

LDF'S TOP 10 FEDERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES

Over the next few weeks, Congress must decide how to allocate funding for critical government programs and services on which Black communities and others rely. It must prioritize funding for necessary programs that affect education equity, economic justice, political participation, and the criminal justice system.



LDF's Top 10 priorities are as follows:

- 1. Prevent the dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education.** It is more important than ever to protect the Department, which was created to ensure fair, safe, and equitable education by enforcing civil rights laws, providing critical resources, and safeguarding valuable protections.
- 2. Increase access to Election Security Grants.** Every voter deserves meaningful access to the ballot. Without federal investment, election administration falls upon local structures that often leave communities of color under-resourced, making it harder for Black voters to make their voices heard.
- 3. Fully fund and staff the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.** FHEO enforces fair housing laws and investigates complaints regarding housing discrimination. With race-based housing discrimination cases on the rise, full funding of FHEO is critical to ensuring all people are given equal housing opportunities.
- 4. Fully invest in the Fair Housing Initiatives Program.** FHIP provides local fair housing and nonprofit organizations funding to assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination. This program can be an essential tool to combat housing discrimination against Black people, people with disabilities, and others protected by civil rights laws.

**5. Halt the defunding of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).**

As the largest funder of civil legal aid in the United States, LSC is committed to helping low-income individuals and families receive high-quality civil legal assistance to overcome challenges to their homes, families, jobs, and health.

6. Appropriate additional funds to Federal Defender Services.

This program provides vital access to counsel in criminal cases for people who cannot afford legal representation. Individuals who rely on federal public defenders are disproportionately people of color.

7. Fully fund Tenant-based Rental Assistance.

The Housing Choice Voucher program is the largest form of federal rental assistance, helping roughly five million people in over two million households. This assistance provides critical resources that help low-income families, including those in Black communities, afford housing.

8. Oppose the proposed Simplified Funding Program for Elementary and Secondary Education.

The proposal seeks to consolidate 18 competitive and formula grant programs into a new \$2 billion formula grant. Allocating funds for this new grant could result in fewer resources for students with the greatest needs, including Black students.

9. Fully fund the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund.

CDFIs are private-sector organizations that attract capital from both private and public sources to provide financial services in low- and middle-income communities. CDFIs often reach communities that have been historically underserved by traditional lenders.

10. Double the maximum Pell Grant.

Pell Grants provide critical, need-based financial aid to students to help them access postsecondary education. Nearly 60% of Black students rely on Pell Grants every year, including around 73% of students at HBCUs.



Scan this QR code to learn more about LDF's federal funding priorities.

**CALL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS TODAY**

Tell them that it is time to strengthen educational, economic, electoral, and criminal justice systems that work for us, not against us.