



National Institutes of Health
Office of Acquisition and Logistics Management
Small Business Program Office
The Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative



Fact Sheet

Presidential Executive Order 14041: The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

The Initiative is tasked with performing specific functions, including:

“... strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to participate in Federal programs, access Federal resources, including grants and procurement opportunities, and partner with Federal agencies.”

What is the Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative?

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest biomedical research organization in the world. In FY 2020, NIH’s 27 institutes and centers (I/Cs) obligated approximately \$7.6 billion via contract awards to support the NIH mission. However, less than 1% of NIH’s contract awards are obligated to HBCUs.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Small Business Program Office (SBPO) administers the Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative as a comprehensive vehicle to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to compete for, win, and manage contracts. The PEI FY2021 cohort, also called PEI 2.0, is an 18-month program consisting of 21 HBCUs and 43 small businesses that participate in outreach events, training opportunities, and technical assistance to increase interaction with the NIH acquisition community.

HBCUs in the PEI 2.0 Cohort

Bowie State University	Fisk University	Norfolk State University
Central State University	Florida A&M University	N.C. A&T State University
Cheyney University	Howard University	Savannah State University
Clark Atlanta University	Jackson State University	Texas Southern University
Delaware State University	Morehouse College	Tuskegee University
Elizabeth City State University	Morehouse School of Medicine	University of the Virgin Islands
Fayetteville State University	Morgan State University	Xavier University of Louisiana

Government Partners

The White House Initiative on HBCUs (WHIHBCU)
The Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

PEI Initiative Goals

- Identify NIH programs and initiatives where HBCUs are underrepresented and improve HBCUs participation within them;
- Develop WIN strategies using existing small business rules and regulations to leverage potential funding opportunities;
- Encourage public-sector, private-sector, and community collaboration to improve the overall capacity of HBCUs;
- Seek funding to sustain contractual support for the initiative;
- Increase the number of PEI HBCU and business partner participants.

PEI Initiative 2021 Enhancements

- Developed an HBCU reference manual on how to conduct business with the NIH and other Federal agencies;
- Developed an HBCU database that streamlines acquisition resources and simplifies HBCU and private sector partnership;
- Developed a Strategic Plan for the PEI Initiative;
- Developed an HBCU Acquisition Curriculum;
- Developed a PEI Technical Assistance Center.

PEI Eligibility Guidelines

- Federal prime or subcontracting past performance within the last five years;
- Possession of capabilities relevant to the NIH's mission;
 - Biomedical research and development
 - Information Technology
 - Business & Professional Support Services
 - Public Health Outreach, Communications and Research
 - Laboratory services/products
 - Construction Services
- Willingness to commit one representative who will devote a minimum of 10 hours monthly to PEI activities;
- Confirmed endorsement from the institution's senior leadership;
- Willingness to subcontract the first three to five opportunities pursued with a designated PEI business partner.

Contact Information

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