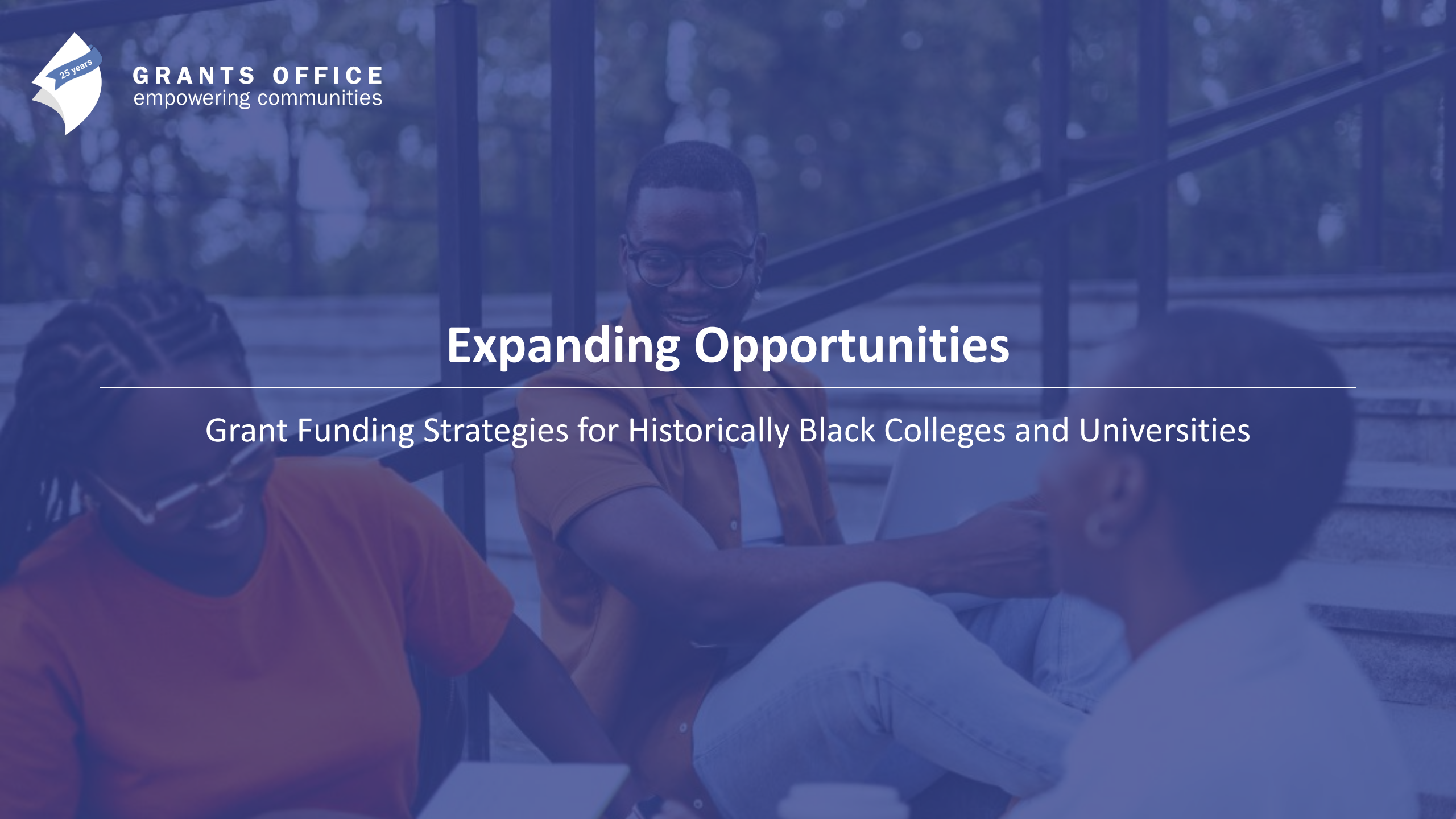


Expanding Opportunities

Grant Funding Strategies for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Today's Presenters



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Grants Office
Grants Development Associate

TODAY'S AGENDA

01 | Projects Funders Want to Support

02 | Funding Types: Formula and Competitive Grants

03 | Strategies for Building a Competitive Application

04 | Getting Ready for Next Funding Cycle

05 | Q & A

06 | Grants Office Services and How to Engage



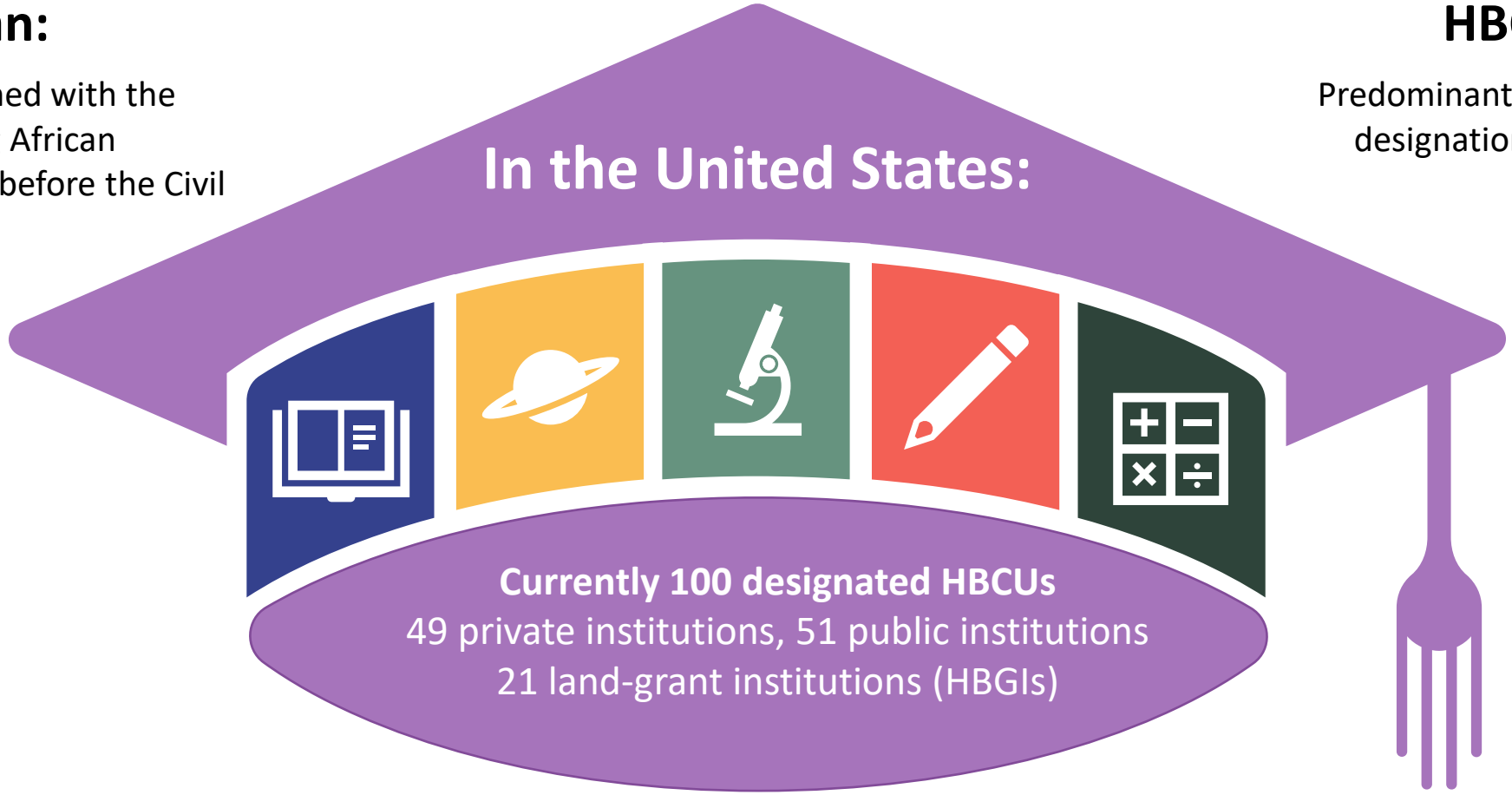
Historically Black College and University Facts and Figures

An HBCU is an:

Institution established with the intention of serving African American students before the Civil Rights Act of 1964

HBCUs and PBIs

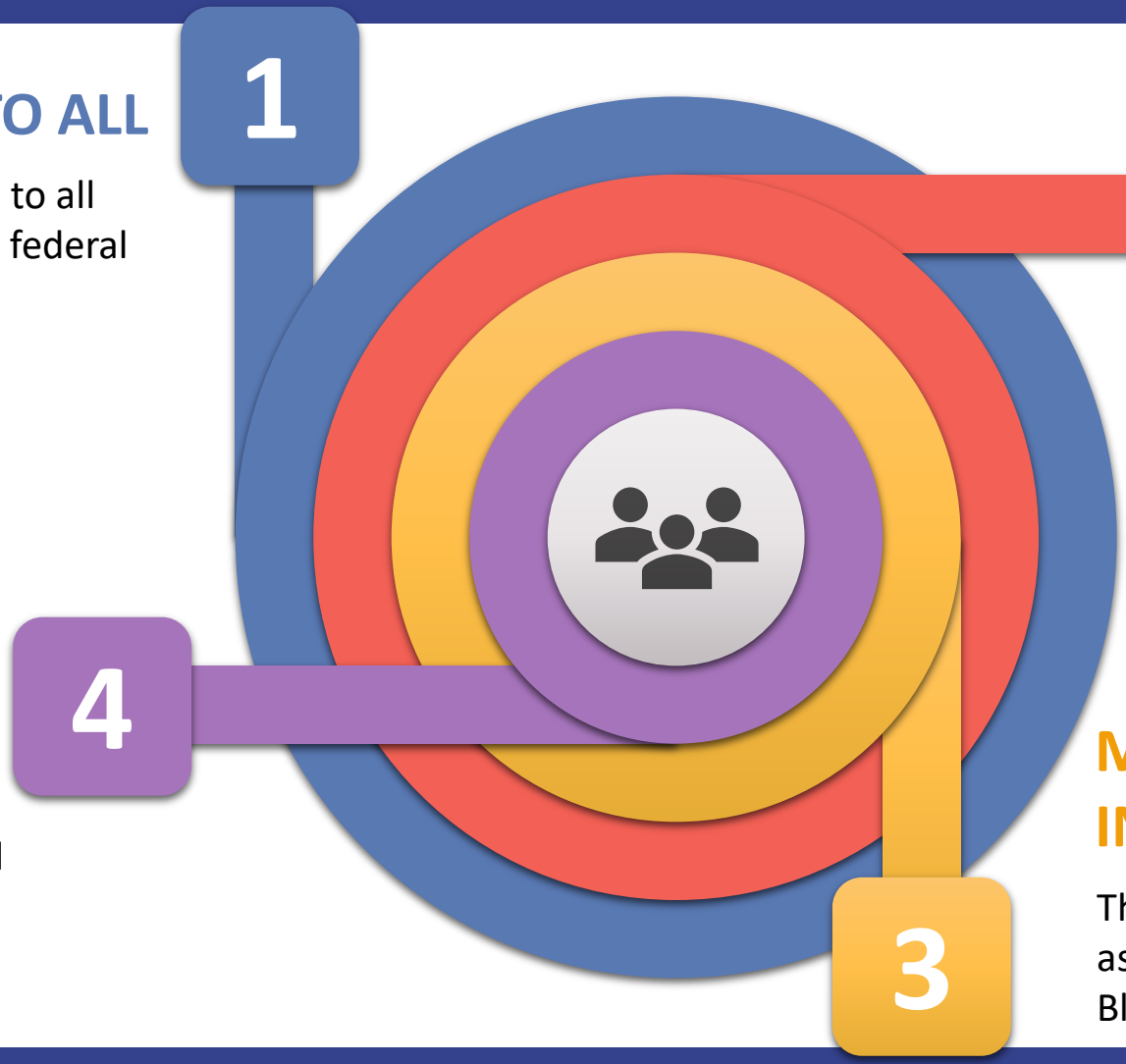
Predominantly Black Institutions designations change based on enrollment data



Grant Eligibility Considerations for HBCUs

1 OPEN TO ALL

These programs are open to all applicants able to receive federal funds.



