the call-out section on page 24.) Some funders, like The Duke Endowment and The Wallace Foundation, supported one or two HBCUs, whereas others distributed their grants to a wider variety of HBCUs. The largest HBCU funders varied from year to year, but The Duke Endowment, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Coca-Cola Foundation, and Lilly Endowment were consistently among the top 10 donors each year. (A list of the top 100 HBCU foundation funders is available in Appendix D, Table 8.)

In all, 1,607 foundations awarded 10,278 individual grants to HBCUs between 2015 and 2019. The median aggregate dollar amount awarded by a foundation during the five-year period was \$11,000. The median number of grants awarded was two. The median number of HBCUs supported was one.

Figure 4. Total grant dollars awarded by foundation type, 2015–2019

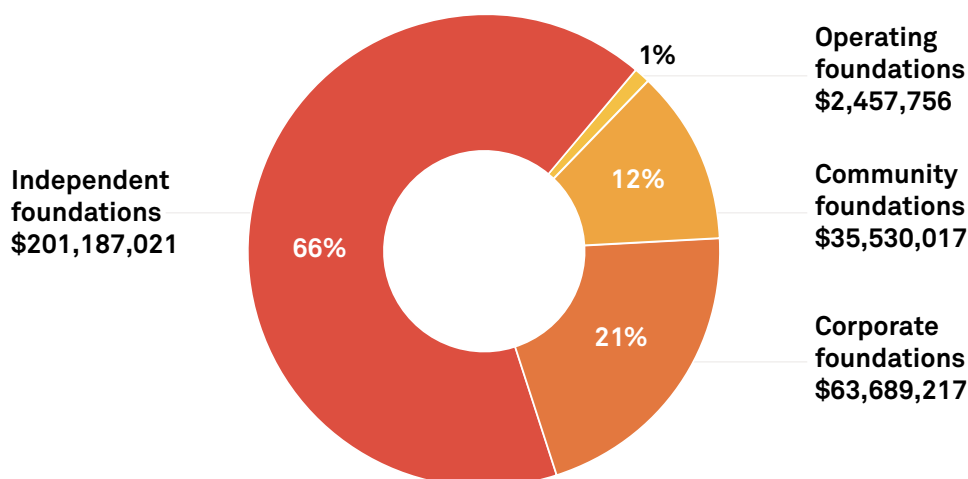


Table 2. Top 10 HBCU foundation funders, 2015–2019

Foundation	State	Type	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of HBCUs supported
1 The Duke Endowment	NC	IN	\$32,509,000	28	1
2 The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	NY	IN	17,342,000	37	18
3 The Coca-Cola Foundation	GA	CS	16,751,591	46	7
4 Verizon Foundation	NJ	CS	13,107,259	424	51
5 Lilly Endowment	IN	IN	13,002,467	30	14
6 The Wallace Foundation	NY	IN	10,557,702	6	2
7 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	IN	9,948,952	14	7
8 W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	IN	8,357,273	20	13
9 Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	CM	4,726,506	58	15
10 The Chicago Community Trust	IL	CM	3,756,337	25	9

CM=community foundation; CS=corporate foundation; IN=independent foundation. Some foundations awarded grants to the Southern University System, the only historically Black university system, consisting of four HBCUs. The number of HBCUs supported includes the Southern University System as a distinct HBCU entity. See Appendix B for more information.

Why have HBCUs received such little attention from institutional philanthropy?

Our qualitative research found that HBCUs have experienced recent progress in philanthropic support, but more work is needed. Interview participants from HBCUs attributed norms in the philanthropic sector as one reason why HBCUs have been overlooked. Philanthropy is relational, and opportunities emerge through connections and dialogue.

A big part of philanthropy is [about] relationships. Quite frankly, the basis of the whole thing is about relationships. If you have [an HBCU] president who does not have relationships and ties to individuals in the community, it's going to be almost impossible for the school to get [funding]. Well, you will get some money, but [it's hard] to get that transformational gift because that trust factor is not there. If a president [has been at an HBCU] for five years, then people start to understand what you are trying to accomplish. You've built a reputation, and [philanthropy] is more willing to invest. -HBCU staff

HBCUs with a history of receiving funding from foundations or who have established connections in philanthropy are more likely to continue receiving support.

I put together an advisory board that has several people within philanthropy on it. In fact, [a staff member from] ABFE is on the board and because of that she and others who have the [network] can connect me to funders through introductory emails. Because of these introductions, they respond. ... I think I have easier access [to funding] overall compared to others who may not have these kinds of connections. -HBCU staff

Smaller HBCUs also lack access to foundation requests for proposals. Or, they may not have the capacity to create larger initiatives that foundations will fund.

For smaller schools it's harder to put together very large strategic initiatives. ... Big foundations have very deliberate foci around strategic initiatives. ... You create an initiative to then fund it, [but] there are indirect costs and overhead. For schools like ours, it sometimes feels like we have to invent things to be the beneficiary of those types of grants. [But] unless somebody is specifically working in that area, sometimes it feels more restrictive than what is needed from our end.
-HBCU staff

HBCU staff participants did not explicitly name systemic racism as the cause of differential and poor-quality interactions with institutional philanthropy, but some foundation staff did. (See “Perspectives of HBCU funders” on page 39.) HBCU staff participants noted that negative misconceptions about HBCUs and unfair comparisons to predominantly white institutions (PWIs) are major barriers. They reported that HBCUs are not viewed as being as competent or as responsible with funding as PWIs. (Indeed, researchers like Melissa E. Wooten have documented how traditional markers of legitimacy—e.g., graduation rates, standardized test scores, or endowment size—disadvantage Black higher education institutions.) Therefore, HBCUs often do not receive the same level of attention and funding.

It is not clear to me that [program officers at philanthropic foundations] are willing to take the risk of working with HBCUs. They have a notion of excellence that is very credential driven and superficial. ... Since [some] do not know HBCUs well enough [they] cannot judge the quality of the programs or be able to make objective decisions about whether HBCUs are a good investment risk.
-HBCU staff

Philanthropic funding to HBCUs vs. other higher education institutions

There is no set of institutions that is directly equivalent to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in historical significance, student and community impact, or societal value. Yet, numbers out of context lose meaning. For instance, some might consider the \$63 million in philanthropic funding that the HBCU community received in 2019 as sizable and sufficient. But this amount, pales in comparison to the \$1.1 billion that foundations awarded to all Ivy League schools in the same year.

In this section, we offer comparisons between philanthropic funding to HBCUs and to other colleges and universities to ground and contextualize the data. Our aim is to compare philanthropic funding—not the higher education institutions themselves.

Ivy League schools: A metric of philanthropic potential

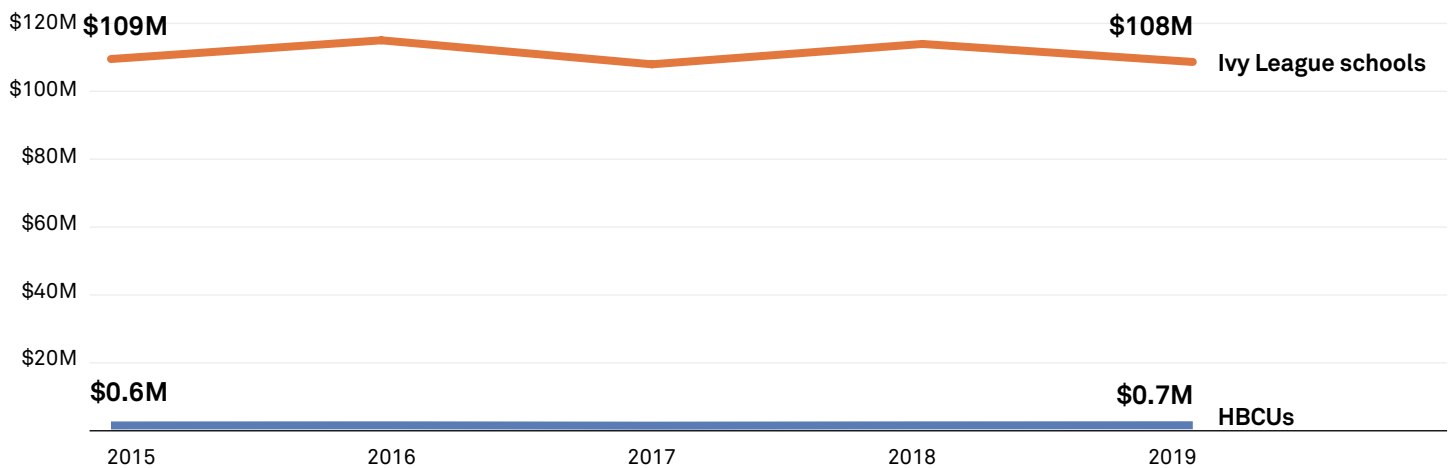
We first examine funding to Ivy League schools⁵ as a proxy measure of philanthropic funding capacity. In other words, the amount of money donated to Ivy League schools suggests a ballpark for how much funding is available from foundations to universities.

The United Negro College Fund has made similar arguments (Hammond, et al., 2021).

The average Ivy League institution received
178
times more foundation funding than the average HBCU

Ivy League schools received a combined \$5.5 billion in philanthropic dollars from 2015 to 2019, compared with HBCUs' \$303 million. There are, however, far more HBCUs than Ivy League schools. When we divide total giving by number of institutions that received funding, we find that, on average, an Ivy League school received \$110 million in grant dollars each year, whereas, on average, an HBCU⁶ received \$618,588. That means that, on average, an Ivy League institution received 178 times more foundation funding than an HBCU. This gap was consistent for every year of data we examined, with an average HBCU receiving about 0.6% of the grant dollars of an average Ivy League school. Figure 5 shows yearly trends, demonstrating how little support HBCUs received from philanthropy in the broader context of higher education donations.

Figure 5. Average foundation grant dollars per institution: HBCUs vs. Ivy League schools



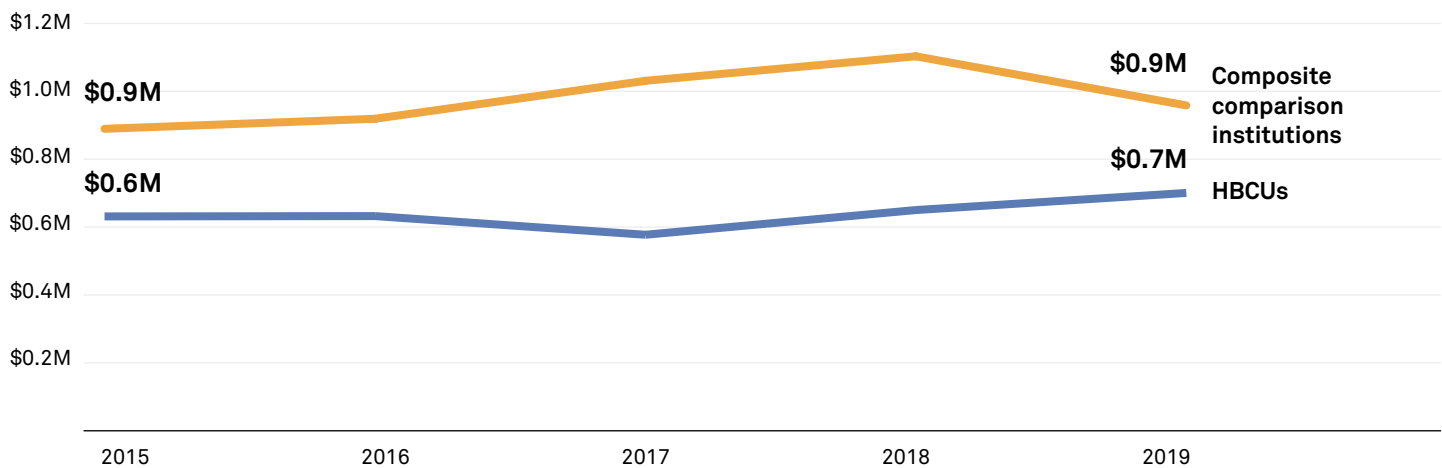
Composite comparison schools: An estimation of philanthropic funding to similarly situated institutions

There are, of course, notable differences between HBCUs and Ivy League schools. In addition to their different histories, student populations, and missions, they also vary by location, size, and funding model (i.e., private vs. public). As such, comparing philanthropic funding to HBCUs and Ivy League schools may feel like comparing apples and oranges.

To address this, we approximated what philanthropic funding looks like to higher education institutions that are more similarly situated to HBCUs. Using the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE), we identified a set of colleges and universities that are similar to HBCUs along five key dimensions. Specifically, we matched each HBCU with every institution that the CCIHE deemed to be identical to a given HBCU in terms of geographic region, institution type (e.g., two-year, four-year, private, public), specialization (e.g., research activity, medical school), size, and locale (e.g., city, rural). Race of the student population was not a factor. In most cases, this search strategy returned more than one match.

Next, we looked at philanthropic funding for all matched institutions and averaged the data to create a single, hypothetical “composite comparison school.” For example, CCIHE identified five universities that matched Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. These matched universities are also public, medium-sized, four-year (or above) universities located in cities in the Southeast. We examined grant dollars to these five universities and averaged them to create a composite comparison. The resulting figure marks how much funding an average university similar to Florida A&M received from philanthropy. This methodological approach removes a level of bias by controlling for key factors, allowing for a more “apples to apples” comparison. (See Appendix B for the full methodology.)

Figure 6. Average foundation grant dollars per institution: HBCUs vs. composite comparisons



HBCU figures are based on HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions. Therefore, these HBCU average dollars differ slightly from those used in the Ivy League comparison.

HBCUs received about **2/3** of what philanthropy paid out to similarly situated institutions

We found that foundations underfunded HBCUs compared to this “matched” group (Figure 6). HBCUs received about two-thirds of what philanthropy paid out to similarly situated institutions. Whereas HBCUs averaged \$620,073 in annual grant dollars per institution, similarly situated institutions received on average \$968,988. Looking across five years of data, the composite comparison group consistently received more philanthropic dollars than HBCUs.

We acknowledge and reiterate that HBCUs are unparalleled and therefore incomparable to other higher education institutions, but it is nonetheless telling that when compared to schools with highly similar circumstances (size, location, funding model, research status), HBCUs still appear to be underserved by institutional philanthropy.

Funding for general operating support

General or core operating support is an invaluable funding resource. It is an investment in an organization’s mission rather than a specific program or project. General operating support allows recipient institutions to use funds where they will have the most impact, rather than needing to align with funder priorities. Because of this, researchers have argued that general operating support can be considered a proxy measure for funder trust in grantee organizations (Dorsey, et al., 2020).

Results from the current study showed that, from 2015 through 2017, HBCUs received less than Ivy League schools in general operating support as a proportion of their overall grant dollars (Figure 7). In 2018 and 2019, however, general operating support increased for HBCUs as it declined for Ivy League schools. Much of the increase was due to one funder,

The Duke Endowment, which designated far more grant dollars as operating support in 2018 and 2019 than it had previously. The foundation typically awarded \$1.4 million in general operating support but increased that amount to \$9.1 million in 2018 and \$8.9 million in 2019. It should be noted that The Duke Endowment's gift of general operating support was awarded to only one HBCU and, therefore, does not reflect philanthropic trends to the broader HBCU community. When we examined the data without The Duke Endowment's grants, the proportion of HBCU operating support dollars in 2018 and 2019 still increased, but less dramatically. (For more about The Duke Endowment, see the call-out section on page 24.) A similar story played out when comparing proportions of general operating support to HBCUs and their composite comparison schools (Figure 8).

