With the continued health emergency, TMCF has reached out to its member-schools to identify several areas of unforeseen costs. TMCF member-schools, America’s 47 publicly supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) primarily serve low-income students (over 72% of whom are Pell Grant eligible) and first generation to attend college (52%). These students do not have family resources to weather crises like COVID-19.

Many students on TMCF member-school campuses cannot return home, either because they do not have a home to return to, or face insecure food situations at home. In addition, students returning from overseas are quarantined in their dorm rooms, and some international students are unable to return to their home countries. Others are not being given a choice to stay in the dorms, and are being forced into insecure situations. One North Carolina A&T University student stated, “the sudden lack of housing options, potentially losing campus jobs, and the switch to online classes are difficult issues to navigate for students, many of whom are teenagers.”

TMCF has identified four buckets of needs related to how HBCUs and their students are impacted by COVID-19:

- **Emergency Funding for Students:** this large bucket includes lost income due to job loss which can lead to an inability to pay for rent or food, food insecurity for those whose meal plans have been canceled but are remaining in their apartments, broken leases (without force majeure) for students returning home who lived off-campus, storage, and other unforeseen costs.

- **Technology for students to participate in online coursework:** students returning home often do not have access to reliable internet, laptops, computers, or hot spots on their mobile devices.

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• **Mental health support:** One of the greatest needs that TMCF member-sch校s have identified is support for enhanced mental health services for their students. Students are experiencing an upheaval in their lives, being asked to quickly vacate their dorm rooms, losing their jobs, or being forced back into a housing or food insecure situation at home.

One Howard University senior, who self-identifies as low-income, summed up what fellow students are experiencing, when he wrote about his story with his college closing down:

“As a result [of the school telling students to return home quickly], commencement has been cancelled, I have spent over $500 in boxes, shipping, travel and luggage to return home to a higher likelihood of COVID-19 contact with no money, no job, no promise of on-campus housing refund and a balance that still needs to be paid regardless of my emotional duress and exhaustion.”

TMCF has started a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to help TMCF member-schools and their students address these costs and support the ability to continue educating their students under circumstances for which neither the schools nor the students were prepared.

For more information, or to participate, please contact emergency@tmcf.org.

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2 [https://verysmartbrothas.theroot.com/im-a-senior-at-howard-university-leaving-campus-because-1842376678?fbclid=IwAR2eHaVf1GuB_qbPhOaT3Tc930vcc18BQrzxmRTB3KlwPBknnStE1E0](https://verysmartbrothas.theroot.com/im-a-senior-at-howard-university-leaving-campus-because-1842376678?fbclid=IwAR2eHaVf1GuB_qbPhOaT3Tc930vcc18BQrzxmRTB3KlwPBknnStE1E0)