2 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

These programs are open to all applicants that award higher education degrees.

3 MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS (MSI)

These programs are open to various MSIs, such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, and Tribal Colleges.

4 HBCU-SPECIFIC

These programs are only open to institutions defined by the Department of Education as HBCUs.

Projects Funders Want to Support

General Themes in Higher Education Grant Funding

01 Student Learning and Support

Tutoring, lab and equipment funding, mental health initiatives, curricular development, facility construction and renewal, and innovative methods

02 Faculty Research

Research productivity funding, early faculty awards, faculty fellowships, research and cyberinfrastructure, and faculty development

03 Increasing Access and Completion

Dual-enrollment, scholarships (general and field-specific), bridge programs, emergency aid funds, and retention initiatives

04 Job Readiness

Credentialing, certificate programs, microcredentials, technology bootcamps, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships

Student Learning Projects: HBCU Undergraduate Program (NSF)

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff | Total Award: $399,476

Using cloud-based platforms and evidence-based peer learning strategies, mathematics professors at UA Pine Bluff used hands-on coding projects, data analysis, and structured peer mentoring to improve student learning and retention.

Winston-Salem State University| Total Award: $400,000

To enhance undergraduate computer science (CS) education at Winston-Salem State University, this project integrated esports as a tool for cultural expression and innovation. The project involved creating an esports lab, designing esports-infused CS curriculum, and hosting an esports tournament and faculty development workshops.



Funding Available:

$62.25 million annually

Deadline:

Varies by Program Area

Program Description:

The program supports the development, implementation, and study of evidence-based, innovative models and approaches for improving the preparation and success of HBCU undergraduate students so that they may pursue science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) graduate programs and/or careers.

Faculty Research: Minority Research Grant Program (HHS)



North Carolina A & T State University | Total Award: $237,500

This award enabled research into lead exposure, chronic stress, and cardiovascular dysfunction among urban black residents. This research aimed to improve healthcare, resource allocation, and policy development to prevent harmful lead exposure in minority populations.

Texas Southern University| Total Award: $241,353

This award funded research into prostate cancer among African-Americans, looking at predictive modeling and social determinants to improve treatment.

Funding Available:

$1.28 million annually

Deadline:

April 2026

Program Description:

The program supports research in health equity, encouraging innovative interventions that can directly and demonstrably improve health outcomes for people from minority populations.

Funding Types:
Formula and Competitive Grants

Formula Funding vs. Competitive Funding

Formula Funding

(Entitlement/Statutory)

- Must be awarded by law
- Awarded based on status as an HBCU, as defined by Dept. of Ed.
- Often based on various metrics like student enrollment or demographics

vs

Competitive Funding

(Discretionary)

- Awarded to institutions based on competitiveness of proposal
- May be limited to certain types of institutions like MSIs or open to all colleges and universities

Using both Formula and Competitive Funding



Predictability

Formula funding is more reliable as a consistent financial resource

Flexibility

Competitive funding is generally more flexible in the ways funding can be spent

Vulnerability

Formula funding can draw more public and political scrutiny

Examples of Agencies Funding HBCU Grant Programs

Formula Funding	Competitive Federal Funds	Foundation Opportunities
Department of Education: Title III, Part B: Strengthening HBCUs	**National Science Foundation**: HBCU Excellence in Research	**W.K. Kellogg Foundation**
Department of Education: Title VII, Part A: HBCU Masters Inst.	**Health Resources & Services Admin**: Ctrs. of Excellence-HBCU	**Ford Foundation**
Department of Agriculture: 1890 Extension and Evans-Allen Funds	**Department of Defense**: Research and Education Program for HBCUs	**Home Depot Foundation**

Strategies for Building a Competitive Application

Tips for Effective Grantseeking

01

Consider Programs with Competitive Preferences

Intentionally pursue programs where your HBCU designation will provide your application competitive preference points. Ensure that your project aligns well with the aims of the program.

02

Build Internal Grant Capacity

Consider using formula funding or other sources of HBCU-specific funding from the state or foundations as capital to invest in grantseeking capacity which you can leverage to improve your proposals for competitive funding programs.

03

Emphasize Regional Impact and Replicability

Funders want to see how your institution is also meeting regional needs. Use your institution's role as a regional anchor and economic driver as a strength in proposals. Also, consider how your project may be replicated elsewhere.

Further Improving Your Proposal

01 Standardize Institutional Data for Easy Access

Enrollment data and educational outcome assessments are regularly needed for proposals so make this information readily available.

02 Mirror the Language Used by the Funder

Funders fund projects aligned with their interests and priorities, so match your language to their program guidance for maximum clarity.

03 Don’t Forget About (Budgeting for) Evaluation

Make sure as much effort of a proposal goes into the project AND evidence that it will have an impact. Funders care a lot about proof!

04 Include Voices When Possible

Enrich grant narratives with student, alumni, and community quotes and stories, if possible, to add depth to your proposal.



Join Communities, your new *grant search* and *collaboration* platform…

SCAN HERE

GRANTS OFFICE
COMMUNITIES

Key benefits of Grants Office Communities

Find and share funding opportunities.

Manage proposals with confidence.

Collaborate with team members.

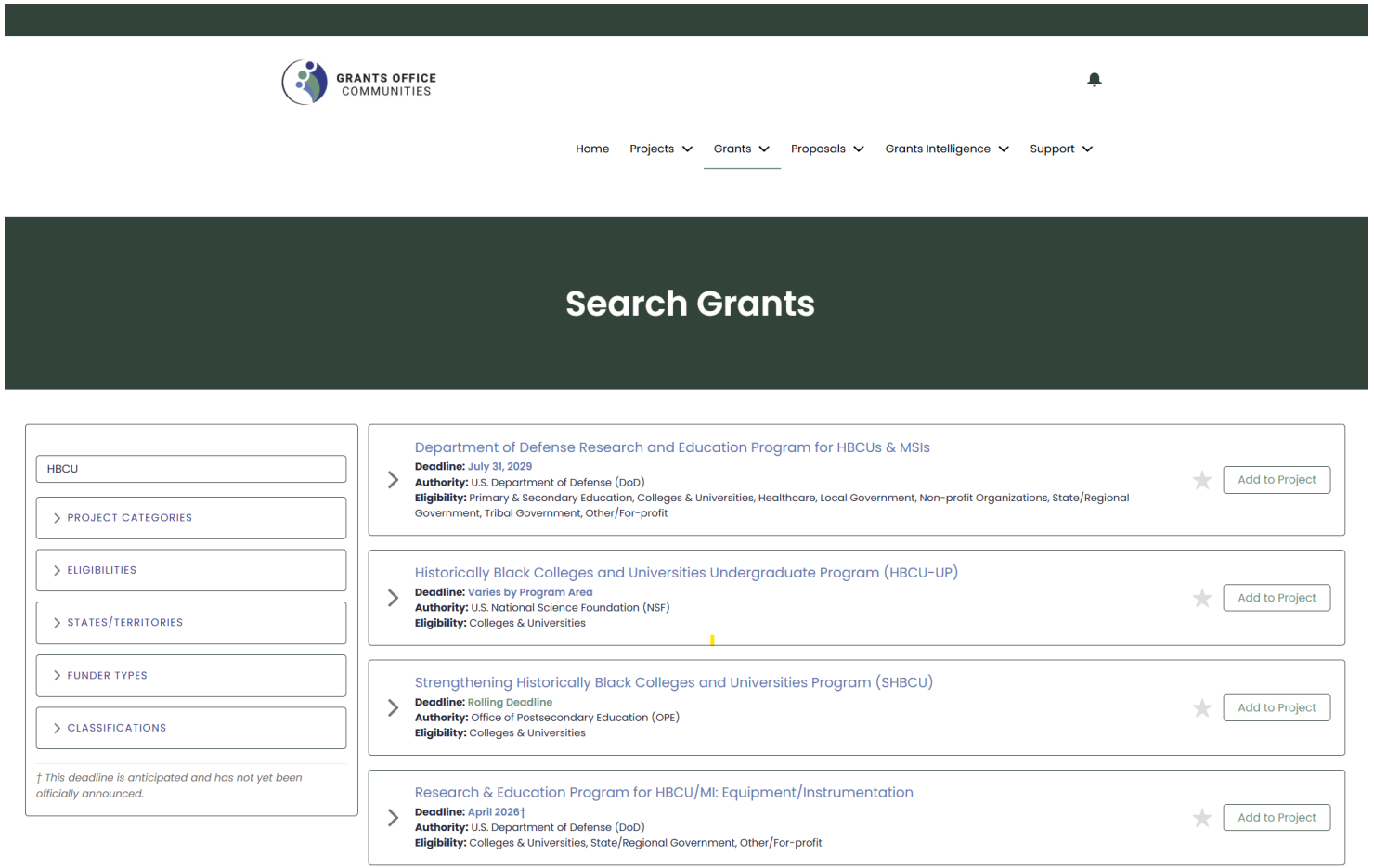
Access support from the experts.



Find Grants to Support Workforce Training Projects

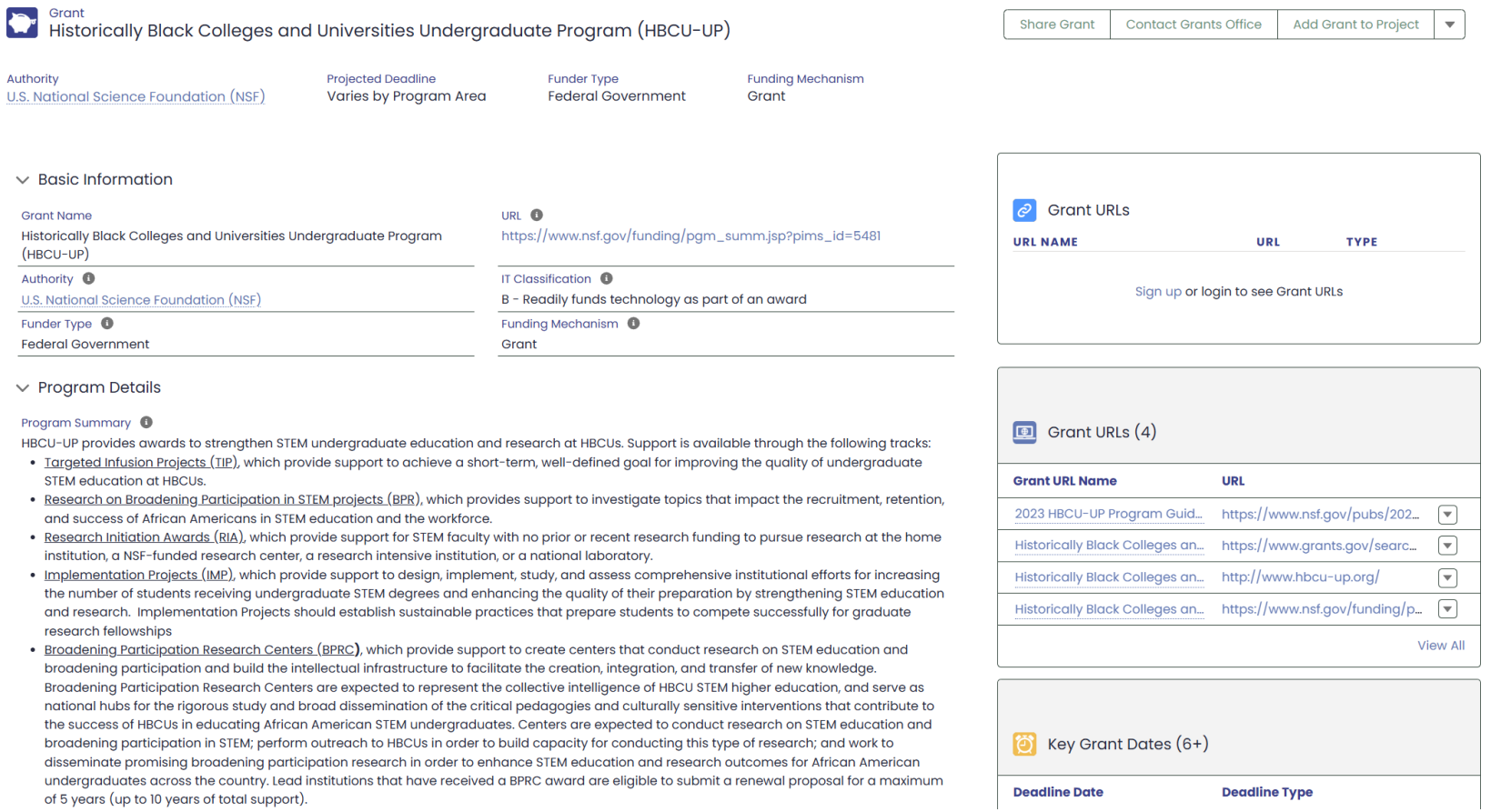
Inside **Grants Office Communities**, click **SEARCH GRANTS** and enter your desired search term.

Adjust your **PROJECT CATEGORIES**, **ELIGIBILITIES**, **STATES/TERRITORIES**, **FUNDER TYPES**, and **CLASSIFICATIONS** to narrow your search results.



See Details on a Specific Program in Grants Office Communities

Click a desired grant to read **key information**, including **URLs** and **Dates**, **share it** with colleagues, **add it** to your project, and ask for **support** from Grants Office.



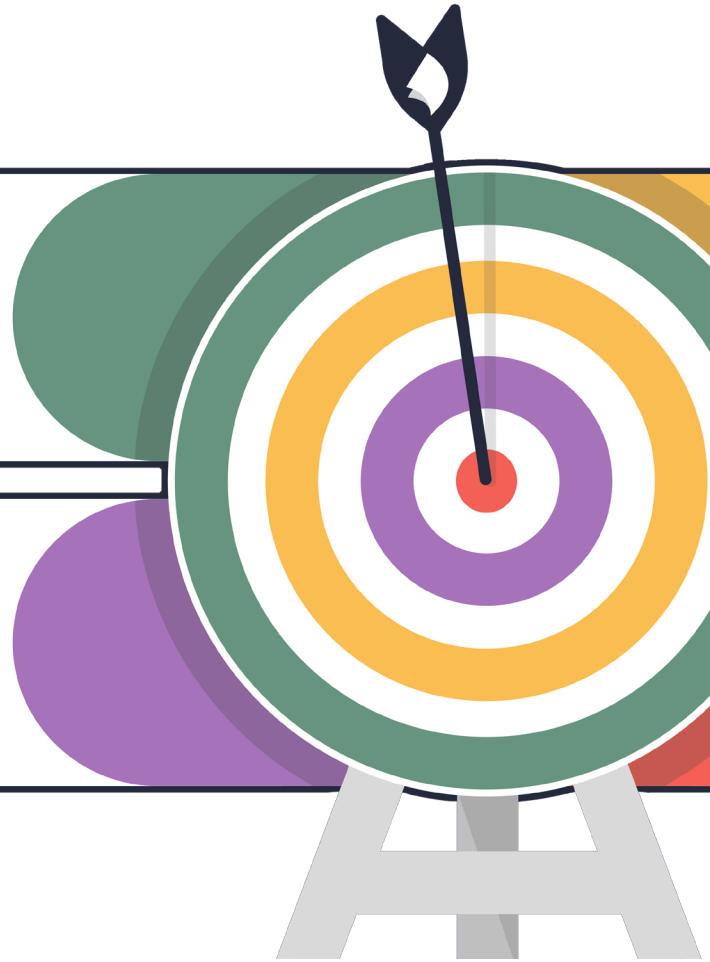
Grants Office Services

Research & Consultation

Identify best-fit grants for upcoming projects and provide next steps.

Project Building

Advise on project development and material gathering with a particular grant in mind.



Grant Proposal Writing

Write a competitive and engaging proposal.

Grant Proposal Review

Provide feedback on application materials, ensuring compliance with submission requirements.