Figure 7. HBCUs vs. Ivy League institutions: General operating support

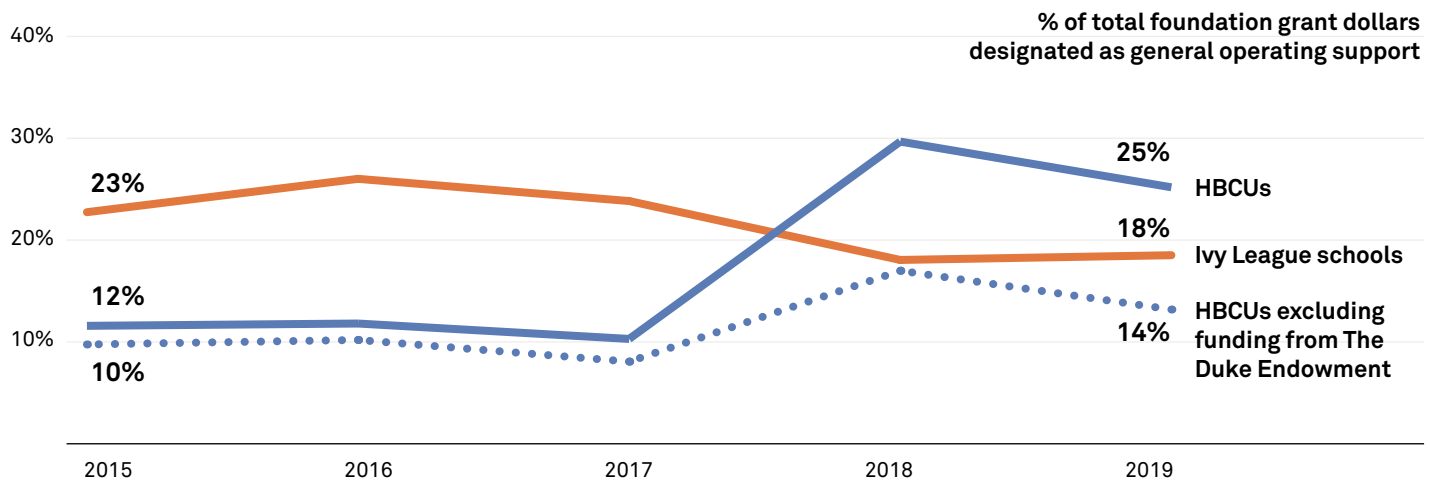
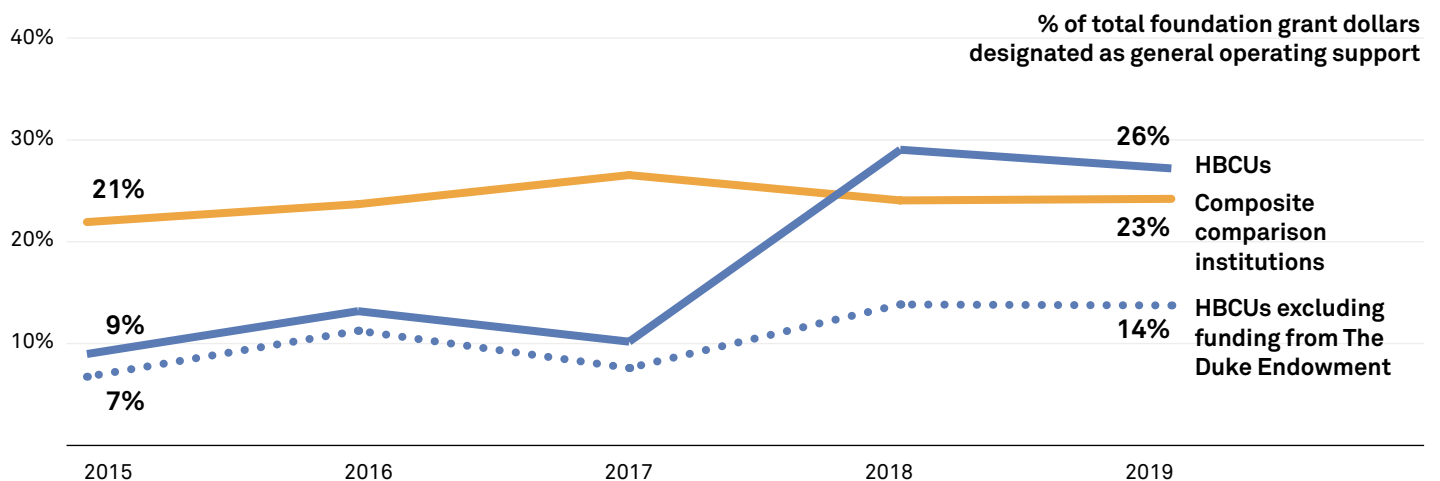


Figure 8. HBCUs vs. composite comparison institutions: General operating support



HBCU figures are based on HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions. Therefore, these HBCU average dollars differ slightly from those used in the Ivy League comparison.

Johnson C. Smith University and The Duke Endowment

Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) is a private HBCU based in Charlotte, North Carolina. According to the university's [website](#), JCSU “has a rich history and is heralded as one of the best small colleges in the nation, serving more than 1,100 students and employing more than 240 full-time faculty members, administrators and staff.” Established in 1867 (and originally called Biddle Memorial Institute), JCSU has the distinction of being one of the first HBCUs in the South to have almost exclusive Black leadership (circa 1891).

In Candid's data set, JCSU also has the distinction of being the HBCU that received the most philanthropic dollars between 2015 and 2019. At first, this might seem surprising, as the small university does not have the size or name recognition of some other HBCUs. This finding, however, is not an error or a fluke. Rather, it has to do with the founding of another nonprofit entity: The Duke Endowment.

In 1924, James Buchanan Duke established The Duke Endowment, a private foundation dedicated to supporting higher education, health care, child and family well-being, and rural churches in the Carolinas. The Duke Endowment might be best known for supporting Duke University. But Mr. Duke's original

[Indenture of Trust](#) also specified that 4% of the endowment's earnings be given to JCSU, a commitment the foundation has continued to honor over the last 100 years. It is, therefore, no coincidence that The Duke Endowment awarded more money to HBCUs than any other foundation between 2015 and 2019. During that five-year span, JCSU was the sole benefactor of the \$32.5 million donated by The Duke Endowment to HBCUs (see Table 2 on page 18).

The relationship between The Duke Endowment and JCSU is a notable example of how foundations can commit to sustainably supporting HBCUs, rather than through one-off gifts. Undoubtedly, The Duke Endowment has played an important role in JCSU's history and will continue to do so in the future. As recently as November 2021, JCSU received \$80 million from a city-wide initiative to address racial inequities and boost opportunities. The dollars are [earmarked](#) to “help the University transform into a top-tier, career-focused HBCU.” The money was raised via a large fundraising event designed to bring together the private and public sectors, pooling funds from foundations, corporations, and the community. Half of the funds raised for JCSU were donated by The Duke Endowment.

Funding for research

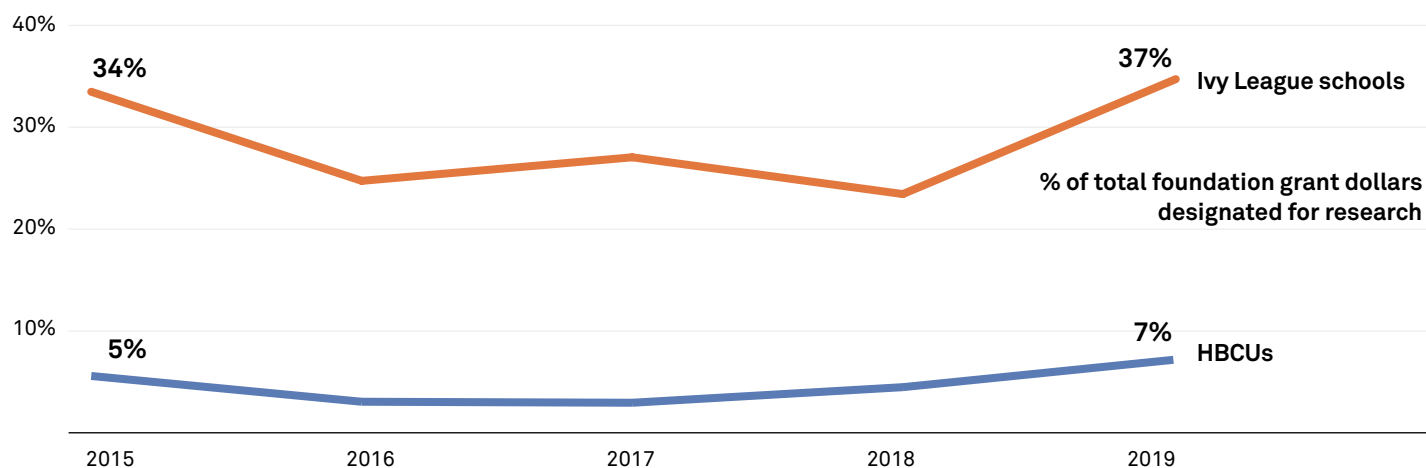
Research is a core part of many university missions. Research fosters innovation, thought leadership, and increases university reputations (e.g., it is a factor in many school ranking calculations). Eleven HBCUs are currently classified as “high research activity” Research 2 (R2) institutions,² one level from the coveted “very high research activity” Research 1 (R1) designation. Attaining R1 or R2 status requires financial resources, as it is based on a threshold of research expenditures and number of doctoral degrees awarded. Advancing research at HBCUs has multiple benefits, enabling HBCUs to hire leading scholars, create cutting-edge programs, and offer expanded opportunities to students. R1 status itself can also help attract additional funding and faculty. Howard University, North Carolina A & T University, and Morgan State University have put in place plans to reach R1 status within the next few years.

Research is also often dependent on grant funding. To better understand how foundations support research at HBCUs, we examined philanthropic funds designated for research.

Compared to Ivy League schools, a far smaller proportion of HBCU philanthropic grant dollars was allocated for research (Figure 9). Whereas research funding represented 23% to 37% of annual Ivy League grant dollars, research was only 2% to 7% of HBCU dollars. Granted, HBCUs represent far more varied institution types than the Ivy League schools, including two-year institutions that are not focused on research.

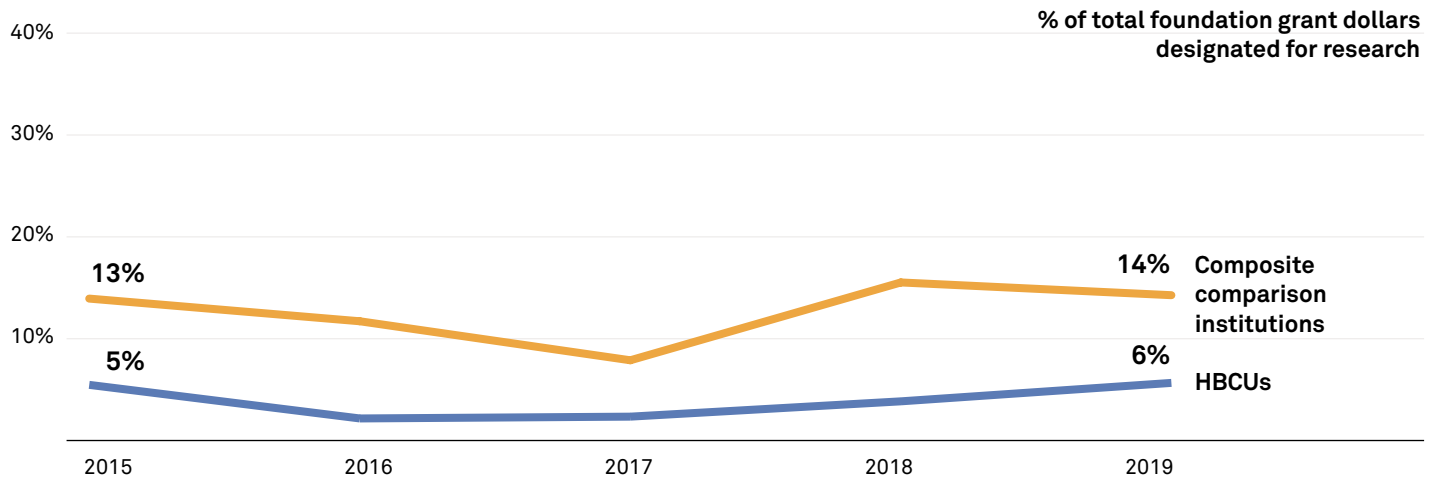
Nevertheless, when we compared HBCUs with similarly situated schools (those with comparable levels of research activity), HBCUs still received proportionately fewer research dollars (Figure 10). Of total funding to composite comparison schools, between 7% and 15% each year was specifically for research. Among HBCUs, research funding was between 2% and 6%.

Figure 9. HBCUs vs. Ivy League institutions: Research



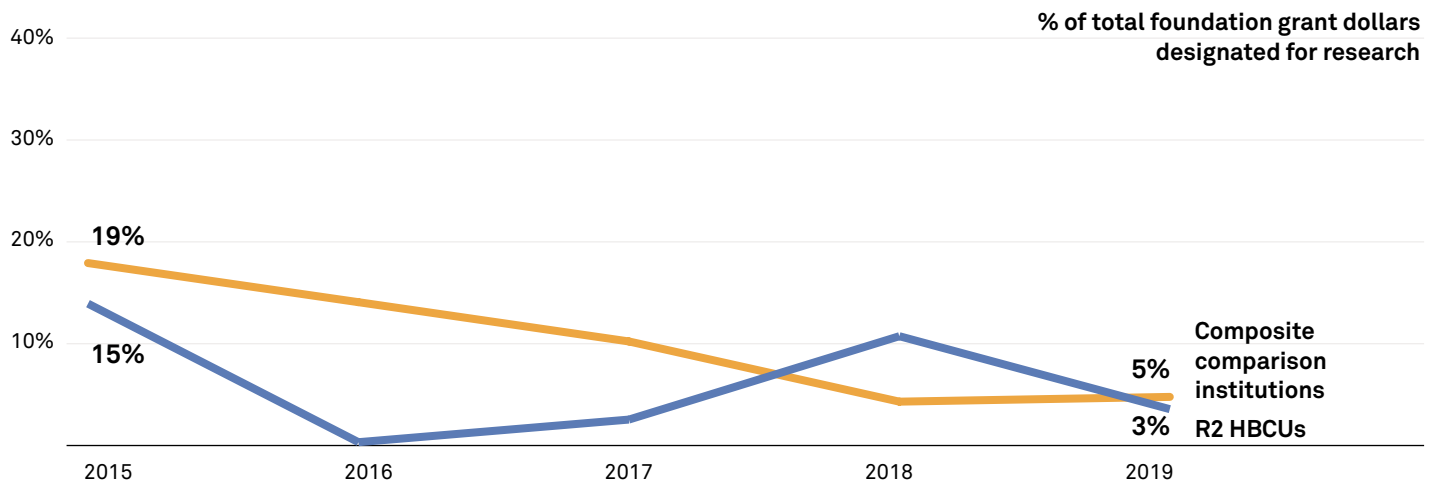
Research funding specifically to R2 HBCUs fluctuated over the five-year period (Figure 11). Among 10 R2 HBCUs that we could match with similarly situated institutions, 15% of total grant dollars was designated for research in 2015. In 2016, these HBCUs received zero research-focused funding. On average, research made up 6% of their annual grant dollars. Their composite comparisons fared slightly better, ranging from a high of 19% in 2015 to 5% in 2019. They also, however, experienced declines in recent research funding.

Figure 10. HBCUs vs. composite comparison institutions: Research



HBCU figures are based on HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions. Therefore, these HBCU average dollars differ slightly from those used in the Ivy League comparison.

Figure 11. High research activity (R2) HBCUs vs. composite comparison institutions



R2 HBCU figures are based on the 10 R2 HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions.

What kinds of support do HBCUs seek from philanthropy?

HBCU staff interviewed for this report held a variety of perspectives on the types of support they valued and desired from philanthropy. Most HBCU staff participants noted that since 2020, their ability to access unrestricted funding has increased. HBCUs need diverse types of funding to address a variety of needs and mitigate generations of underinvestment.

We are working on problems that are important to [institutional philanthropy]. But to get the [HBCU] sector to the scale we need to be, we need not only unrestricted funding but we need a greater share of programmatic support funding than we are receiving now. –HBCU staff

Our research infrastructure is not the same as the research infrastructure of a large PWI. Programmatically, we may compete against Harvard or Michigan when it comes to economic equality issues. But, operationally, we can't, and we don't have 300 people in the Research Office. ... Our interactions [with philanthropy] have been much more challenging historically. ... We get the same reporting requirements and data collection requirements without the funding to collect data. Since 2020 there's been a greater realization by funders that HBCUs need operating and administrative support to ensure a strong academic and research agenda. But the mechanics of distributing, reporting, and tracking data are under-resourced. For example, we secured a large collection of grants, and one funder made a quarter-million-dollar supplemental grant so we could hire a report writer. –HBCU staff

All HBCU staff participants pointed to the importance of scholarships and financial aid. They would like to see more operational support to improve the safety and sustainability of existing buildings as well as to create new spaces, such as research labs and housing.

