

POLICY ANALYST MARCH 2025 MONTHLY REPORT

April 2, 2025

Executive Summary:

In March 2025, I advanced several high-impact projects aligned with the Policy Research Center's legislative and community engagement priorities. Most notably, the following actions have been completed:

1. Initiated background research for an upcoming policy brief on SDFR nomenclature.
2. Completed initial draft report of the nomenclature policy brief for review; on track for next meeting with NAACP LDF, et al.
3. Reviewed USDA Data regarding Potential Disparities in Program Delivery. Completed draft priority request for proposed work.
4. Reviewed and synthesized stakeholder feedback from in-person farmers meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.
5. Initiated policy recommendations review for potential edits and consistency.

At the Mississippi State level, I also reached out to the Mississippi Free Press to establish a relationship for future partnership, met with Mississippi State Representative, Rod Hickman, current co-chair of the bipartisan Future Caucus and recently elected Vice Chair of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus.

Looking ahead, I am working on drafting a one-pager on Senator Booker's protest on the Senate floor and its place in history, identifying potential policy recommendations gleaned from the Youth in Ag research project, scheduling stakeholder conversations with North Carolina Farmers Conference attendees, and working with the Farm Credit cohort.

Immediate Next Steps Identified in February 30, 60, 90-Day Plan & Current Status:

1. **Policy Brief: *In-Progress*.**
 - a. Finalize and Distribute first policy brief on Policy Center Research and Policy Priorities within the next 30-60 days.
2. **Congressional Briefing: *Completed*.**
 - a. Organize a Congressional Briefing with key legislative staff by March 15, 2025.
3. **Policy Recommendations: *In-Progress*.**
 - a. Begin revising (and potentially drafting) recommendations for the 2025 Farm Bill with Congressional and Constituent input.

Drafting and Review:

1. Reviewed and Finalized Policy Center Q1 Summary
2. Reviewing Ag Education Research for Policy Recommendations
3. Reviewing Prior Recommendations for Update

Pending Policy Matters & Meetings:

1. Draft Project Plan and Directive for:
 - a. Land Valuation Project
2. Need to Schedule Stakeholder Story Time regarding current Policy Matters
 - a. Malique Middleton
 - b. Kurt Spraign
3. Need to Schedule Meeting with MS State Senators / Representatives:
 - a. Zakiya Summers
 - b. Gary Brumfield
4. Opportunity to Host Panel or Roundtable at the following:
 - a. CBCI – Tunica, Mississippi (*pending response*)
 - b. CBCF ALC – Washington, DC - \$10,000 - \$25,000 (Brochure Attached)

Current Projects and Status Reports:

1. **Project Title: Current Disparities in Resource Distribution to Black Farmers**
 - a. **Project Start Date:** February 12, 2025
 - b. **Timeline:** Estimated 3-9 months
 - c. **Last Meeting:** February 12, 2025
 - d. **Status:** Gathered and Reviewed Current Publicly Available Data (FLP and Farm Program Data online). Identified best next steps in collaboration with DG. Working on Project Plan and Directive for Data Collection.
 - e. **Next Meeting:** **TBD**
 - f. **Key Partners:** Policy Center (ES & CTB), NAACP LDF (AS and DW), PC Board Member (LW and RR), Consultant (DG)
 - g. **Ultimate Deliverable:** *Policy Paper with Legislative Recommendations*
2. **Project Title: Revise Definition of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**
 - a. **Project Start Date:** February 12, 2025
 - b. **Timeline:** Estimated 3-9 months
 - c. **Last Meeting:** February 12, 2025
 - d. **Next Meeting:** **TBD**

- e. **Key Partners:** Policy Center (ES & CTB), NAACP LDF (AS and DW), PC Board Member (LW and RR), Consultant (DG)
 - f. **Ultimate Deliverable:** Policy Brief with Recommended Definition and Revised Nomenclature of "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers"
3. **Project Title:** Policy Legal Fellow.
- a. Current Status: *On hold.*

Priorities for April 2025:

- Review Access to Tech Proposals
- Schedule and Plan May 2025 Farm Credit Meeting
- Key Events / Stakeholder Engagement/s:
 - Congressman Jonathan Jackson's Office
 - Congresswoman Alma Adams' Office

Of Note Meetings Held:

1. Policy Center Board Meeting, Houston, Texas: March 12-14, 2025
2. March Meeting with Policy Cohort: March 20, 2025
3. Meeting with Edna Ulysse (Congresswoman Adams): March 20, 2025
4. Meeting with Alicia Netterville (Policy Consultant) to discuss SDFR nomenclature: March 21, 2025

Upcoming Of Note Meetings Scheduled

1. Meeting with Bob Evans (Congressman Jackson): **April 3, 2024**
2. Oklahoma Black Farmers Convening, Tulsa, Oklahoma: **April 11-13, 2025**
3. Meeting with Farm Credit Cohort: **TBD**
4. April Meeting with Policy Cohort: **TBD**
5. Congresswoman Edna Ulysse and Ruben Cedillo (Congresswoman Adams' Office): **TBD**
6. Follow-up Meeting with Adam and Brandon: **TBD**

Attachments:

1. Current Draft Memorandum regarding "Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers"