

## Updates from The Action Collaborative for Black Men in Medicine

1 message

**AAMC Action Collaborative for Black Men** <actioncollabforblackmen@email.aamc.org> Thu, Jun 5, 2025 at [REDACTED]

Reply-To: AAMC Action Collaborative for Black Men <reply-fe881572706c0c7473-248\_HTML-496861250-7297026-1@email.aamc.org>

To: [REDACTED]

ACTION COLLABORATIVE  
FOR **BLACK MEN**  
IN **MEDICINE**

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AAMC AND NMA



The Action Collaborative for Black Men in Medicine (the Action Collaborative) remains committed to nurturing partnerships, co-developing strategies, and implementing systems-based solutions to improve access to medical education. Fostering community among those with shared goals remains a top priority. This is the second e-newsletter to keep you abreast of the latest news, resources and work that aligns with the Action Collaborative mission.

## IN THE NEWS:

### **Proposed Funding Cuts Pose Threats to Medical Student Aid and Health Workforce Programs**

In recent weeks, Congress and the administration have both considered proposals that would eliminate or cut programs that support financial aid for medical students and health workforce programs.

When the Trump administration released the preview of the president's budget request on May 2, it proposed the consolidation of several programs formerly administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), that would result in a \$1.7 billion decrease in spending compared to FY 2025 enacted levels. Specifically, the budget recommends reducing funding for health care workforce programs by \$1 billion, noting that these programs provide "scholarships and support for individuals to enter high-paying medical careers." The Trump administration announced in March that [programs](#)

[formerly administered by HRSA would be reorganized](#) under the newly created Administration for a Healthy America.

Additionally, the [reconciliation bill](#) that passed the House on May 22 would eliminate the Grad PLUS loan program and restrict Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) eligibility for physician residents. These programs make medical school more accessible for almost half of all medical students. Cutting or restricting them could undermine the future physician workforce, and ultimately, make it harder for patients in communities nationwide to receive high-quality care. Since April, members of the academic medicine community have sent more than 13,000 letters to Congress about these critical programs, and you can join them. [Let Congress know](#) that protecting these programs makes medical education possible for the many students who are critical to maintaining the health and wellbeing of patients nationwide.

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### **Progress Report: Illinois Black Men in Medicine Innovation Grant**

Last fall, the recipients of the Illinois Black Men in Medicine Innovation Grant launched their respective projects to develop and implement sustainable strategies to expand pathways for Black men to enter and thrive in medical education and healthcare careers.

Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School, I Am Abel Foundation and, Sneakers to Scrubs are the selected grantees and each of them are making a meaningful impact in the Greater Chicago area and surrounding communities. Updates on their progress include:

#### *Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School*



The Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School team launched their HEROES Academy designed to support and empower families and other supportive figures of aspiring healthcare professionals. The program focuses

on equipping parents and guardians with valuable knowledge and tools to help guide their children toward careers in medicine. Through a series of engaging sessions covering topics such as career planning, education, wellness, and financial literacy, participants gain insights and strategies to better support their loved ones.

Since its launch, the program has hosted a total of five sessions. Each month brought in returning and new participants. In total, 8 participants successfully completed the program and graduated. Looking ahead, the team has begun exploring innovative ideas to expand the program's impact and reach even more families in the future.



### *Sneakers to Scrubs*



Sneakers to Scrubs has been hard at work with the exciting launch of its Athletes for Student Success (AS2) Program, in partnership with the University of Chicago Department of Intercollegiate and Intramural Sports. This initiative is making a meaningful impact by enhancing academic achievement, sparking interest in healthcare careers, and building leadership skills among middle school students during the 2024–25 school year. AS2 has recruited committed mentors and established strong partnerships with local schools. The program is developing a collaborative model to broaden their efforts to college athletic departments across Illinois.





### *I Am Abel Foundation*

Project 7814 is making meaningful strides in supporting Black men on their path to medical school by providing targeted academic preparation, mentorship, and professional development. Designed for those within one to two years of applying to medical school, the program offers MCAT prep, application support, and mentorship provided by Black male physicians. Project 7814 hosts recurring group sessions and proctored exams to boost skills and confidence as participants prepare for their next steps.