Some observed that more funding is directed to STEM fields than to liberal arts departments.

I would love to see us be more competitive in attracting the “best and brightest students.” We’ve done an amazing job with enrollment, but some of those students deserve scholarship funds that we weren’t necessarily able to give them to come to our institution. –HBCU staff

We have an exceptional fine arts community that doesn't get the support it deserves. I'm interested and excited to see more support go to the performing arts and the visual arts and scholarships that support students in those endeavors. I also think about the College of Education because the return on investment isn't the same for that degree as it is in other areas. At the very least, the more scholarships we offer those students, the better footing they're on when they start their careers. –HBCU staff

[This HBCU needs funding for] scholarships and then professorships to supplement the incomes of our faculty. We've done some remarkable things on a shoe-string budget for athletics, but they deserve more. –HBCU staff

HBCUs share a common mission, but there is also diversity across HBCUs. One HBCU staff observed that HBCUs are often grouped together and must divide funding among each other. On the other hand, foundations may prefer to support an HBCU network and community of practice.

HBCUs are not a monolith. There are [many] HBCUs, [from] two-year institutions to graduate institutions. ... [Funders] need to look at us not as a monolith. ... HBCU capacities are different. ... We do quite a few collaborations, not only with other HBCUs, but with other like-minded institutions in the community. –HBCU staff

Differences in philanthropic support among HBCUs

Another research question we set out to answer is: *How does philanthropic support differ among historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)?* HBCUs have a shared mission and history, but they are not a monolith. Examining aggregated data alone masks wide differences in funding to HBCUs.

We analyzed foundation funding to 103 HBCUs between 2015 and 2019 (Table 3). Eighty-four percent of HBCUs were four-year institutions, and they received the vast majority of HBCU grant dollars (91%). Half of all HBCUs were private, and they captured 69% of funding—receiving more than double the philanthropic dollars of public HBCUs.

In the five-year period, total grant dollars awarded to an individual HBCU ranged from a high of \$39.5 million to just \$150. One HBCU, Denmark Technical College, did not appear to have received any philanthropic funding. Overall, the top 10 HBCUs received more than half (52%) of all foundation funding to the HBCU community. (For a complete list of HBCUs and the amount of funding received by each, see Appendix D, Table 10.)

Among the top HBCU recipients of philanthropic dollars, Johnson C. Smith University received the most (nearly \$40 million), followed by Spelman College, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Howard University (Table 4 and Figure 12). Howard University received the most grants (694) and had the largest network of donors, receiving grants from 252 unique foundations. The two-year HBCU with the most philanthropic funding was Mississippi-based Coahoma Community College, receiving \$1.3 million total.

The median grant size to a given HBCU ranged from \$50,000 (Southern University Law Center) to \$100 (Shaw University). The median grant size awarded to 85 HBCUs was \$5,000 or less, demonstrating that foundations primarily awarded small grants to HBCUs.

Table 3. Total foundation grant dollars to HBCUs by type, 2015–2019

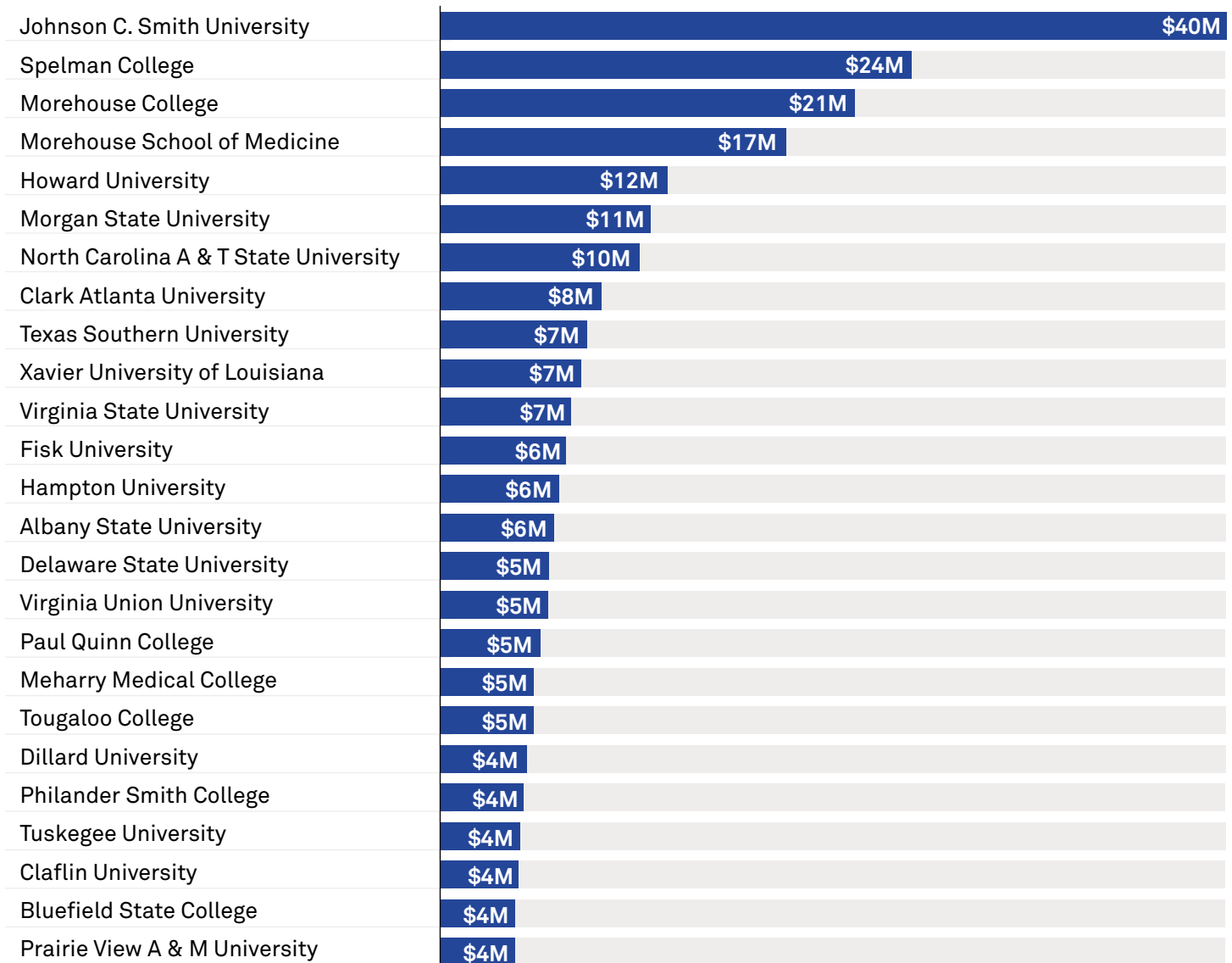
	Private HBCUs		Public HBCUs		Grand total	
	No. of HBCUs	Grant dollars	No. of HBCUs	Grant dollars	No. of HBCUs	Grant dollars
2-year	1	\$153,000	10	\$2,291,693	11	\$2,444,693
4-year	48	184,969,498	39	90,930,688	87	275,900,186
Exclusively graduate/professional	3	23,749,472	2	769,660	5	24,519,132
Grand total	52	208,871,970	51	93,992,041	103	302,864,011

Grant dollars to the Southern University System, the only historically Black university system, are included in the 4-year public HBCU totals, although the system includes a 2-year HBCU and a graduate law program. See Appendix B for more information.

Table 4. Top 10 HBCU recipients of foundation grant dollars, 2015–2019

HBCU	State	Public/private	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of funders
1 Johnson C. Smith University	NC	Private	\$39,525,616	196	50
2 Spelman College	GA	Private	23,664,483	513	170
3 Morehouse College	GA	Private	21,101,158	419	150
4 Morehouse School of Medicine	GA	Private	17,161,576	122	61
5 Howard University	DC	Private	12,403,339	694	252
6 Morgan State University	MD	Public	10,544,378	198	88
7 North Carolina A & T State University	NC	Public	10,014,666	471	151
8 Clark Atlanta University	GA	Private	8,101,145	296	92
9 Texas Southern University	TX	Public	7,376,424	115	52
10 Xavier University of Louisiana	LA	Private	7,089,001	212	90

Figure 12. Top 25 HBCU recipients of foundation grant dollars, 2015–2019



Funding to individual HBCUs vs. their composite comparison institutions

If we only examine how much philanthropic funding an HBCU receives in comparison to other HBCUs, we will miss an important part of the story. An HBCU may appear to be well-supported compared to other HBCUs but may, in fact, be underfunded compared to other institutions with highly similar attributes. The opposite may also be true, where an HBCU garners more philanthropic support than similarly situated schools, despite receiving fewer grant dollars than other HBCUs.

In this section, we examine funding to each HBCU compared to its composite comparison institution—i.e., the average funding awarded to similarly situated schools in terms of location, size, and other factors. (See page 21 for more about creating composite comparisons and Appendix B for the full methodology.) This analysis adds complexity to the narrative about HBCU “haves” and “have-nots.”

47

HBCUs received less than half as much funding as their composite comparison institutions

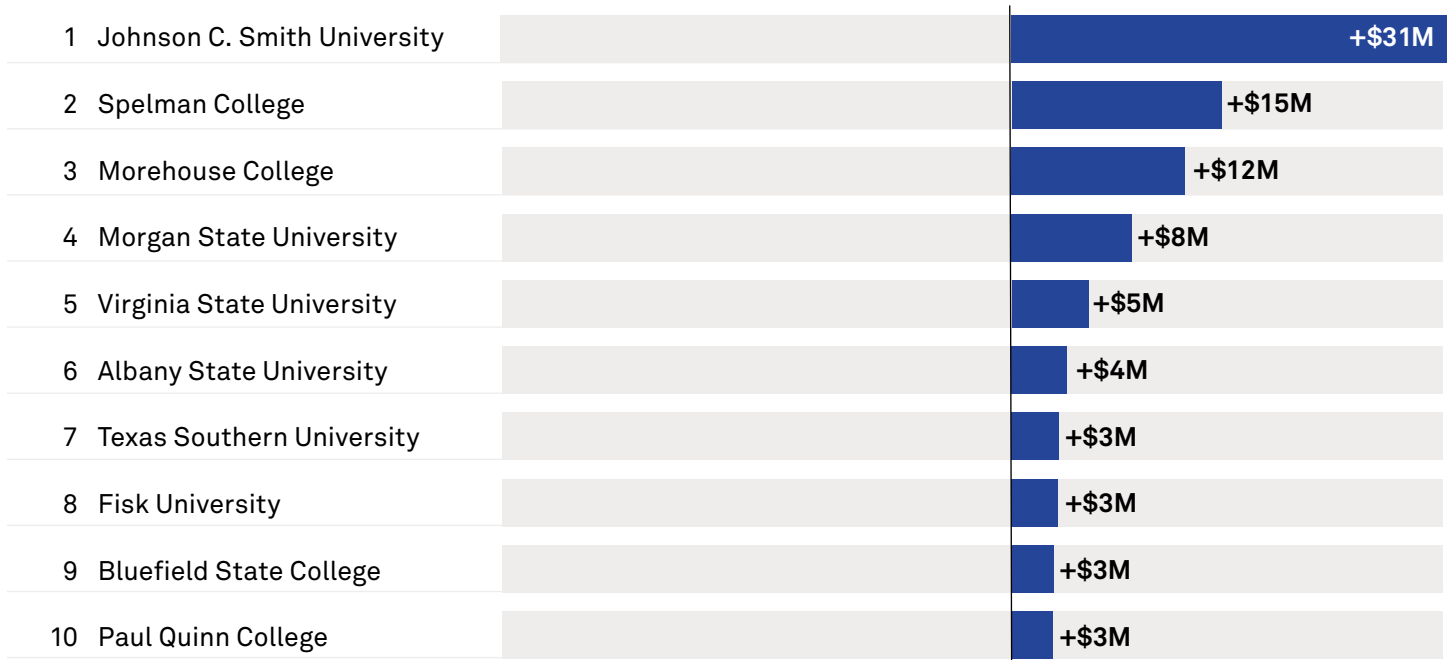
For example, 13 HBCUs received more than twice as much as their composite comparisons. On the other hand, 47 HBCUs received less than half as much as their counterparts; four HBCUs received only 1% of what their counterparts received. In terms of aggregated dollars from 2015 to 2019, HBCUs ranged from receiving nearly \$31 million more than their composite comparison to receiving \$41 million less than their counterpart. Despite this wide range, statistical tests suggest that HBCUs received less funding than their composite comparison schools suggest they should.⁸ (For a full list of funding to each HBCU compared to its counterpart, see Appendix D, Table 10.)

Notably, well-known HBCUs appeared at both the top and the bottom of the list, in terms of disparities between HBCUs and their composite comparison institutions (Figure 13). Fisk University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Howard University, and Clark Atlanta University have all been listed among the “Black Ivies.” But they varied widely in how they fared compared to their composite comparisons. Fisk University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College were among the HBCUs that received the most funding in comparison to their composite comparison schools, whereas Howard and Clark Atlanta Universities received the least funding compared to their counterparts. Howard University received a third of the dollars that its composite comparison institution received. (For more about Howard University, see the call-out section on page 32). Clark Atlanta University received only 17% of the grant dollars of its counterpart. That is, for every \$100 in philanthropic funding to a similarly situated university, Clark Atlanta University received only \$17.

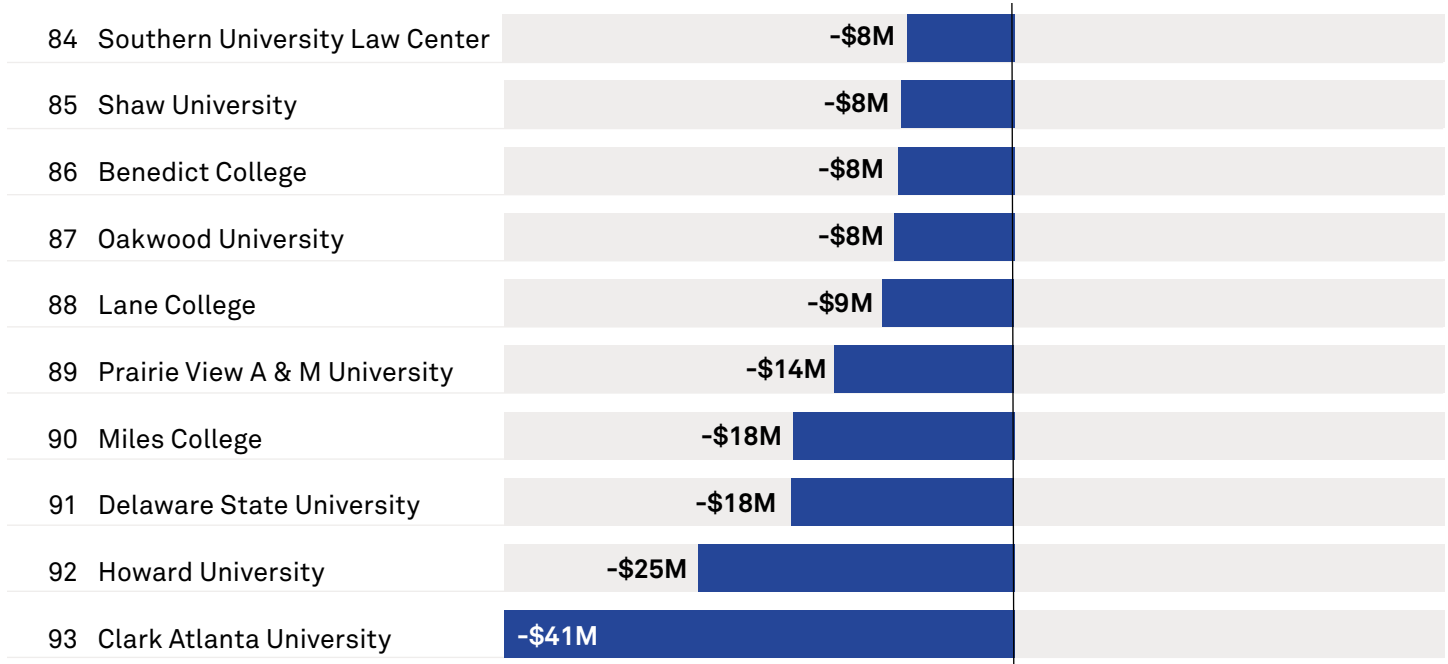
This analysis highlights the importance of situating HBCUs in context for a more complete understanding of their funding.

