

AN OVERVIEW OF TITLE III PROGRAM

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program is governed by the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by the U.S. Congress in 1986. Federal grants awarded through this program may be used to carry out operational, as well as developmental activities.

The Title III Program has undergone many changes since the late sixties. Initially, the program was primarily available only to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. During the seventies, the program was expanded and a large number of community/junior colleges and other undergraduate schools began to compete for these grants. Recently, legislation provided a set-aside fund for HBCU institutions.

Each participating institution is expected to develop proposals for funding based upon planning priorities set forth in the institutions long range plans. Conceptually, the supplemental funding provides a means to start up new programs or enhance or strengthen existing programs and services.

The purpose of Title III financial assistance is to help eligible institutions of higher education solve problems that threaten their ability to survive, and stabilize their management and fiscal operations so that they may achieve self sufficiency. Since the beginning of fiscal year 1982,

eligible institutions are able to apply for funding under the following three grant programs.

- The Strengthening Program
- The Special Needs Program
- The Challenge Grant Program

Authorizing Legislation:

Title III, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

Program Description:

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to establish or strengthen the physical plants, financial management, academic resources, and endowment of HBCUs. Since 1992, both the School of Law and College of Pharmacy have qualified for funding under the Historically Black Graduate Institution (HBGI) program. Funds may be used for the:

1. Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional or research purposes;

2. Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services;
3. Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist these faculty members in attaining advanced degrees in their field of instruction;
4. Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented;
5. Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials, including telecommunications programs materials;
6. Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success;
7. Funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;
8. Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;
9. Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector;

10. Establishing or enhancing a program of teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in a public elementary or secondary school in the State that shall include, as part of the program, preparation for teacher certification;
11. Establishing community outreach programs that will encourage elementary and secondary students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue post secondary education; and
12. Other activities that it proposes in its application that contribute to carrying out the purpose of this part and are approved by the Secretary as part of the review and acceptance of the application.

Support is also provided to graduate HBCUs that are making a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary, or other graduate educational opportunities of black Americans.

Eligibility:

Any historically black college or university established prior to 1964 whose principle mission was and is the education of black Americans. The institution must be accredited.

The Title III, Bart B Strengthening Program (HBCU) is a formula grant program wherein eligibility is determined through statute and regulations. In general, eligible recipient are institutions that (1) serve substantial numbers of students from low income families; (2) lack sufficient resources for efficient services to provide adequate management, improving academic programs and student services, or upgrading the quality of their faculty members.

Both two-year and four-year public and non-profit private institutions of higher education are eligible for funding under all the programs.