### RECENT EVENTS:

**Action Collaborative Represented at the 51st Illinois Trio Professional Conference**

A working group of professionals across the educational continuum has been assembled to identify solutions to address the physician shortage and associated health disparities in the state of Illinois. Last month, the Illinois Black Men in Medicine Working Group had the honor of presenting at the 51st Illinois TRIO Professional Conference, themed *Moving Forward in Community: Cultivating a Movement of Courage & Intentionality*. The session, led by Dr. Princess Currence, Director of Curriculum & Education at RUSH Medical College, explored persistent barriers to careers in medicine.



Dr. Currence, a nationally recognized leader in anti-racism education, health equity, and student development, highlighted the importance of addressing disparities across the educational continuum to improve health outcomes and workforce diversity. Attendees gained valuable insights and actionable strategies to better support students to prepare for and thrive in medical careers.

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### **A Call to Action Shared During the 2025 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting**

In April, Dr. Zackary Brown, a PGY-3 pediatric resident at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, and Dr. Jeffrey Edwards, a chief pediatric resident at Boston

Children's Hospital, presented their workshop entitled, "Seeking Solutions for Increasing Representation of Black Men in Academic Pediatrics Through a Life Course Framework" at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting in Hawaii. The PAS meeting connects thousands of leading pediatric researchers, clinicians, and medical educators worldwide under a common goal to advance scientific discovery and promote innovation in child and adolescent health.

Their workshop highlighted the significant workforce shortage of Black men in academic pediatrics and the role that plays in perpetuating health inequities. Their work showed that while the U.S.'s child population has significantly increased in diversity over the last 20 years; the number of newly certified pediatricians who self-report as Black has remained stagnant during this time. With this knowledge, they challenged attendees to analyze systemic barriers for Black men in pediatrics through a life course framework to better understand the culminative effect that these barriers have. Their workshop engaged a multitude of learners in a robust discussion surrounding practical solutions using this [life course framework](#) and concluded with a panel of experienced Black men in pediatrics who provided their anecdotal insight into navigating the medical continuum. Dr. Brown and Dr. Edwards challenged attendees to use their framework, and other evidence-based solutions and collaborations to increase representation of Black men in academic pediatrics in their institutions.

*Dr. Brown is a steering core committee member of the Action Collaborative for Black Men in Medicine.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

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**Register Today for the 2025 National Medical Association Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly**



July 19-23  
Chicago, IL



The largest convening of Black physicians and healthcare professionals will be hosted on July 19-23 in Chicago, IL during the 2025 National Medical Association Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly. This will include opportunities to attend scientific, poster and educational sessions such as the Edith Irby Jones M.D. plenary; learn about the latest trends in various specialties; witness the installment of the 124th NMA president; celebrate and network during awards ceremonies, and much more! [Register today.](#)

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### **Save the Date for Learn Serve Lead 2025: The AAMC Annual Meeting**

Nov. 1-5

San Antonio, Texas



Learn Serve Lead 2025 will be in **San Antonio, Texas**, from **Saturday, Nov. 1, to Wednesday, Nov. 5**. It is AAMC's premier annual gathering to facilitate

forward-thinking dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing to advance innovation and drive transformation in health, health care, and education. Learn Serve Lead is a space to reignite your passion, forge new partnerships, and shape how we train tomorrow's doctors and scientists. Stay tuned for key updates, exciting announcements, and what's to come.

## Articles of Interest

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[DEI dropped: Medical schools won't be graded on diversity amid federal, state crackdown](#)

[USC Professor Defends Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs in Congressional Testimony](#)

[How Medical Schools Are Improving Access for Underrepresented Minorities](#)

[NIH cuts are hurting Black medical schools](#)

[The New Gender Gaps](#)

[It's Not Just a Feeling: Data Shows Boys and Young Men Are Falling Behind](#)

[Howard University Mini-Med School Program Inspires Young Future Doctors](#)

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[actioncollaborative@aamc.org](mailto:actioncollaborative@aamc.org).

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