Figure 13. Foundation funding to individual HBCUs vs. their composite comparisons, 2015–2019

HBCUs receiving the most grant dollars vs. their composite comparison institutions



HBCUs receiving the fewest grant dollars vs. their composite comparison institutions



Data describes the difference in grant dollars HBCUs received compared to their hypothetical composite comparison institutions. For example, Delaware State University received \$5 million between 2015 and 2019, whereas its composite comparison received \$23 million. Delaware State University, therefore, received \$18 million less than its composite comparison. See detailed comparisons in Appendix D, Table 10.

Howard University

At the 2022 ABFE conference, a speaker from the United Negro College Fund asked a room of people to name an HBCU. Howard University was the most common response. Founded in 1867, Howard is a private research university based in Washington, D.C., and offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. The prestigious school has produced more on-campus Black Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States. Further, it provides a home and supportive community to Black scholars.

Yet despite consistently ranking not only among the best HBCUs but among the best national universities, Howard continues to face financial challenges. In the fall of 2021, Howard students held sit-ins to protest housing shortages and poor living conditions in the dormitories, demanding more accountability and transparency from the university. Student activists observed that while funding allocations were part of the issue, HBCUs face widespread issues with aging infrastructure and century-old campuses that are often underfunded in comparison to predominantly white institutions.

In many ways, Howard fares better than other HBCUs. Howard has the largest endowment of any HBCU at just over \$712 million in fiscal year 2020, nearly double that of the next-ranked HBCU. From 2015 to 2019, Howard received more philanthropic dollars than 95% of HBCUs and received the greatest number of grants (694)

from the greatest number of foundations (252). This suggests Howard's reputation as a well-known and well-respected HBCU contributes to its ability to capture donor attention.

Nonetheless, an analysis of U.S. higher education institution endowments finds that Howard's endowment size ranks at about 160 of 700 universities. Further, Howard's philanthropic funding is considerably less than that of non-HBCUs of similar size, specialization, and other criteria. Based on our analysis, Howard received 33% of the grant dollars its composite comparison received, meaning that for every \$10 a similarly situated school received, Howard got \$3. In fact, Howard ranks near the bottom in terms of HBCUs receiving less funding than their counterparts (Figure 13), highlighting that even the wealthiest HBCUs are not getting equitable funding. As Martin Luther King III, a graduate of Morehouse College, put it, "In general, HBCUs have never had enough money to do what they need to do."

Looking at how Howard University fares among both HBCUs and the broader ecosystem of higher education institutions highlights that HBCUs are not a monolith. Each HBCU faces its own unique circumstances and funding challenges. It also highlights the importance of considering multiple data points and analyses to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the nuanced stories of individual HBCUs.

Recent trends: 2020 to present

Our final research question focuses on examining how the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the events of 2020 may have impacted philanthropic giving to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Due to the slow process of gathering comprehensive grantmaking information from the Internal Revenue Service and foundations, as of the writing of this report, data collection is still ongoing for 2020 to the present. (See this [blog post](#) for more information about how the COVID-19 pandemic caused a data slowdown.) An examination of available data suggests there was a significant increase in HBCU grants in 2020.

To date, Candid
has identified
\$249M
in foundation funding
to HBCUs in 2020

Foundation giving to HBCUs in 2020 totals \$249 million thus far, according to Candid's database as of December 16, 2022. This figure eclipses the \$63 million foundations awarded in 2019. We are cautious about making direct comparisons of this data, as the 2020 figures include data sourced from news stories rather than official sources (like IRS filings). News-sourced stories include announcements about large gifts that may not yet be confirmed, may not yet be paid out, and/or may be paid out over multiple years. Conservatively, even if giving to HBCUs were half of the \$249 million identified, it would still be more than double what foundations gave in 2019.

In addition, these recent grants to HBCUs come from a broader group of foundations. Of the 303 foundations we know about that awarded grants to HBCUs since 2020, 82 (27%) gave to HBCUs for the first time in recent history—that is, they were not represented in Candid's HBCU data set from 2015 to 2019.

Further, all HBCU staff interviewed as part of our qualitative research noted that their respective institutions experienced an increase in philanthropic funding starting in 2020. HBCU staff participants generally agreed that the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent heightened racial justice movement in 2020 caused the world, including the philanthropic sector, to pay attention to systemic racial inequities that disproportionately impact Black communities. Thus, funders began acknowledging and/or prioritizing racial equity and diversity in their grantmaking.

The world stopped, and corporate entities started to take notice. I call it a perfect storm, even though it was filled with tragedy. ... COVID [and the racial justice movement following the murder of George Floyd occurring] back-to-back was really the impetus for some of the most transformational gifts we received over the last two years. –HBCU staff

I think most HBCUs can tell you that we can attribute some uptick [in] contributions [to] social justice issues. A donor established a George Floyd Memorial Scholarship that was a direct result of what was happening in the community and this nation. I can't pinpoint a percentage, but there are some new contributions that came where people just flat out said, "I want to support this George Floyd Scholarship," or "[This] is an HBCU in my community that I want to support because I am attuned to the Black Lives Matter Movement and other social justice movements and initiatives across the country." -HBCU staff

Much of [the recent funding] came as awareness surrounding the George Floyd tragedy, which brought attention to what we do and how we can help. Looking at it through the lens of education, people landed at HBCUs. ... People started to learn some of the things that we're doing on campus, like educating more Black engineers and agriculturalists than anywhere else in the country. ... Also, [during] COVID it was very interesting that we went from a culture and a climate where CEOs were constantly on flights and out of the office and out of the country to sitting still and able to have these conversations. Both of those events sparked conversations that ended up in very lucrative gifts. -HBCU staff

HBCU staff participants observed that private donors, such as MacKenzie Scott, and corporations intentionally provided operational and flexible funding in ways that organized philanthropy had not done before (Table 6).

I think you can applaud somebody like MacKenzie Scott for genuinely [rejecting] the [traditional funding] paradigm. She is clearly not sticking to all the familiar [institutions] like Stanford or Harvard. -HBCU staff

MacKenzie Scott gave us a \$45 million gift. ... We established portfolio programs under [a specific equity initiative]. We recognized that there were students who were just on the cusp of success, but they needed a little help. Walmart was one of the companies that immediately noticed [and donated] \$5 million. -HBCU staff

Table 5. Notable recent gifts to interviewed HBCUs

HBCU	Gift	Year	From
Bowie State University	\$25.0M	2020	MacKenzie Scott
Miles College	6.7M	2021	Various foundations
Norfolk State University	40.0M	2020	MacKenzie Scott
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University	40.0M	2020	MacKenzie Scott

According to HBCU staff participants, increased philanthropic funding primarily addressed scholarships for HBCU students, creating more pathways for educational access. Donors in 2020 also funded social justice issues and helped build HBCU capacity.

The new funding provides opportunities to have programs for students. It provides opportunities to have scholarship dollars to close the gap. It provides opportunities for our faculty to develop. ... It provides opportunities for us to enhance our campus and our infrastructure. All of that goes toward helping [students receive] a better quality of life. -HBCU staff

HBCUs responded to 2020 crises with enhanced health and wellness resources

Increased funding to HBCUs in 2020 was undoubtedly much needed, as HBCUs were not immune to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who participated in our focus group noted that, due to COVID-19, HBCUs have prioritized the health of students through improved cleaning requirements, promoting mental health resources, after-hours doctors and appointments, and coronavirus-specific resources. At one HBCU, there has been greater advocacy for students who have experienced sexual assault within the school community. This translates to more trainings and increased education around assault and harassment in dorms and various campus spaces. The institution developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Department and opened a new safe space for LGBTQIA+ students.

When I first got to [my HBCU] it was 2020, in the COVID era. A lot of the resources that we have now, we did not have, [such as] the mental health

[support]. Now don't get me wrong, we probably did have [these resources] but they were not as advertised on campus as much as it is now. -HBCU student

[This HBCU] has been emphasizing the student counseling services on campus because [this HBCU] and the Black community are now more open and enlightened to the importance of mental health. The school is starting to see that during COVID that was a lot for the students and adults, so [they are offering] additional resources in regard to mental health. There has been an influx of [survivor] advocacy for students who have been sexually assaulted on campus. We [also] have the Title VIII Department. ... There have been more sexual assault trainings ... and anti-hazing trainings and students learn all about the different types of sexual assault. ... The school is also making sure that the LGBTQIA+ community feels safe on campus. -HBCU student

Despite the recent increases in funding, questions remain about the future. Whereas some interviewees expressed optimism, others were unsure about whether the focus on racial equity and a renewed appreciation of HBCUs will continue. Even if 2020 were a banner year in HBCU giving, it is no guarantee of an upward trend. Indeed, some fear that giving will reverse course, as it has in the past after funding spikes. Some HBCU staff expressed skepticism that philanthropy as a sector has changed whom they give to or how they give.

I think you're seeing some change at the real high institutional level. But I don't know if foundations with 50 or 100 million dollars in assets are operating any differently today than they did three years ago. -HBCU staff

I have some fears about what's going to happen in the social justice arena over the next two to three years. I don't want our staff to put all their eggs in one basket as they think about this interest waning. A lot of foundations [and] a lot of corporations threw a lot of dollars, especially in the beginning of the pandemic after the George Floyd incident, behind diversity, equity, and inclusion. I just don't think the trend will stay within two years. I want us to be mindful of that. -HBCU staff

More perspectives of HBCU staff, students, and funders

This section contains additional findings from qualitative interviews and a focus group to better understand the experiences of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with institutional philanthropy. The analysis is based on interviews with seven HBCU staff and seven HBCU funders, as well as a focus group with four students who currently attend HBCUs. Their experiences and perspectives highlight the opportunities and challenges that HBCUs continue to face. Interviews were conducted by Marga Inc. between August and December 2022.

Perspectives of HBCU staff

HBCUs impact students, families, communities, and the world.

All HBCU staff participants highlighted that the history and legacy of HBCUs are rooted in creating safe spaces for Black scholars. HBCUs accept and acknowledge students' identities while providing a top-tier education. Additionally, philanthropic gifts to HBCUs have long-lasting impacts. HBCUs address racial inequities and uplift Black communities and society as a whole.

There is no investment in racial or social justice in America that generates a higher return than an investment in HBCUs.
–HBCU staff

HBCUs are a strong foundation not only for the African American community but for anyone who wants to attend college and [receive a] solid education. We are a great springboard for graduate schools, careers, and [even] provide opportunities for some students that may not have an opportunity to participate in higher education [otherwise]. ... For [this HBCU] in particular, we call ourselves a hidden gem. ... I want funders to know that [HBCUs] exist. That we are here willing and able to assist in any way we can with any endeavor they may want. –HBCU staff

There is no investment in racial or social justice in America that generates a higher return than an investment in HBCUs. There's no investment that you can make if you want to see a more just and inclusive America and world, particularly around issues of racial equity. –HBCU staff

I truly think that when you're looking for a diverse pool of students, you have to go to a university that reflects the desire that you're looking for. And that doesn't mean that we are the [highest] authority on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, but we certainly have an

upper hand on it. The conversations that are courageous conversations in some spaces are natural to us on our campuses. -HBCU staff

When you educate an African American student, oftentimes you are improving the living standard for that entire household. It lifts the entire household when you educate one student. ... It becomes a domino effect when you empower and live within this community [that then] impacts the global community. -HBCU staff

All HBCU staff we spoke with described HBCUs as supporting and giving back to Black communities. One HBCU staff emphasized that HBCUs are, themselves, philanthropic, not just recipients of funding.

People often think that Black Americans and HBCUs are only the recipients of philanthropy. There is a much larger picture here. We tend to be very philanthropic. I think that the community of philanthropic professionals is beginning to recognize our impact on philanthropy, which has been overlooked in the past. -HBCU staff

Additional insights from our interviews with HBCU staff can be found in earlier sections of the report. Specifically:

- Why have HBCUs received such little attention from institutional philanthropy? (page 19)
- What kinds of support do HBCUs seek from philanthropy? (page 27)
- Recent trends: 2020 to present (page 33)

Perspectives of HBCU students

Financial aid, resource development, and capacity are persistent challenges.

All institutions of higher education experience challenges, and HBCUs are no exception. HBCU students provided insights into specific areas of need that could benefit from philanthropic support. They named financial aid as a major challenge due to cumbersome processes and disorganization. One student expressed a desire for expanded scholarship opportunities. Another noted that some students have poor interactions with advisors due to limited staff capacity.

Financial aid is a big challenge. Every HBCU has challenges, some are very common among HBCUs. I do not look at them as challenges because every institution has its downfalls and usually HBCUs get the most heat simply because they are HBCUs. ... One minute you go to the financial aid [office] then they send you to the bursar [office]. Then the bursar [office] says you got to go to the financial [office]. ... It is a challenge to get financial aid [issues] resolved. -HBCU student

Most scholarships are designated for people who have 3.0 (GPAs) or above. I would like to see [scholarships for students] with 2.5 and 2.0 (GPAs) because there could be some other

reasons why their grades are low. Maybe they can't afford school, so they have to work. ... They are good students, but because they are working their grades may slip. -HBCU student

We need better advisors and more of them. At my college alone, there are more than 300 students, and we have one advisor trying to regulate and manage students' class schedules. So [it is important to] make sure we get adequate advisors and advisors who are patient and not just pushing us off to the next person. -HBCU student

Due to overenrollment at some institutions, students live in off-campus hotels. Schools provide shuttles to help students travel from hotels to the campus. Those that live in dormitories cited the need for building infrastructure improvements to eliminate health hazards (e.g., limited electricity and mold) and improve student comfort and wellbeing.

There were students who were living in hotels, as opposed to on campus. Yes, as a student you are like, this is cool, living in a hotel. But when you have to travel back and forth between campus and your hotel, as opposed to living on campus, that can be an issue. Having to move from place to place creates challenges. We have to do better and make sure our HBCU buildings are upkept. -HBCU student

A lot of HBCUs build new dorms and have campus housing, but how are we upkeeping them? Are we letting mold and mildew and asbestos develop in the buildings? Or are we going to do regular checks to make sure that students are not living in deplorable conditions like that. I think that is a big issue across the board for HBCUs. -HBCU student

Students are engaging in fundraising efforts on campus.

Students are engaged in fundraising efforts through alumni associations, Greek life, marching band, and the like. Alumni associations emphasize the importance of donating to the school after graduating. Local alumni chapters encourage graduates to stay connected to the college, despite any distance, and give back to the school to provide the same and even more opportunities to the next generation of students. Some HBCUs have pre-alumni councils that communicate with current students, though these mainly engage upperclassmen. Students interviewed agreed that Homecoming also attracts donations from students, staff, alumni, and third parties that understand the importance of forging relationships and creating opportunities for future HBCU scholars. The "Divine Nine" Greek chapters on HBCU campuses are devoted to financially contributing to their respective HBCUs.

As far as fundraising, [this HBCU's] National Alumni Association is impeccable. Each chapter has a "Be Out Day" wherever the chapter is located. ... Our National Alumni Association recently had a banquet and the ticket proceeds went towards either scholarships for students or directly to the school to use at their own discretion. A National Alumni Association in another city also recently had a "Be Out Day," which is a day where [this HBCU] tries to get in connection with the surrounding local communities. ... They formed partnerships with the surrounding city communities and raised money. ... All of the National Associations do [these community engagement and fundraising events] and make a donation at Homecoming. ... All Divine Nine Greek chapters raise money for their school and during Homecoming there is a large extensive donation shout-out page that everyone participates in. -HBCU student

My [Greek] chapter recently gave the school \$165,000, which was a year-long fundraising event with Divine Legacy. ... We also did the "1 Million in One Day" for HBCUs this last spring and raised \$2 million in one day. ... I definitely think that the culture that HBCUs have and the alumni that it does have pours back into it and gives us wiggle room to operate.

