

# THE OFFICE FOR ACCESS & SUCCESS **POLICY BRIEF** **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

September 2013

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This OAS Policy Brief Executive Summary highlights the inequities that exist in state matching federal formula funding to our nation's 1890 land-grant Universities and provides policy recommendations to fix the systemic inequities in the nation's land-grant system.

## **LAND-GRANT BUT UNEQUAL**

### **STATE ONE-TO-ONE MATCH FUNDING FOR 1890 LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the 1862 Morrill Act, which created the vast majority of land-grant institutions, and the Morrill Act of 1890, which established 18 historically black land-grant universities, the federal government committed to providing financial support to schools so long as states matched that level of support. Although 1890 land-grant universities produce talented students, innovative research and state-of-the-art practices in agriculture and STEM disciplines that are geared toward improving life in rural and high-risk communities, states are failing to provide the nation's 1890 black land-grant universities the same level of one-to-one matching dollars they provide other land-grant institutions that receive federal funding.

The purpose of the policy brief is to highlight the disparities that exist in the matching of federal formula funding to our nation's 1890 land-grant universities and to provide policy recommendations to fix this systemic disparity in the nation's land-grant system. This brief gives a brief history of the land-grant system, offers detailed information about land-grant matching funds to 1890 universities, highlights survey data and concludes with four recommendations for policymakers to strengthen the land-grant system. While this brief compares and contrast state one-to-one matching funds to 1862 and 1890 universities, it does not suggest a zero sum game of taking needed funds from 1862

universities. Instead, the land-grant system is strongest when all universities-1862s, 1890s and 1994s-are funded adequately to carry out the land-grant mission.

In a 2013 survey of 1890 land-grant universities conducted by the APLU Office for Access and Success, 61.2 percent of institutions indicated that they did not receive one-to-one matching funds from their state and 70 percent of institutions indicated that they had requested a waiver between 2008 and 2013.

#### **The Matching Disparity**

- ◆ From 2010-2012, 61.2 percent of 1890 land-grant institutions did not receive 100 percent of the one-to-one-matching funds from their respective states for extension or research funding.
- ◆ Between 2010-2012, 1890 land-grant universities did not receive more than \$31 million in extension funding due to states not meeting the one-to-one match requirement.
- ◆ From 2010-2012, 1890 land-grant universities did not receive more than \$25 million in research funding due to states not meeting the one-to-one match requirement.
- ◆ Combined, 1890 land-grant universities did not receive almost \$57 million due to states not meeting the one-to-one match.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

*We propose the following policy recommendations to erase the disparities in matching funds and strengthen the entire land-grant system:*

### Recommendation 1:

***States should ensure that 1890 land-grant Universities receive the One-to-One Matching of Funds from the state in a separate line-item budget.***

State legislators, governors and system and institutional governing boards should ensure that yearly budgets to 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities automatically include a separate line-item to match the federal dollars received for land-grant institutions. This would not only ensure that all 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities receive the one-to-one match that is required under federal law, but also ensures that universities do not have to make up the deficit for the funds through general operating dollars that are intended to be spent on academic programs.

### Recommendation 2:

***States should ensure that both 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities receive the percent of matching funds in their appropriation dollars.***

State legislators, governors and system & institutional governing boards should ensure that the percent matching is the same for 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities because this is the only way that parity in funding can be reached. While each institution receives their grant allocations from the federal government based on a federal formula, some states go above and beyond the matching requirement for their 1862 land-grant institutions but do not even meet the minimum 100 percent one-to-one match requirement for many of their 1890 land-grant institutions. This means that while an 1862 institution (which receives more in land-grant funding based on institutional size and other factors) can receive 2 to 1 or 12 to 1 matching funds, the corresponding 1890 institutions receive less than and up to a one-to-one match. The underfunding of HBCUs has been a persistent problem for many 1890 land-grant institutions in general, and it is time that

these institutions receive parity with their 1862 counterparts. This does not mean that 1862 to not continue to receive the funding they currently receive, but it does mean that more money should be invested into 1890 institutions in these states.

### Recommendation 3:

***States should ensure that the process to request and receive matching funds is the same for 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities.***

States should create standardized and automated processes for the request and receipt of matching funds from the state. The results of the survey show that the processes that are currently used by states vary greatly and can often be different for 1862 institutions versus 1890. For example, one 1890 land-grant institution noted that while it had to specifically make a request for matching funds to the state legislature, the same funding was provided to the 1862 land-grant university without making a specific request before the same legislature and received much more money than required by the one-to-one matching requirement. The process in each state should be reviewed to ensure equity in funding.

### Recommendation 4:

***Federal legislators should provide oversight to ensure that states meet their obligation for providing the one-to-one matching requirement and should incent states to provide the same percentage of funding to both 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities within their state.***

States should no longer be allowed to not meet their obligation of providing matching funds to 1890 land-grant institutions. The federal government should provide more mechanisms to ensure that states receive the required and equitable matching funds from their states. It should not be left up to 1890 land-grant institutions themselves to use the waiver process in lieu of not receiving matching funds from the state.

For the full policy brief, visit [www.aplu.org/OASresearch](http://www.aplu.org/OASresearch)

## 1890 Land-grant Universities

- Alabama A&M University (AL)
- Alcorn State University (MS)
- Delaware State University (DE)
- Florida A&M University (FL)
- Fort Valley State University (GA)
- Kentucky State University (KY)
- Langston University (OK)
- Lincoln University (MO)
- North Carolina A&T State University (NC)
- Prairie View A&M University (TX)
- South Carolina State University (SC)
- Southern University System (LA)
- Tennessee State University (TN)
- Tuskegee University (AL)
- University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff (AR)
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore (MD)
- Virginia State University (VA)
- West Virginia State University (WV)

## ABOUT APLU

The **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)** is a research, policy, and advocacy organization representing 234 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations. Founded in 1887, APLU is North America's oldest higher education association with member institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, four U.S. territories, Canada, and Mexico. Annually, member campuses enroll 4.7 million undergraduates and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.3 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$41 billion in university-based research.

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF 1890 UNIVERSITIES

APLU's **Council of 1890 Universities** collectively represents the interests of 1890 land-grant institutions including the University of the District of Columbia and the University of the Virgin Islands. The Council seeks to maintain, insure and increase funding, to present a unified approach for presentation of views regarding these institutions and to serve as a forum to share ideas and resources. The Council works with other 1890 associations in developing a comprehensive agenda for APLU regarding congressional and federal policies and programs impacting 1890 institutions.

## ABOUT OAS

APLU's **Office for Access and Success (OAS)** is dedicated to equity, access, and educational excellence for all individuals with a special focus on underserved students and minority-serving institutions. OAS is primarily responsible for supporting the APLU Council of 1890 Universities; the Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence (CADE); Hispanic-Serving Institutions; and the OAS Advisory Board. To reach the authors, please email [oas@aplu.org](mailto:oas@aplu.org).

### Suggested Citation:

Lee, J.M. and Keys, S.W. (2013). *Land-Grant But Unequal: State One-to-One Match Funding for 1890 Land-Grant Universities*. (APLU Office of Access and Success publication no. 3000-PB1-ES). Washington, DC: Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.



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