

## Federal Title III Funding and Tennessee's HBCUs

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Title III of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1057 (2018), as amended) is one of the primary sources of federal grant support for institutions of higher education—specifically colleges and universities that serve high proportions of underrepresented and low-income students. Statute acknowledges that such institutions are often at a unique financial disadvantage, and that the success of these institutions is necessary for an American system of higher education that is of high quality for all students, especially those who have historically been denied access to postsecondary education because of class, race, or national origin.

There are several competitive and non-competitive (formula) grant programs that are currently authorized by Title III. Eligibility for this funding generally requires institutions to be regionally accredited, have low educational expenditures, and at least 50 percent of degree-seeking undergraduates receiving federal need-based aid<sup>1</sup> or where the percentage of Pell grant recipients exceeds the median percentage of Pell grant recipients at similar institutions. Institutions that meet additional thresholds for ethnic and racial minority enrollment are collectively referred to as Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Historically Black Colleges and Universities are unique in that they are defined by their establishing mission, rather than current student body demographics.

Funds allocated under Title III programs are used to help strengthen institutions' academic, financial, and administrative capabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Including federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, federal work study, and federal Perkins loans—but not subsidized Stafford Loans.

### Current Title III Officers at Tennessee HBCUs

<b>American Baptist College</b> <a href="https://abcnash.edu/academics/title-iii/">https://abcnash.edu/academics/title-iii/</a>	Demetria McCroskey Director of Student Success Services/ Interim Director of Title III
<b>Fisk University</b>	Bri'Anna Baber Title III Director
<b>Lane College</b>	Sherril Berry Scott Vice President, Office of Administration Title III Coordinator
<b>LeMoyne-Owen College</b>	Rosie J. Gray Administrative Assistant Title III Administrator
<b>Meharry Medical College</b> <a href="https://home.mmc.edu/titleiii/">https://home.mmc.edu/titleiii/</a>	Sandra Williams Chief of Staff Director, Title III Administration
<b>Tennessee State University</b> <a href="https://www.tnstate.edu/titleiii/">https://www.tnstate.edu/titleiii/</a>	Marjorie Seward Interim Executive Director HBCU Project Coordinator

## **Title III – Part B: Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

In 1986, the US Congress recognized historically Black colleges and universities as having contributed significantly to the education of Black, low-income, and academically underprepared students, despite longstanding discrimination in the allocation of land, funds, contracts, and other resources at the federal level.

Part B gives the first official, federal definition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (thus creating the now ubiquitous acronym, HBCU), and authorizes a formula-based (non-competitive) award that is divided among eligible institutions based on: (1) percentage of Pell grant recipients, (2) graduation rate, and (3) percentage of graduates who go on to attend a graduate or professional school in a degree program in disciplines where Blacks are underrepresented. Also included in Part B is the Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGI) program, which sets aside funding specifically for graduate education in legal, medical, dental, veterinary, mathematics, engineering, and physical and natural science disciplines.

Allowable activities/expenses using Title III funds include

- Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational (including instructional or research) purposes
- Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology or services
- Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist these faculty members in attaining advanced degrees in their fields of instruction
- Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented
- Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other education materials, including telecommunications program materials;
- Tutoring, counseling, and student services programs designed to improve academic success
- Funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management
- Joint uses of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries
- 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
- Establishing community outreach programs that will encourage elementary and secondary students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue postsecondary education

## Title III, Part B funding

### Historically Black Colleges and Universities

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19 <sup>2</sup>	FY21
<b>ABC</b>	\$1,638,623	\$1,610,770	\$1,852,562	\$1,771,390	\$1,623,924
<b>Fisk</b>	\$1,579,124	\$1,589,383	\$1,773,791	\$1,795,561	\$2,291,130
<b>Lane</b>	\$2,130,083	\$2,091,230	\$2,595,661	\$2,436,244	\$2,655,141
<b>LOC</b>	\$1,427,750	\$1,324,681	\$1,628,953	\$1,617,526	\$1,785,300
<b>TSU</b>	\$5,046,951	\$5,940,838	\$6,977,106	\$7,221,955	\$9,060,788
<b><i>US Total (All HBCUs)</i></b>	<i>\$244,694,000</i>	<i>\$244,694,000</i>	<i>\$279,624,000</i>	<i>\$282,420,000</i>	<i>\$337,619,000</i>

### Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19 <sup>2</sup>	FY21
<b>MMC</b>	\$7,139,499	\$7,142,931	\$7,997,064	\$8,083,612	\$9,189,734
<b>TSU</b>	\$2,198,462	\$2,198,970	\$2,467,486	\$2,525,935	\$2,886,399
<b><i>US Total (All HBGIs)</i></b>	<i>\$63,281,000</i>	<i>Not Available<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>\$72,314,000</i>	<i>\$73,037,000</i>	<i>\$83,995,000</i>

<sup>2</sup> Part B funding data not published for FY20

<sup>3</sup> Total HBGI funding amount not published for FY17

## Title III – Part F: Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Other Minority Serving Institutions

Initially established under SAFRA (Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act) of 2010, this section provides for annual mandatory appropriations for HBCUs and other MSIs, with a focus on STEM education. Collectively \$255 million is allocated under this part, with approximately \$80 million currently set aside for HBCUs.

Authorization for Part F funding was separate from the other Title III programs, and initially set to expire in 2019. Congress’ recent passage of the FUTURE (Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education) Act made permanent the authorization for this funding.

### Title III, Part F Funding

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
<b>ABC</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>Fisk</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>Lane</b>	\$813,959	\$805,641	\$845,070	\$821,762	\$808,221	\$792,152
<b>LOC</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
<b>TSU</b>	\$1,347,538	\$1,499,042	\$1,523,422	\$1,571,731	\$1,665,525	\$1,619,773
<b><i>US Total (All HBCUs)</i></b>	<i>\$79,220,000</i>	<i>\$79,135,000</i>	<i>\$79,390,000</i>	<i>\$79,730,000</i>	<i>\$79,985,000</i>	<i>\$80,155,000</i>