-HBCU student

The aristocratic bands are definitely the money makers here at [this HBCU]. They just released their submission to the Grammys for an award. They also ... just released their album. They are everywhere in California, then with Keith Urban at the CMA Awards.

-HBCU student

In the spring, the alumni do a big telethon ... where alumni pay their dues and give extra to [help] with things going on in the university. -HBCU student

Additional insights from the focus group with HBCU students can be found in earlier sections of the report. Specifically:

- HBCU students confirm there is something special about HBCUs (page 11)
- HBCUs responded to 2020 crises with enhanced health and wellness resources (page 35)

Perspectives of HBCU funders

All foundation staff who participated in interviews represented organizations that currently fund or collaborate with HBCUs. Three foundations have been directly funding HBCUs since the 1960s. Long-term and current initiatives include supporting HBCU internal capacity and scholarships. For one foundation, the relationship is around building partnerships. Another foundation does not typically provide grants directly to HBCUs, but instead partners with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), an organization that champions Black higher education and provides funds and technical assistance to HBCUs and predominantly Black institutions.

Foundations affirm HBCU excellence.

HBCUs do not just focus on education, they focus on the development of the person.

-Foundation staff

Every interview participant affirmed that HBCUs have a unique role as centers of excellence and culture. HBCUs historically provided a place for Black people to receive a higher education when it would otherwise have not been possible. To this day, they are safe spaces for Black students who develop into strong leaders. Some interview participants highlighted data that Black students advance further and faster in their economic and social pursuits if they attend an HBCU versus a predominantly white institution (PWI).

HBCUs do not just focus on education, they focus on the development of the person. [A family member attends an HBCU] and he has gone to

[HBCU students are] in a learning environment that's a safe, brave, and encouraging space for them to be fully who they are."
–Foundation staff

predominantly white high schools, so it's just incredible to watch how he is becoming more confident and comfortable in himself. I think when you are around a group of people who understand you to a certain level without you having to explain, they care and take this personal interest in your success. When you look at the African American leaders that have come from HBCUs, it gives evidence that HBCUs are really about developing leadership skills and all that good stuff. ... I also think about the innovation and creativity that have come from HBCUs. –Foundation staff

[At HBCUs], African American students are in a space where they're able to be culturally affirmed. They're in a learning environment that's a safe, brave, and encouraging space for them to be fully who they are, to be connected to a community. ... They see themselves, their narrative, and their history reflected in the curriculum, that they are built up, supported, cherished, respected, and loved for the human beings that they are. –Foundation staff

I have deep respect for what HBCUs have done. They stuck it out in many places long term, often without any economic infrastructure and with very little funding from individual philanthropists or individual donors, unlike the way most big universities are. And yet, I would potentially say some of the better-educated people come out of HBCUs. There's a reason why Black people want to send their children to [HBCUs] to have that solidarity. –Foundation staff

Foundations recognize the challenges and barriers HBCUs face due to systemic racism.

Foundation staff identified several challenges that limit HBCUs from receiving the funding they need. A few participants explicitly stated that systemic racism has led to philanthropic underfunding and suggested that foundations have a moral imperative to support HBCUs to mitigate longstanding inequities. Even when HBCUs receive funding, philanthropy often uses a top-down approach, where funders dictate expectations and goals using philanthropic theories of change, restricting how HBCUs can operate.

I think there's always the [influence] of structural racism where people just don't think that HBCUs are as good as the majority schools. –Foundation staff

When I lived in North Carolina, there was Durham, Duke, and an HBCU. You would never hear about the HBCU, even though they were doing amazing and creative things there. [One of the HBCUs] graduated more lawyers than the PWIs. –Foundation staff

Foundations have an explicit or implicit/unconscious bias against HBCUs because many foundation leaders didn't go to them or don't know [enough] about them. When they think we need someone to help us do this work, they think of the PWI in their community and not the HBCUs. ... At a national level, sometimes [foundations] think they know more about what is needed than their potential HBCU grantees. ... It feels more like a take it or leave it approach. Foundations think [HBCUs] need this and that as opposed to developing solutions with HBCUs and [capturing] what would be really helpful. –Foundation staff

Since philanthropic giving patterns have historically excluded HBCUs, many HBCUs are understaffed. Three foundation staff participants noted that more funding should

be allocated to help HBCUs build capacity. HBCUs have had to operate creatively to maximize the resources they do have. Increasing their capacity would support even greater effectiveness, including in the areas of fundraising, operations, and programs.

Resources and time are the most common factors that hinder HBCUs' progress. In general, academic institutions need to have the resources and time to invest in fundraising activities. HBCUs need to have time to respond to RFPs [requests for proposals] and grant [applications]. The significant turnover at HBCUs is also challenging. -Foundation staff

[Advancement staff] are trained to be generalists ... they're not always fit to be the entry point for these conversations with people from foundations. And, quite honestly, a lot of people, particularly white people from foundations, they're not going to waste their time trying to find the right [HBCU staff] to talk to. So, I think that's a real, invisible kind of unwritten rule. -Foundation staff

I think it probably comes back to fundraising and prioritizing fundraising at colleges and universities. How does that work get done? How do they tell their own stories? But [some HBCUs do not] have the staffing and resources to be able to do that. That is a privilege. ... Having development offices is crucial to keeping those doors open. Those institutions have the privilege of doing future visioning work and strategizing, and [do] not necessarily have to worry about whether or not you're going to be able to keep the lights on or pay your bills from month to month. ... [Well-endowed institutions] have the resources to be able to expand their staffing and their faculty. ... They have that head start. -Foundation staff

I intentionally created [this initiative] as capacity building because I think as a sector philanthropy does harm when we skip over building capacity. We say, "Do this big sexy thing" [to HBCUs], and, well, they don't even have the foundation, and you're asking them to build walls and a roof. -Foundation staff

HBCU and foundation missions and objectives can align.

The foundations we interviewed do not have a specific HBCU giving agenda, but several have missions, objectives, and core values that align with HBCUs. Several foundations aim to improve educational access for Black and low-income learners. At the height of the pandemic, some foundations created racial equity funds for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities; thus, it was strategic to disseminate grants to HBCUs.

At [an HBCU] we helped them establish [an institute for law, economics, policy, and social justice] so they could become a think tank and a central repository of information on race and social justice. -Foundation staff

These HBCUs have become experts in the field in terms of developing best practices for educating military and/or Black learners. ... [Five HBCUs in particular] have these kinds of preconditions that made them unique in terms of just being poised and ready to build on the work they've already done in serving Black adults. -Foundation staff

[This foundation] has been very intentional about trying to create partnerships with HBCUs. From a content perspective, the foundation invited [an HBCU] into some of the research work [and another institution] was invited to work on some core workforce development initiatives.
-Foundation staff

When funders are asserting their deep commitment to supporting communities that have been disadvantaged ... I can't think of a better way to invest than to invest in HBCUs.
-Foundation staff

For foundations that do not directly fund HBCUs, partnership with UNCF helps facilitate HBCU grants. Philanthropic foundation staff did not share any reason for partnering with UNCF as opposed to directly supporting HBCUs. Some foundations have partnered with UNCF for decades, and having a trusted relationship may lead foundations to maintain this strategy.

Through the leadership and advocacy of the president of UNCF, HBCUs' capacity has grown over the past few years to provide more support to the development staff. Also, philanthropic partners and support from UNCF help HBCUs obtain training for new staff and leaders.
-Foundation staff

Interview participants were unsure about whether funding to HBCUs would grow over time. Foundation leadership dictates funding strategies and will ultimately determine whether HBCUs will be prioritized.

Looking to the future: Recommendations for foundations

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played a central—if underappreciated—role in the United States. HBCUs confer 13% of all bachelor’s degrees awarded to Black college graduates in the nation. They provide supportive spaces for college and community engagement. HBCUs are centers of social activism, cultural hubs, and builders of Black entrepreneurship. HBCUs not only offer educational opportunities for Black people, but they also strengthen Black communities. Despite their significance and contributions, HBCUs have been systematically underfunded. This report’s analysis reveals funding disparities and gaps, but it also highlights opportunities for how foundations can support HBCUs moving forward.

In this final section, we synthesize our learnings from both the quantitative and qualitative data and offer recommendations for how foundations can demonstrate greater commitment to building equity for HBCUs and Black communities. HBCUs have a proven record of doing more with less, but accepting less should not be an option. It is our hope that through this work, we can inspire new thinking about philanthropy’s relationship with HBCUs and foster intentional investments in these institutions.

1. Fund HBCUs and fund them consistently

HBCUs are a very safe investment. For those who want to place their philanthropic dollars here, the return that you will receive is going to be phenomenal. ... Philanthropy really levels the playing field for HBCUs. If [HBCUs] don’t get money from the state and it is not necessarily coming from tuition and fees, the thing that will make the difference between institutions really being able to grow, in my opinion, is philanthropy. Yes, that is the “X” factor. –HBCU staff

Our research found that foundation funding of HBCUs remained relatively steady from 2015 to 2019, but that was after over a decade of gradual disinvestment. HBCUs also received less than similarly situated higher education institutions—in overall funding, in general operating support, and for research. Despite their history of success, HBCUs have historically been overlooked and underfunded by philanthropy. Because of this, HBCUs are generations behind in institutional capacity, including the capacity to raise funds from philanthropy. Some foundation staff we interviewed named systemic racism as the root cause of underinvestment.

Since 2020, foundations have paid greater attention to racial equity and, therefore, increased funding and collaborative opportunities with HBCUs. But we do not know whether an emphasis on racial equity or an appreciation for HBCUs will continue to grow or turn in the opposite direction. HBCUs, like other institutions, need consistent funding to ensure their sustainability.

2. Build relationships with HBCUs

Philanthropic foundations could better serve HBCUs by being a conversation partner to help connect HBCUs to funders with similar interests and discuss ways to institutionally improve.
-Foundation staff

Philanthropy is a relational sector, and funding opportunities emerge through connections. HBCUs have historically been left out of these networks. To change the dynamic from overlooking to lifting up HBCUs, foundations must approach relationship building intentionally. Direct lines of communication between funders and HBCUs will help foster meaningful, trusting, and sustainable relationships. HBCU funders can also leverage their influence and network to help connect other foundations to HBCUs. Funders can spread awareness of HBCUs' impactful activities, support their communications and marketing efforts, and advocate for their needs.

Foundations may choose to support HBCUs through intermediaries like the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf). These organizations play an important role as bridge builders between foundations and HBCUs. HBCU staff who were interviewed observed that UNCF and TMCf successfully identify and pool resources for HBCUs, which is particularly helpful for smaller HBCUs.

3. Support infrastructure and capacity

If a grant is four or five years long, sometimes the lead person is no longer employed and new staff [enters the role]. This limits the ability to sustain a strong relationship [with potential funders]. The limited internal capacity of HBCUs also means that, sometimes, they do not have time to imagine possibilities and sustain change. -Foundation staff

After generations of underinvestment, HBCUs need funding to address basic infrastructure and capacity. HBCU students note that buildings need repair or replacement. Some live in off-campus hotels because of a lack of student housing.

HBCU and foundation staff alike agree that staff capacity, retention, and training are needed. HBCU staff take on multiple roles, contributing to burnout and high turnover. Ironically, a lack of staff capacity in a development department further inhibits an HBCU's ability to build and maintain relationships with donors and, therefore, secure funding. Some suggested ways to address this include funding for staff and faculty development, financial and fundraising training, peer networking, and convenings.

4. Give general operating support to empower HBCUs to set their own agendas

“Giving money to help strengthen [HBCUs] to set their own agendas is one of the best things that we’ve ever done, and I think that other [funders] could do.” –Foundation staff

The data shows that foundations typically award proportionately less general operating support to HBCUs as compared to Ivy League and similarly situated institutions. General operating support is viewed as essential for institutions to have the flexibility and decision-making power to achieve their goals. Foundation and HBCU staff interviewees noted that more funding should be available to support HBCUs’ priorities.

5. Uplift and leverage the assets of HBCUs

We partner with [a local HBCU] a lot in the community. We invite them to every [discussion] about issues. Whether it’s affordable housing, health care, they’re always at the table. We try to support them by introducing them to other donors, by introducing projects that they’re involved with to people that we think would be interested. –Foundation staff

The history and legacy of HBCUs are rooted in creating safe spaces for Black scholars. HBCU students receive a unique education that equips them for greater civic engagement. They follow the legacy of HBCU alumni who have been leaders in important social movements, including Black Lives Matter, the anti-apartheid movement, and the civil rights movement. HBCUs have also helped create the Black middle class, successfully facilitating the upward social and economic mobility of their students. An investment in HBCU students has effects beyond the individual; they impact Black families, communities, and the nation.

Interviewed foundation staff said that HBCUs are natural partners for their work, whether in research or community engagement. HBCUs have diverse staff, faculty, and student bodies with diverse perspectives. As philanthropy increasingly seeks to create inclusive spaces for decision making, HBCUs are a natural ally.

HBCUs also support their surrounding neighborhoods through their physical, social, and economic presence. HBCUs run daycare centers, health clinics, and community development corporations. HBCUs are hubs of art, culture, and sports. HBCUs are economic engines, as employers, purchasers of goods and services, and incubators of economic development.

In short, HBCUs add considerable value to society. **Foundations looking to co-create a better future can find no better partner than an HBCU.**

Appendix A

Data sources

Candid data

This project uses Candid data about foundations and their grantmaking transactions (i.e., grants). Candid's databases draw on a variety of sources, including self-reported data, data from government agencies (such as the IRS), organizations' websites, and web-scraped data from news sources. Data from these disparate sources are cleaned and coded according to Candid's taxonomies and are used to create structured and unified data sets that offer information about institutional philanthropic giving. This study leverages Candid's transactions data sets from fiscal year end 2002 to 2019 to assess how much funding is going to various educational institutions. (The year assigned to transactions reflects the fiscal year end in which the transactions were paid or authorized.)

About the Foundation 1000 research set (“big philanthropy”). To identify funding trends from 2002 to 2019, Candid used its Foundation 1000 annual research set. This data set is a subset of all Candid's transactions data (see “Candid's transactions data” below), containing grants of \$10,000 or more awarded by 1,000 of the largest U.S. community, corporate, independent, and operating foundations. The data set excludes loans, grants to individuals, and program- and mission-related investments. This research set was used to examine long-term trends, due to changes in the scope of Candid's data collection from year to year. Because this data set reflects the grantmaking of large U.S. foundations and their larger grants, this report describes funding from this data set as “big philanthropy”.

About Candid's transactions data. Analysis of all known foundation grantmaking from 2015 to 2019 was based on Candid's transactions data, as of December 16, 2022. This data set includes grants from the Foundation 1000 research set as well as smaller transactions (less than \$10,000) and transactions from a wider variety of funders (private and community foundations as well as grantmaking public charities, other non-governmental organizations, corporate giving programs, government entities, and individuals). This report's analysis focuses on transactions by U.S.-based private and community foundations. For community foundations, discretionary grants are included, as well as donor-advised grants when provided by the foundation. Grants may be paid or authorized, depending on how funders chose to disclose the data.

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE)

CCIHE is a well-established data set that offers a framework for categorizing and comparing higher educational institutions based on 101 variables, such as institution type, size, and location. We used the 2021 public data file to create the composite comparison group (see Appendix B).

Qualitative data

This report also includes qualitative themes and quotes from interviews and focus groups with staff and students of historically Black colleges and universities, as well as private foundations (see Appendix B).

Appendix B

Methodology and analytic approach

Procedures for quantitative data set creation

The quantitative aspect of this study relied on multiple sources of archival data. Therefore, the initial phase of this work focused on cleaning, merging, coding, and organizing quantitative variables to create a research-quality data set.

Identifying HBCUs. We identified historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) based on the U.S. Department of Education’s [accredited HBCU list](#), as of December 2021. To these HBCUs, we added Alabama-based Selma University, which was counted as an HBCU by the Digest of Education Statistics in its 2015–2016 and 2017–2018 HBCU analysis; and Concordia College, Alabama, an HBCU that ceased operations in 2018. We included grants to these institutions as HBCU funding since they appeared to be active HBCUs during the period under analysis. We also included grants to the “Southern University System,” the only historically Black university system, which includes two four-year HBCUs, one two-year HBCU, and a graduate law program. Funding to the system could not be attributed for any single HBCU entity but was nevertheless considered HBCU funding. The University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and UVI-Albert A. Sheen Campus were analyzed as one entity.