Engage with Grants Office

Step 1

‘Contact Us’

Fill out an Information Collection Tool to engage with the Grants Office Helpdesk.

Step 2

Initial Meeting

Meet with a Grants Office Consultant to discuss your project goals and technology needs.

Step 3

Funding Opportunity Report

Your Grants Office Consultant will provide you with a report detailing applicable grants.

Step 4

Consultative Call

Meet with your Grants Office Consultant to plan and prepare your application.

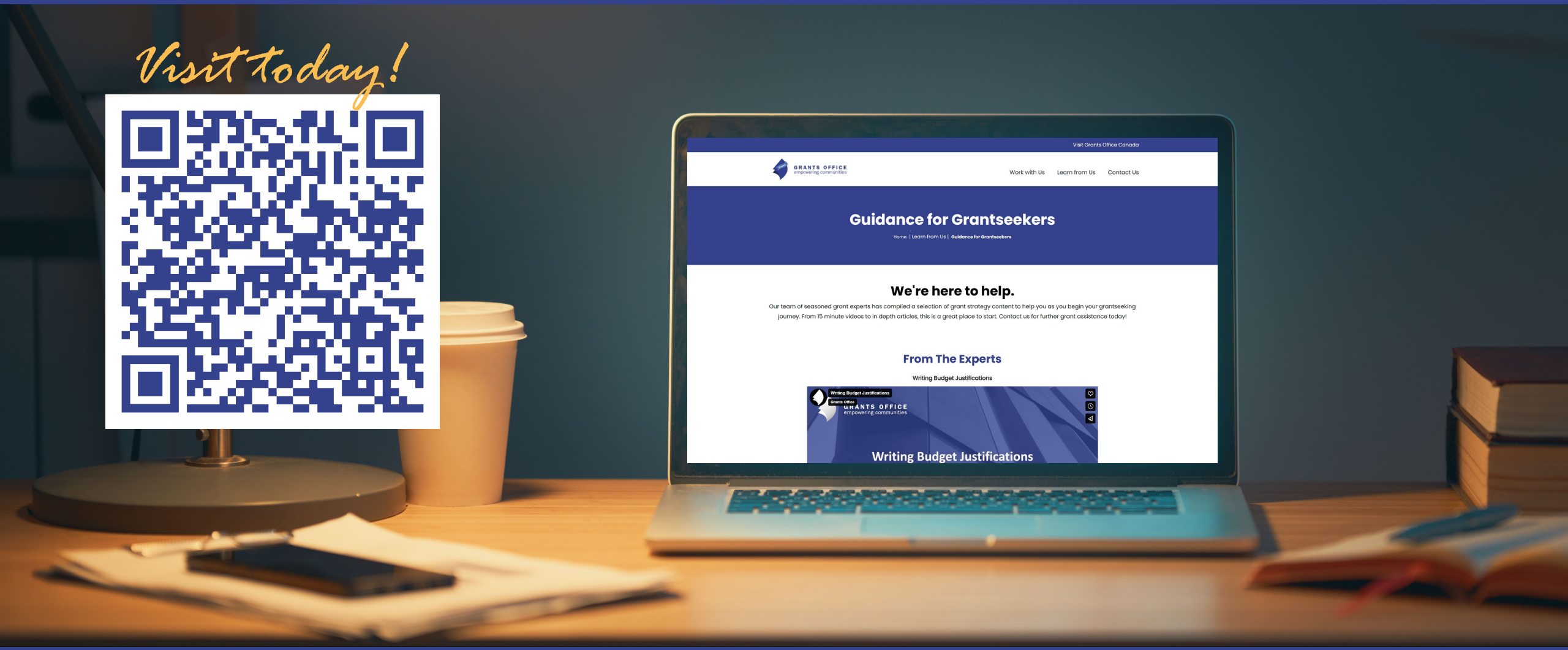
Step 5

Submit Application

Once completed, you submit your grant application and let us know when you win!

Start here!

FREE RESOURCES: Guidance for Grantseekers



Questions?

GRANTS OFFICE
empowering communities

Contact Us

grantsoffice.com

education@grantsoffice.com

LinkedIn