



## BY THE NUMBERS: Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Higher Education Emergency Relief in 2021

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provided historic funding to institutions of higher education (IHEs) and their students to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through HEERF, Congress provided more than \$76 billion in emergency assistance, including one of the largest infusions of support ever provided through President Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP). The ARP included more than \$2.7 billion to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Since the start of 2021, over 450,000 HBCU students are estimated to have received direct financial aid as a result of HEERF support.<sup>1</sup>

*Here's how HEERF helped HBCUs and their students in 2021:*

### HEERF Provided Critical Direct Aid to HBCU Students

- In 2021, HBCUs delivered **over \$700 million** in emergency financial aid grants to students.
- Nearly 80% of HBCU students received a grant, with a total of **290,810 students receiving an average of \$2,411 each**.
- HBCUs spent **\$280 million**, or 19% of their institutional funds on additional emergency aid to students.

### HEERF Kept HBCU Students Enrolled

- **93% of HBCUs** said HEERF allowed them to keep students who were at risk of dropping out enrolled by providing financial support.
- **87% of HBCUs** stated that HEERF enabled them to keep students enrolled by providing them with computers and internet access.
- **77% of HBCUs** (76 institutions) spent over **\$254 million** on discharging unpaid student balances.

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<sup>1</sup> This total includes the number of students reported to have received funds in 2021 and the projected number of students who will receive funds in 2022. To get the projected number, the Department used HEERF spending data, including spending from student aid funds in 2022, the percentage of institutional funds spent by institutions on additional emergency aid grants, and the average student award. The projected number may include students that received funds in both 2021 and 2022.