Identifying grants to HBCUs. We then queried Candid’s database of philanthropic transactions (i.e., grants) for any award given to these HBCUs or entities legally independent of, but aligned with, them (e.g., Albany State University Foundation) between 2002 and 2019 for the Foundation 1000 and between 2015 and 2019 for all transactions by U.S.-based foundations. This report focuses on private and community foundations; we therefore excluded grants from public charities, corporate giving programs, governmental institutions, and individuals. (See Appendix D for some analyses of

funding by grantmaking public charities.) We chose to exclude pledged but unconfirmed awards as well as data sourced from news outlets to maximize reliability (though we included news-sourced transactions for the “Recent trends” analysis due to the limited availability of data from 2020 on). We excluded transactions indirectly tied to an institution and its mission (e.g., scholarships to individual students, alumni associations, and outreach to the community in which the school is located). Additionally, we excluded transactions awarded from institutions aligned with an HBCU to that HBCU or another HBCU (e.g., a transaction awarded by Albany State University Foundation to Albany State University) to avoid double-counting.

Identifying grants for general operating support and research. To analyze the subset of transactions that were designated for general operating support and for research, we focused on the proportion of transactions rather than total dollars awarded for those purposes. Proportionality allows for comparisons of funding restrictions and priorities across institutions that we know to have disparate levels of funding. To identify the relevant transactions, we used Candid’s [Philanthropy Classification System](#) (PCS) in combination with string searches using terms related to those support strategies. For general operating support, we looked for transactions coded specifically for that strategy (PCS code UA0000; there are no nested sub-codes for this category) and transactions whose descriptions contained terms and phrases consistent with unrestricted funds. Similarly, to analyze the subset of transactions designated for research, we looked for transactions with a general “research and evaluation” code (UM0000) and the specific sub-code for “research” (UM0100). We excluded transactions where the descriptions contained terms and phrases consistent with unrestricted funds. We did not include the other sub-codes of “data and measurement systems” (UM0400), “institutional evaluations” (UM0300), or

“program evaluations” (UM0200); we determined they were not relevant to the types of activities aligned with scientific and academic research conducted at colleges and universities. Additionally, we included transactions with “research” in the description text or the transaction title text (both supplied by the funder when available) and excluded select irrelevant transactions after additional review.

Procedures for comparing comparison groups

Another important aspect of this study was creating appropriate comparison groups. Previous research suggests that failure to create appropriate comparison groups may be at least partly responsible for some findings where HBCUs appear to fall short of their peers in terms of outcomes (Gordon, et al., 2021). For this study, we created two comparison groups to allow for a comprehensive examination of philanthropic funding. Quantitative data related to these groups followed the same methods and restrictions as those outlined above for HBCUs.

Ivy League institutions. The Ivy League institutions included in the analysis were Brown University; Columbia University; Teachers College, Columbia University; Cornell University; Weill Medical College of Cornell University; Dartmouth College; Harvard University; Princeton University; University of Pennsylvania; and Yale University. Teachers College, Columbia University and Weill Medical College were counted as separate entities based on their appearance in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE), just as some HBCU graduate/professional institutions (e.g., University of the District of Columbia–David A Clarke School of Law) are listed as distinct HBCU entities.

Composite comparisons of similarly situated colleges and universities. We adapted the methodology proposed by Gordon and colleagues (2021) and used the CCIHE to create a matched set of institutions that are similar to HBCUs along key dimensions. This methodological approach removes a level of bias and confounding variables

by allowing for an “apples to apples” comparison. Specifically, we identified five key variables that the research team determined as being most critical for matching: region, institution type, special schools, size, and locale (Table 7). In a few cases, we collapsed response options, resulting in higher-level ordinal variables. We created a profile for each HBCU along these dimensions. We then used the CCIHE to identify every college or university with identical criteria as a given HBCU. We manually reviewed these institutions and removed 16 that were deemed too niche to be accurate comparisons (e.g., Eastern medicine schools, schools of chiropractic medicine). This ultimately resulted in 516 possible comparison institutions for 98 HBCUs. Five HBCUs did not have matches and were not included in composite comparative analyses.

Table 6. **Variables from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education used to create a comparison group**

Variable	Response options
Region	New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) Mid-East (DE, DC, MD, NJ, NY, PA) Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI) Plains (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD) Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX) Rocky Mountains (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY) Far West (AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA) Outlying areas (AS, FM, GU, MH, MP, PR, PW, VI)
Institution type (sector)	Public, 4-year (or above) Private not-for-profit, 4-year (or above) Private for-profit, 4-year (or above) Public, 2-year Private not-for-profit, 2-year Private for-profit, 2-year
Special schools	High research doctoral universities (Research 2) [§] Medical schools and centers All other schools
Size	Very small Small Medium Large Very large
Locale	City Suburb Town Rural

Rather than comparing an HBCU to every matched institution, we created a single composite figure as the point of comparison. To determine how much funding a typical, similarly situated institution might receive, we calculated the arithmetic mean of the aggregate dollars received by all the institutions aligned with a specific HBCU. (Not every matched institution received philanthropic funding in each year of analysis. Only those that received funding were used in the calculation.) The value of the mean was treated as an individual, hypothetical “composite comparison institution” for analytical purposes:

$$a = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

Where *a* is the arithmetic mean and *x* is the total dollar amount received by an individual institution identified as similarly situated to an HBCU

To identify trends over time, we summed the derived dollar amounts of each composite comparison school for each individual year from 2015 to 2019.

To compare grant dollars for general operating support and research, we chose to focus on the proportion of transaction dollars. As with the total support calculation above, the arithmetic means of these proportions for both general operating support and research were separately calculated for each composite school:

$$b = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \div x_i$$

Where *b* is the arithmetic mean of the proportion, *y* is the aggregate general operating support or research dollars received by an institution, and *x* is the total dollars received by the same institution

To generate aggregates to explore yearly trends, we first multiplied the derived proportion of general operating support or research dollars for each composite school by the derived total dollar amount awarded to each composite school:

$$c = a \times b$$

Where *c* is the derived aggregate proportion of general operating support or research dollars, *a* is the mean aggregate dollar amount (see above), and *b* is the mean percentage of general operating or research dollars (see above)

The resulting dollar figures for all composite schools were aggregated within a single year and then divided by the aggregated derived total dollar amount awarded for all composite schools in the same year:

$$d = \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \right) \div \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \right)$$

Where *d* is the yearly proportion for all composite institutions, *n* is the total number of composite institutions, *c* is the derived general operating support or research dollars of the composite institution (see above), and *a* is the derived total dollars of the composite institution (see above).

These operations were performed for each individual year (2015 through 2019) to observe trends.

Procedures for interviews and focus group

We engaged Marga Inc., a research consulting firm, with the goal of better understanding the funding picture from the perspective of grantmakers and grantees. Marga Inc. conducted 40- to 60-minute interviews via Zoom.

Marga Inc. interviewed representatives from seven HBCUs: Bowie State University, Fisk University, Howard University, Miles College, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Stillman College. HBCU staff interviewees primarily held the position of advancement officers. They were asked about how their respective HBCU conducts fundraising for private donations, their perspectives on what additional resources are needed, and the current gaps in funding, resources, knowledge, and connections.

Marga Inc. interviewed staff from seven foundations: Carnegie Foundation of New York; Greater Washington Community Foundation; Jessie Ball duPont Fund; Kresge Foundation;

Lilly Endowment; Lumina Foundation; and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Our original intent had been to interview foundations that support HBCUs as well as those with no track record of funding HBCUs. Ultimately, only funders that support HBCUs consented to be interviewed. Foundation staff were asked about funding policies and practices, why they support HBCUs, and what might be keeping other funders from giving to HBCUs.

In addition to interviews, Marga Inc. conducted a focus group with four current HBCU students to learn why they chose to attend an HBCU, what they see as the most important and unique benefits of the HBCU experience, and the challenges they have faced. Students in the focus group attended Bowie State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Southern University Shreveport, and Tennessee State University.

Qualitative data was analyzed by Marga Inc. for general themes and patterns using thematic analysis and coded using an inductive approach. In the event that a direct quote was used in the report, the interviewer gave participants an opportunity to review the quote and give additional consent to be quoted.

Appendix C

Limitations and future directions

Comprehensiveness of the data. As mentioned elsewhere, Candid has as comprehensive a picture of foundation transactions (i.e., grants) from 2015 to 2019 as possible, since foundations are required to report this data to the IRS. But Candid may not have all IRS 990-PF and 990 returns, particularly in 2019, due to delays by the IRS in releasing filings. (Learn more at [The data/crisis catch-22: How the pandemic created a social sector data gap.](#)) The Foundation 1000 research set helps account for this potential gap, consisting of grants by 1,000 of the largest U.S. private and community foundations for a given year. Although these 1,000 foundations represent a small proportion of the total number of U.S. foundations, they represent three-fifths to two-thirds of the total foundation grantmaking dollars that Candid collects in a typical year. Beyond the Foundation 1000, we might expect to see funding increase as more 2019 transactions data becomes available; a review of funders included in these analyses, however, leads us to believe that any potentially missing data from 2019 would not significantly affect the findings in this report.

Recency of the data. Quantitative analysis of funding transactions ends in 2019, the latest year for which Candid has a critical mass of data. The unique circumstances of 2020—particularly the coronavirus pandemic and the racial justice movement—suggest that funding in 2020 was different from giving patterns between 2015 and 2019. We anticipate that funding to HBCUs increased dramatically in 2020, though whether new levels of funding were maintained in 2021 and 2022 remains to be seen. Future research should explore funding trends after 2019 once comprehensive data can be obtained. This report establishes a methodology and a baseline by which to compare future foundation funding to HBCUs.

Accounting for multi-year grants. Candid receives transactional data from many different sources.

IRS Forms 990 and 990-PF list grants as they were paid during the respective fiscal year. Foundations that report their data directly with Candid often report authorized grants, rather than paid grants. For example, a funder might report a \$1.2 million, three-year grant, though they may have only paid \$400,000 to date. Multi-year authorized transactions are counted once in Candid's data—the full amount in the year of authorization—to ensure that funding is not double-counted. Since there is no accurate way to disaggregate authorized awards across multiple years or aggregate grants awarded to their total authorized amount, Candid groups them all together based on the fiscal year in which the transactions were awarded or paid, based on the source. Limiting the data to one or the other would exclude a considerable number of funders and significantly reduce the size of the data set.

Limited or missing information in grant descriptions. Candid indexes individual transactions across four facets: subject, population served, support strategy, and transaction type. (Learn more about Candid's taxonomy at taxonomy.candid.org.) This coding can only be applied when the foundation provides enough information to suggest explicit intent or use of the award. Due to limited descriptions of a transaction's purpose, Candid cannot index every transaction collected. The Insights department also reviewed the coding before conducting analyses and made every effort to provide the most accurate information possible with the available information.

Identifying funding to higher education institutions. It is not a straightforward process to identify all funding to a specific higher education institution in Candid's data. Often, a unique identifier, like an EIN, is not available. The only identifying information Candid may have about a grant recipient is the organization name and, perhaps, location. Therefore, as part of the data

cleaning process, we manually reviewed and identified HBCU, Ivy League, and similarly situated institution recipients based on keyword searches of recipient names in combination with their locations. Grants directed to the institutions' colleges, departments, foundations, and programs were included. Funding to campus groups (often affiliated with a separate 501(c)3 nonprofit), alumni organizations, and individual student scholarships was excluded. Because of the quantity of data, we conducted a thorough manual review of HBCU recipients and a more systematic, query-based system with lighter manual review of Ivy League schools and similarly situated institutions.

Funding through intermediaries. Some foundations choose to support HBCUs through organizations like the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF).

These grants were not included in our HBCU funding analysis, as tracking funds through intermediaries is difficult to do accurately. We did not consider foundation grants to UNCF or TMCF as synonymous with funding to HBCUs. Rather, this report's analysis is based on funding directly to HBCUs themselves and to those entities that may be legally independent of but are aligned with them (e.g., their respective foundations). It is difficult to say to what extent foundations gave less to HBCUs historically and to what extent they simply gave less directly to HBCUs, choosing to give through UNCF or TMCF. (See Appendix D for preliminary analysis of funding by grantmaking public charities to HBCUs.) Future research could explore HBCU support through UNCF and TMCF, especially as recent grant announcements suggest that they will continue to play a major role in the HBCU funding ecosystem.

Appendix D

Additional tables and figures

Table 7. Historical funding from big philanthropy to HBCUs

Year	Percentage of overall grant dollars	HBCU dollars	Adjusted for inflation (2002 constant dollars)
2002	0.41%	\$65,018,782	\$65,018,782
2003	0.38%	56,354,664	55,098,935
2004	0.27%	42,019,836	40,017,832
2005	0.31%	55,180,305	50,829,170
2006	0.18%	36,466,229	32,541,045
2007	0.26%	63,312,594	54,933,085
2008	0.13%	32,609,505	27,247,414
2009	0.20%	46,641,342	39,111,097
2010	0.19%	41,671,423	34,379,650
2011	0.24%	59,622,932	47,684,774
2012	0.10%	24,106,048	18,888,464
2013	0.12%	31,048,721	23,977,236
2014	0.15%	40,950,012	31,118,660
2015	0.12%	38,239,420	29,024,381
2016	0.14%	45,484,220	34,093,219
2017	0.10%	34,130,330	25,049,145
2018	0.12%	41,894,326	30,014,254
2019	0.13%	45,423,415	31,963,421

Big philanthropy is defined as giving by 1,000 of the largest U.S. private and community foundations each year and their grants of \$10,000 and more. This table contains data visualized in Figures 1 and 2.

Table 8. Top 100 HBCU foundation funders, 2015–2019

Foundation	State	Type	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of HBCUs supported
1 The Duke Endowment	NC	IN	\$32,509,000	28	1
2 The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	NY	IN	17,342,000	37	18
3 The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	GA	CS	16,751,591	46	7
4 Verizon Foundation	NJ	CS	13,107,259	424	51
5 Lilly Endowment Inc.	IN	IN	13,002,467	30	14
6 The Wallace Foundation	NY	IN	10,557,702	6	2
7 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	IN	9,948,952	14	7
8 W.K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	IN	8,357,273	20	13
9 Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	CM	4,726,506	58	15
10 The Chicago Community Trust	IL	CM	3,756,337	25	9
11 Community Foundation of Greater Memphis	TN	CM	3,719,938	144	22
12 The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	IN	3,585,000	10	4

Table 8 (continued). Top 100 HBCU foundation funders, 2015–2019

Foundation	State	Type	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of HBCUs supported
13 Hugh I. Shott, Jr. Foundation Inc.	WV	IN	\$3,183,259	11	1
14 Robert W. Woodruff Foundation	GA	IN	3,000,000	1	1
15 Lumina Foundation	IN	IN	2,883,675	29	6
16 Cal Turner Family Foundation, Inc.	TN	IN	2,855,000	6	2
17 Foundation For The Carolinas	NC	CM	2,671,587	25	9
18 William R Kenan Jr Charitable Trust	IL	IN	2,495,000	6	4
19 Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.	GA	CM	2,387,503	610	28
20 Houston Endowment	TX	IN	2,255,680	10	4
21 The Davee Foundation	IL	IN	2,125,000	5	1
22 Henry Luce Foundation Inc	NY	IN	2,100,504	8	7
23 Encova Foundation of West Virginia	WV	IN	2,060,000	8	1
24 The Newell Brands Charitable Foundation	GA	CS	1,950,000	3	1
25 Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.	GA	CS	1,866,000	22	7
26 Ford Foundation	NY	IN	1,675,000	6	5
27 The Greater New Orleans Foundation	LA	CM	1,669,867	59	9
28 Tulsa Community Foundation	OK	CM	1,616,208	127	37
29 James R. Meadows, Jr. Foundation	TN	OP	1,592,375	10	2
30 ExxonMobil Foundation	TX	CS	1,560,000	5	3
31 Wells Fargo Foundation	MN	CS	1,552,550	108	37
32 Crankstart	CA	IN	1,550,000	17	5
33 MJS Foundation Inc.	NY	IN	1,500,000	3	1
34 J. Bulow Campbell Foundation	GA	IN	1,500,000	2	2
35 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation	MS	CS	1,489,893	9	3
36 The Kresge Foundation	MI	IN	1,455,000	6	4
37 The Riversville Foundation	CT	IN	1,442,770	10	2
38 Ascendium Education Group	WI	CS	1,399,000	8	4
39 The Gheens Foundation, Inc.	KY	IN	1,348,285	1	1
40 Walton Family Foundation	AR	IN	1,269,690	13	8
41 The Dallas Foundation	TX	CM	1,258,289	11	4
42 The Karsh Family Foundation	CA	IN	1,250,000	3	1
43 Edward G. Schlieder Educational Foundation	LA	IN	1,168,333	5	3
44 The Winston-Salem Foundation	NC	CM	1,164,466	12	6
45 Duke Energy Foundation	NC	CS	1,157,671	354	23
46 The UPS Foundation	GA	CS	1,152,500	20	8
47 Smithfield Foundation, Inc.	VA	CS	1,107,231	17	5
48 Linden Root Dickinson Foundation	CA	IN	1,100,000	7	2
49 The John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation	MI	IN	1,083,000	6	2
50 Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation	CA	IN	1,061,000	5	4
51 The Ray Charles Foundation, Inc.	CA	IN	1,025,000	2	2
52 The Charles Barkley Foundation, Inc.	AL	IN	1,023,500	16	8
53 Mitchell Kapor Foundation	CA	IN	1,015,900	6	4
54 The Annie E. Casey Foundation	MD	IN	1,015,092	22	10
55 The Merck Company Foundation	NJ	CS	1,000,000	2	1
56 W. M. Keck Foundation	CA	IN	1,000,000	1	1
57 The Riggio Foundation	NY	IN	1,000,000	1	1

Table 8 (continued). **Top 100 HBCU foundation funders, 2015–2019**

Foundation	State	Type	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of HBCUs supported
58 Longwood Foundation	DE	IN	\$1,000,000	1	1
59 Jennifer and Jonathan Allan Soros Foundation	NY	IN	1,000,000	1	1
60 Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.	AL	CS	982,948	45	14
61 The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee	TN	CM	971,489	68	5
62 Greater Houston Community Foundation	TX	CM	908,567	63	10
63 United Health Foundation	MN	CS	849,514	5	1
64 Arkansas Community Foundation, Inc.	AR	CM	823,120	14	3
65 The JPMorgan Chase Foundation	NY	CS	821,503	11	8
66 Shell Oil Company Foundation	TX	CS	812,243	136	24
67 Morris Goldseker Foundation of Maryland, Inc.	MD	IN	805,000	4	1
68 The Philadelphia Foundation	PA	CM	795,366	199	67
69 J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation, Inc.	TX	IN	750,000	1	1
70 Greater Washington Community Foundation	DC	CM	733,197	133	32
71 Orix Foundation	TX	CS	702,500	2	1
72 Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc.	NC	IN	679,000	6	4
73 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Inc.	FL	IN	675,000	9	5
74 Windgate Charitable Foundation, Inc.	AR	IN	665,274	4	2
75 The Tull Charitable Foundation	GA	IN	664,600	4	3
76 The Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation	MA	IN	653,375	17	4
77 Chick-Fil A Foundation	GA	CS	640,000	6	3
78 The Sherman Fairchild Foundation, Inc.	MD	IN	615,000	4	3
79 Charles Koch Foundation	VA	IN	602,125	22	12
80 Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc.	NC	CS	593,916	238	45
81 Elmer R. Deaver Foundation, IDT	NV	IN	592,579	4	1
82 The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations	FL	IN	590,000	6	6
83 East Bay Community Foundation	CA	CM	582,786	1	1
84 The Cannon Foundation, Inc.	NC	IN	560,000	5	5
85 Wild Foundation	GA	IN	550,000	3	1
86 William A. Badger Foundation	NV	IN	541,914	4	1
87 Ford Motor Company Fund	MI	CS	535,000	20	10
88 Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation	AR	IN	535,000	7	3
89 Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	IN	525,000	2	2
90 Mike Curb Foundation	TN	IN	520,000	9	2
91 The McNeil Family Foundation	VA	IN	520,000	8	3
92 Landers Bowles Family Foundation	DE	IN	515,000	6	1
93 Daniels Fund	CO	IN	511,920	15	4
94 France-Merrick Foundation	MD	IN	509,667	3	3
95 Weaver Foundation, Inc.	NC	IN	501,500	2	1
96 The Rockefeller Foundation	NY	IN	500,000	1	1
97 Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation	LA	IN	500,000	1	1
98 The Papa John's Foundation, Inc.	DE	IN	500,000	1	1
99 The Perot Foundation	TX	IN	500,000	1	1
100 The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, Inc.	NC	CS	482,226	9	7

CM=community foundation; CS=corporate foundation; IN=independent foundation. Number of HBCUs supported includes the Southern University System as a distinct HBCU entity.

Table 9. HBCU foundation grant recipients, 2015–2019

HBCU	State	Private/ Public	2-year/4-year/ Graduate	Dollars	Median grant size	No. of grants	No. of funders
1 Johnson C. Smith University	NC	Private	4-year	\$39,525,616	\$3,000	196	50
2 Spelman College	GA	Private	4-year	23,664,483	2,500	513	170
3 Morehouse College	GA	Private	4-year	21,101,158	5,000	419	150
4 Morehouse School of Medicine	GA	Private	Graduate	17,161,576	25,000	122	61
5 Howard University	DC	Private	4-year	12,403,339	3,000	694	252
6 Morgan State University	MD	Public	4-year	10,544,378	5,000	198	88
7 North Carolina A & T State University	NC	Public	4-year	10,014,666	1,500	471	151
8 Clark Atlanta University	GA	Private	4-year	8,101,145	2,800	296	92
9 Texas Southern University	TX	Public	4-year	7,376,424	6,100	115	52
10 Xavier University of Louisiana	LA	Private	4-year	7,089,001	2,500	212	90
11 Virginia State University	VA	Public	4-year	6,559,602	2,000	150	48
12 Fisk University	TN	Private	4-year	6,287,793	1,000	245	83
13 Hampton University	VA	Private	4-year	5,948,316	2,000	343	117
14 Albany State University	GA	Public	4-year	5,704,028	2,000	112	32
15 Delaware State University	DE	Public	4-year	5,432,072	2,500	188	72
16 Virginia Union University	VA	Private	4-year	5,422,501	5,000	137	51
17 Paul Quinn College	TX	Private	4-year	5,009,006	25,000	52	29
18 Meharry Medical College	TN	Private	Graduate	4,687,837	2,000	232	77
19 Tougaloo College	MS	Private	4-year	4,664,288	4,513	82	40
20 Dillard University	LA	Private	4-year	4,328,727	5,000	112	43
21 Philander Smith College	AR	Private	4-year	4,182,507	15,000	73	33
22 Tuskegee University	AL	Private	4-year	4,021,215	2,000	221	89
23 Claflin University	SC	Private	4-year	3,906,038	2,000	117	43
24 Bluefield State College	WV	Public	4-year	3,765,538	4,000	102	27
25 Prairie View A & M University	TX	Public	4-year	3,727,670	2,500	148	44
26 Jackson State University	MS	Public	4-year	3,593,783	2,500	108	50
27 Le Moyne-Owen College	TN	Private	4-year	3,588,779	2,000	104	15
28 West Virginia State University	WV	Public	4-year	3,225,272	2,500	126	42
29 American Baptist College	TN	Private	4-year	2,895,500	5,000	27	7
30 Bennett College	NC	Private	4-year	2,709,898	2,500	103	53
31 Winston-Salem State University	NC	Public	4-year	2,632,762	1,000	226	70
32 Fayetteville State University	NC	Public	4-year	2,507,735	4,500	72	34
33 Bethune-Cookman University	FL	Private	4-year	2,402,396	3,500	116	49
34 Lincoln University	PA	Private	4-year	2,176,900	2,750	133	52
35 North Carolina Central University	NC	Public	4-year	1,943,169	2,500	152	71
36 Interdenominational Theological Center	GA	Private	Graduate	1,900,059	3,288	14	11
37 University of the District of Columbia	DC	Public	4-year	1,869,017	15,000	33	14
38 Simmons College of Kentucky	KY	Private	4-year	1,809,976	10,000	24	14
39 Central State University	OH	Public	4-year	1,726,249	5,000	44	21
40 Huston-Tillotson University	TX	Private	4-year	1,712,859	5,000	85	39
41 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	AR	Public	4-year	1,638,622	1,500	87	25
42 Edward Waters College	FL	Private	4-year	1,588,813	16,000	45	19
43 Alabama A & M University	AL	Public	4-year	1,530,655	3,500	192	52
44 Kentucky State University	KY	Public	4-year	1,515,958	2,150	39	22

Table 9 (continued). HBCU foundation grant recipients, 2015–2019

HBCU	State	Private/ Public	2-year/4-year/ Graduate	Dollars	Median grant size	No. of grants	No. of funders
45 Southern University System*	LA	Public		\$1,460,314	\$1,000	118	37
46 Wiley College	TX	Private	4-year	1,362,229	6,000	39	19
47 Coahoma Community College	MS	Public	2-year	1,284,361	10,000	14	4
48 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	FL	Public	4-year	1,226,029	1,251	256	85
49 Savannah State University	GA	Public	4-year	1,182,324	3,000	203	39
50 Norfolk State University	VA	Public	4-year	1,177,568	2,020	150	51
51 Livingstone College	NC	Private	4-year	1,157,535	2,500	54	22
52 Harris-Stowe State University	MO	Public	4-year	1,113,058	6,500	31	17
53 Langston University	OK	Public	4-year	1,056,139	10,000	46	25
54 Rust College	MS	Private	4-year	926,903	1,450	46	17
55 Shaw University	NC	Private	4-year	872,703	100	113	33
56 Tennessee State University	TN	Public	4-year	864,475	2,025	166	68
57 Concordia College, Alabama**	AL	Private	4-year	860,467	2,000	36	20
58 Mississippi Valley State University	MS	Public	4-year	846,940	2,500	30	15
59 Alabama State University	AL	Public	4-year	806,162	2,000	123	42
60 Lincoln University	MO	Public	4-year	766,636	2,700	29	15
61 Arkansas Baptist College	AR	Private	4-year	691,420	4,000	28	10
62 Alcorn State University	MS	Public	4-year	662,551	4,300	52	25
63 Florida Memorial University	FL	Private	4-year	657,597	3,000	46	25
64 Benedict College	SC	Private	4-year	646,794	1,500	76	36
65 Elizabeth City State University	NC	Public	4-year	628,810	2,500	53	24
66 Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	PA	Public	4-year	614,088	2,000	42	19
67 Coppin State University	MD	Public	4-year	585,297	10,000	38	21
68 Fort Valley State University	GA	Public	4-year	476,028	3,500	126	33
69 Wilberforce University	OH	Private	4-year	467,623	2,000	31	18
70 University of the Virgin Islands***	VI	Public	4-year	432,437	13,680	14	9
71 Talladega College	AL	Private	4-year	421,151	2,500	61	32
72 Southern University Law Center	LA	Public	Graduate	418,935	50,000	9	4
73 Southern University at New Orleans	LA	Public	4-year	417,387	7,000	27	13
74 Oakwood University	AL	Private	4-year	396,325	2,500	42	13
75 South Carolina State University	SC	Public	4-year	388,044	500	176	33
76 Shelton State Community College	AL	Public	2-year	351,339	2,500	31	14
77 University of the District of Columbia- David A Clarke School of Law	DC	Public	Graduate	350,725	4,200	30	14
78 Lane College	TN	Private	4-year	326,603	1,000	28	13
79 Grambling State University	LA	Public	4-year	322,727	2,750	68	28
80 Stillman College	AL	Private	4-year	315,248	2,200	49	23
81 Morris College	SC	Private	4-year	268,000	1,500	21	9
82 Southern University at Shreveport	LA	Public	2-year	255,365	20,000	8	4
83 Southern University and A & M College	LA	Public	4-year	225,003	4,000	26	12
84 Bowie State University	MD	Public	4-year	211,288	2,405	58	25
85 Miles College	AL	Private	4-year	200,857	3,000	59	12
86 Lawson State Community College	AL	Public	2-year	188,189	1,900	22	10
87 Saint Augustine's University	NC	Private	4-year	188,064	2,500	47	20

Table 9 (continued). HBCU foundation grant recipients, 2015–2019

HBCU	State	Private/ Public	2-year/4-year/ Graduate	Grant Dollars	Median grant size	No. of grants	No. of funders
88 Paine College	GA	Private	4-year	\$180,450	\$2,500	62	21
89 Jarvis Christian College	TX	Private	4-year	173,915	2,500	25	15
90 University of Maryland Eastern Shore	MD	Public	4-year	159,783	3,500	38	19
91 Shorter College	AR	Private	2-year	153,000	1,000	4	3
92 Southwestern Christian College	TX	Private	4-year	95,779	1,703	19	7
93 St Philip's College	TX	Public	2-year	78,220	2,500	19	12
94 Gadsden State Community College	AL	Public	2-year	73,134	2,080	25	8
95 Texas College	TX	Private	4-year	66,011	7,000	8	7
96 Clinton College	SC	Private	4-year	52,500	15,000	4	3
97 Bishop State Community College	AL	Public	2-year	47,485	2,000	18	6
98 Allen University	SC	Private	4-year	41,370	1,250	17	10
99 Voorhees College	SC	Private	4-year	29,925	1,000	21	10
100 Virginia University of Lynchburg	VA	Private	4-year	29,625	1,250	10	10
101 J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College	AL	Public	2-year	10,600	350	3	2
102 H Councill Trenholm State Community College	AL	Public	2-year	3,000	2,500	2	2
103 Selma University	AL	Private	4-year	150	150	1	1
104 Denmark Technical College	SC	Public	2-year	0	0	0	0

*The Southern University System is the only historically Black university system, which includes Southern University and A & M College, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University at Shreveport, and Southern University Law Center. Grant dollars to the Southern University System could not be attributed for any single HBCU entity but was nevertheless considered HBCU funding.

**Concordia College, Alabama closed in 2018.

***Funding to the University of the Virgin Islands and University of the Virgin Islands-Albert A. Sheen were consolidated.

Table 10. Foundation funding to individual HBCUs vs. their composite comparison institutions, 2015–2019

HBCU	HBCUs		Composite comparison institutions		Difference in grant dollars HBCUs received compared to their composite comparison institutions	% of composite comparison institution grant dollars received by HBCUs*
	Grant dollars	No. of grants	Grant dollars	No. of grants		
1 Johnson C. Smith University	\$39,525,616	196	\$8,864,394	176	\$30,661,222	446%
2 Spelman College	23,664,483	513	8,864,394	176	14,800,089	267%
3 Morehouse College	21,101,158	419	8,864,394	176	12,236,764	238%
4 Morgan State University	10,544,378	198	2,076,760	72	8,467,618	508%
5 Virginia State University	6,559,602	150	1,131,797	63	5,427,805	580%
6 Albany State University	5,704,028	112	1,800,672	93	3,903,356	317%
7 Texas Southern University	7,376,424	115	4,013,069	101	3,363,355	184%
8 Fisk University	6,287,793	245	2,984,364	88	3,303,429	211%
9 Bluefield State College	3,765,538	102	767,812	42	2,997,726	490%
10 Paul Quinn College	5,009,006	52	2,115,885	42	2,893,121	237%
11 North Carolina A & T State University	10,014,666	471	7,126,619	317	2,888,047	141%
12 West Virginia State University	3,225,272	126	359,895	36	2,865,377	896%
13 Tougaloo College	4,664,288	82	2,984,364	88	1,679,924	156%
14 Philander Smith College	4,182,507	73	2,984,364	88	1,198,143	140%
15 Lincoln University	2,176,900	133	1,001,243	59	1,175,657	217%
16 Central State University	1,726,249	44	720,369	99	1,005,880	240%

Table 10 (continued). **Foundation funding to individual HBCUs vs. their composite comparison institutions, 2015–2019**

Name	HBCUs		Composite comparison institutions		Difference in grant dollars HBCUs received compared to their composite comparison institutions	% of composite comparison institution grant dollars received by HBCUs*
	Grant dollars	No. of grants	Grant dollars	No. of grants		
17 Coahoma Community College	\$1,284,361	14	\$308,039	14	\$976,322	417%
18 Winston-Salem State University	2,632,762	226	1,800,672	93	832,090	146%
19 Kentucky State University	1,515,958	39	767,812	42	748,146	197%
20 Fayetteville State University	2,507,735	72	1,800,672	93	707,063	139%
21 University of the District of Columbia	1,869,017	33	1,191,262	62	677,755	157%
22 Le Moyne-Owen College	3,588,779	104	2,984,364	88	604,415	120%
23 Harris-Stowe State University	1,113,058	31	649,483	64	463,575	171%
24 Langston University	1,056,139	46	671,429	26	384,710	157%
25 North Carolina Central University	1,943,169	152	1,800,672	93	142,497	108%
26 Lincoln University	766,636	29	649,483	64	117,153	118%
27 Mississippi Valley State University	846,940	30	767,812	42	79,128	110%
28 Southern University at Shreveport	255,365	8	183,916	10	71,449	139%
29 Lawson State Community College	188,189	22	183,916	10	4,273	102%
30 Wiley College	1,362,229	39	1,393,538	44	-31,309	98%
31 University of the District of Columbia- David A Clarke School of Law	350,725	30	395,000	9	-44,275	89%
32 American Baptist College	2,895,500	27	2,984,364	88	-88,864	97%
33 Bishop State Community College	47,485	18	183,916	10	-136,431	26%
34 Elizabeth City State University	628,810	53	767,812	42	-139,002	82%
35 H Councill Trenholm State Community College	3,000	2	183,916	10	-180,916	2%
36 Shelton State Community College	351,339	31	540,030	17	-188,691	65%
37 Alabama A & M University	1,530,655	192	1,800,672	93	-270,017	85%
38 Bennett College	2,709,898	103	2,984,364	88	-274,466	91%
39 Fort Valley State University	476,028	126	767,812	42	-291,784	62%
40 Denmark Technical College	0	0	345,288	16	-345,288	0%
41 South Carolina State University	388,044	176	767,812	42	-379,768	51%
42 St Philip's College	78,220	19	483,465	32	-405,245	16%
43 Gadsden State Community College	73,134	25	540,030	17	-466,896	14%
44 Coppin State University	585,297	38	1,191,262	62	-605,965	49%
45 Norfolk State University	1,177,568	150	1,800,672	93	-623,104	65%
46 Bowie State University	211,288	58	972,847	62	-761,559	22%
47 Alabama State University	806,162	123	1,800,672	93	-994,510	45%
48 Alcorn State University	662,551	52	1,682,900	61	-1,020,349	39%
49 Jackson State University	3,593,783	108	4,669,677	126	-1,075,894	77%
50 Simmons College of Kentucky	1,809,976	24	2,984,364	88	-1,174,388	61%
51 Grambling State University	322,727	68	1,536,426	91	-1,213,699	21%
52 Southwestern Christian College	95,779	19	1,393,538	44	-1,297,759	7%
53 Edward Waters College	1,588,813	45	2,984,364	88	-1,395,551	53%
54 Texas College	66,011	8	2,115,885	42	-2,049,874	3%
55 Interdenominational Theological Center	1,900,059	14	4,004,055	67	-2,103,996	47%
56 Arkansas Baptist College	691,420	28	2,984,364	88	-2,292,944	23%

Table 10 (continued). **Foundation funding to individual HBCUs vs. their composite comparison institutions, 2015–2019**

Name	HBCUs		Composite comparison institutions		Difference in grant dollars HBCUs received compared to their composite comparison institutions	% of composite comparison institution grant dollars received by HBCUs*
	Grant dollars	No. of grants	Grant dollars	No. of grants		
57 Shorter College	\$153,000	4	\$2,662,708	27	-\$2,509,708	6%
58 Stillman College	315,248	49	2,984,364	88	-2,669,116	11%
59 Xavier University of Louisiana	7,089,001	212	9,786,848	293	-2,697,847	72%
60 Morris College	268,000	21	2,984,364	88	-2,716,364	9%
61 Jarvis Christian College	173,915	25	2,955,705	125	-2,781,790	6%
62 Saint Augustine's University	188,064	47	2,984,364	88	-2,796,300	6%
63 Paine College	180,450	62	2,984,364	88	-2,803,914	6%
64 Clinton College	52,500	4	2,984,364	88	-2,931,864	2%
65 Allen University	41,370	17	2,984,364	88	-2,942,994	1%
66 Virginia University of Lynchburg	29,625	10	2,984,364	88	-2,954,739	1%
67 Livingstone College	1,157,535	54	4,180,291	116	-3,022,756	28%
68 Rust College	926,903	46	4,131,172	68	-3,204,269	22%
69 Virginia Union University	5,422,501	137	8,864,394	176	-3,441,893	61%
70 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	1,226,029	256	4,669,677	126	-3,443,648	26%
71 Florida Memorial University	657,597	46	4,180,291	116	-3,522,694	16%
72 Tuskegee University	4,021,215	221	7,730,395	181	-3,709,180	52%
73 Tennessee State University	864,475	166	4,669,677	126	-3,805,202	19%
74 Claflin University	3,906,038	117	7,730,395	181	-3,824,357	51%
75 Hampton University	5,948,316	343	9,786,848	293	-3,838,532	61%
76 Voorhees College	29,925	21	4,131,172	68	-4,101,247	1%
77 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	1,638,622	87	6,021,663	68	-4,383,041	27%
78 Southern University and A & M College	225,003	26	4,669,677	126	-4,444,674	5%
79 Dillard University	4,328,727	112	8,864,394	176	-4,535,667	49%
80 Savannah State University	1,182,324	203	6,021,663	68	-4,839,339	20%
81 Huston-Tillotson University	1,712,859	85	6,878,638	172	-5,165,779	25%
82 Southern University at New Orleans	417,387	27	6,021,663	68	-5,604,276	7%
83 Bethune-Cookman University	2,402,396	116	8,864,394	176	-6,461,998	27%
84 Talladega College	421,151	61	7,730,395	181	-7,309,244	5%
85 Southern University Law Center	418,935	9	8,017,517	137	-7,598,582	5%
86 Shaw University	872,703	113	8,864,394	176	-7,991,691	10%
87 Benedict College	646,794	76	8,864,394	176	-8,217,600	7%
88 Oakwood University	396,325	42	8,864,394	176	-8,468,069	4%
89 Lane College	326,603	28	8,864,394	176	-8,537,791	4%
90 Prairie View A & M University	3,727,670	148	17,465,957	171	-13,738,287	21%
91 Miles College	200,857	59	17,853,870	213	-17,653,013	1%
92 Delaware State University	5,432,072	188	23,205,311	184	-17,773,239	23%
93 Howard University	12,403,339	694	37,607,932	1,048	-25,204,593	33%
94 Clark Atlanta University	8,101,145	296	48,748,642	327	-40,647,497	17%

Comparisons were drawn among HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions.

*Percentages were calculated as dollars received by an HBCU divided by dollars received by its composite comparison institution. For example, Clark Atlanta University received \$8.1 million, whereas its counterpart received \$48.7 million. Clark Atlanta University, therefore, received 17% of the funding of its composite comparison.

Figure 14. Funding to HBCUs from foundations and grantmaking public charities, 2015–2019

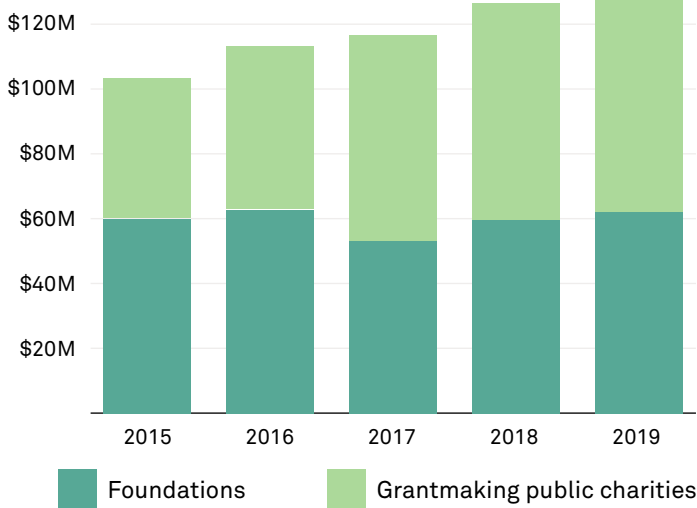


Figure 15. Average grant dollars from grantmaking public charities per institution: HBCUs vs. Ivy League schools

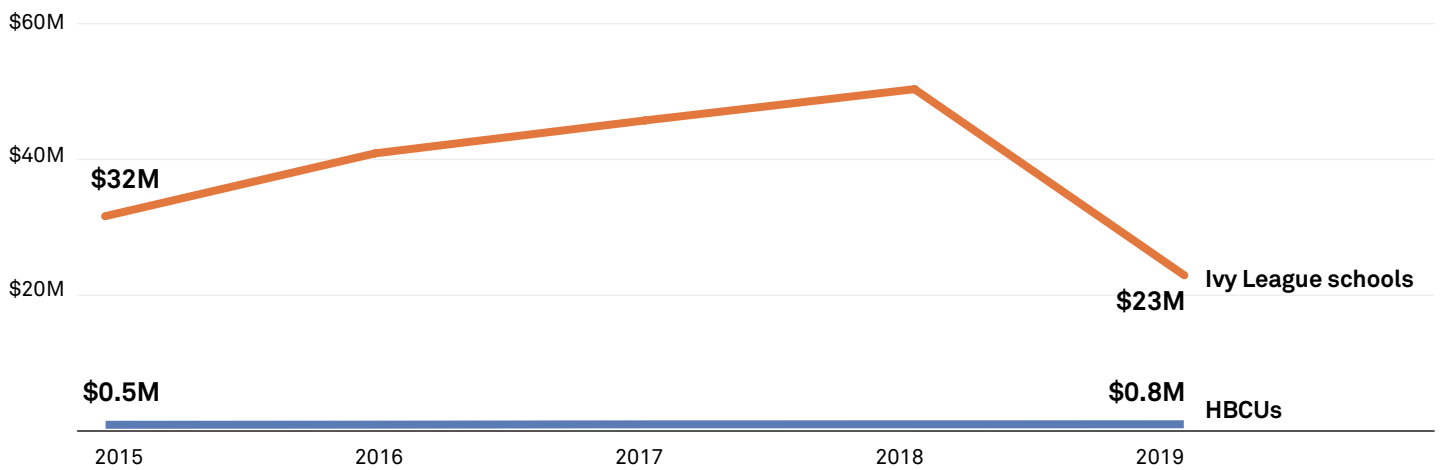
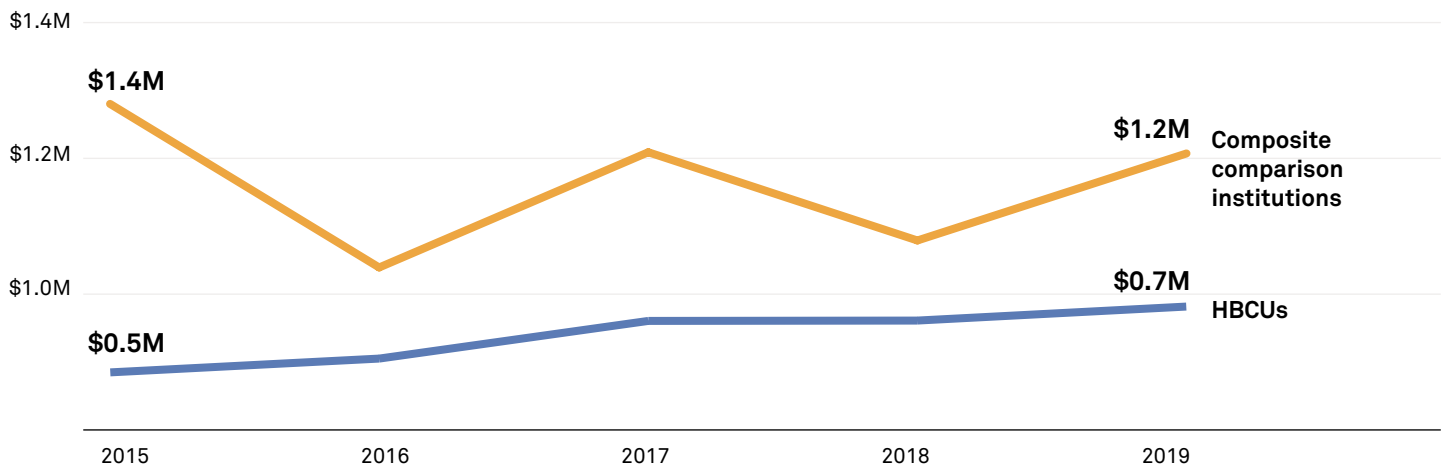


Figure 16. Average grant dollars from grantmaking public charities per institution: HBCUs vs. composite comparison institutions



HBCU figures are based on HBCUs that were able to be matched with similarly situated institutions. Therefore, these HBCU average dollars differ slightly from those used in the Ivy League comparison.

Table 11. Top 20 grantmaking public charities giving to HBCUs, 2015–2019

Grantmaking public charity	State	Grant dollars	No. of grants	No. of HBCUs supported
1 United Negro College Fund	DC	\$112,544,533	196	46
2 National Collegiate Athletic Association	IN	65,344,838	246	54
3 Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation	GA	16,540,200	146	20
4 Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center	GA	10,710,159	3	1
5 Thurgood Marshall College Fund	DC	6,402,558	48	31
6 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association	VA	6,068,754	56	12
7 Florida International University Foundation	FL	5,837,770	2	2
8 National Philanthropic Trust	PA	5,274,357	20	10
9 President and Fellows of Harvard College	MA	4,443,109	10	2
10 National 4-H Council	MD	3,250,516	42	13
11 Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta	GA	3,006,058	8	4
12 Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc	CA	2,834,584	4	1
13 Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation	GA	2,811,560	17	9
14 Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund	MA	2,517,141	342	64
15 University of Arkansas Foundation	AR	2,451,955	4	1
16 Howard Hughes Medical Institute	MD	2,360,000	6	3
17 Bellingrath-Morse Foundation	AL	2,000,698	4	1
18 Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston	MA	2,000,000	3	1
19 Strada Education Network	IN	1,978,350	20	11
20 American Heart Association	TX	1,848,048	4	3

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Endnotes

1. According to the latest available data by the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2021 there were 99 HBCUs. The number of HBCUs can change from year to year. In 2020 there were 101 HBCUs.

2. Data collection is ongoing for grantmaking from 2020 to the present. Although we do not yet have comprehensive totals for these years, we discuss qualitative insights on page 33.

3. Inflation was calculated based on the annual average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Customers per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

4. We found from the qualitative research that some foundations choose to support HBCUs through public charities, like the United Negro College Fund or the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The data set used in this analysis does not include awards to HBCU-supporting intermediaries. Rather, the data set only includes instances when the HBCU is the direct recipient of the grant. For analysis of funding by public charities to HBCUs, see Appendix D, Figures 14-16 and Table 11.

5. “Ivy League” is a term used to describe eight private, four-year universities in the United States: Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. For analytic purposes, we counted Teachers College (of Columbia University) and Weill Medical College (of Cornell University) as additional, distinct entities based on their appearance in Carnegie Classifications. Please refer to the Methodology appendix (Appendix B) for more information about these institutions and how estimates were established.

6. Annual HBCU averages were calculated by dividing total HBCU grant dollars by the number of HBCUs that received funding that year (anywhere from 95 to 101 HBCUs each year), rather than the total number of active HBCUs. This was a conservative approach. If we had calculated the average dollars by the number of active HBCUs, HBCU average grant funding would have been smaller and the difference compared to the Ivy League schools greater.

7. The “high research activity” R2 HBCUs are Clark Atlanta University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A & T State University, Prairie View A & M University, Southern University and A & M College, Tennessee State University, Texas Southern University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

8. Paired Wilcoxon test revealed that HBCUs received statistically significantly less funding than their composite, $p = 0.01$.

9. There is a category for “very high research doctoral universities” (Research 1). Since, however, there are currently no R1 HBCUs, we did not use it as a basis for matching.